

Mr. Samuel Knox Skinner
Member BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington VA 22202

05312005

Dear Mr. Skinner:

I am writing you to beg for reconsideration of the closing of Cannon Air Force Base at Clovis, New Mexico.

I do not think the effectiveness of Cannon to the air force was evaluated correctly. Money has been poured into the base to make the facilities as modern as any in the country. The bombing range, soon to be expanded to supersonic status, is vital to the training of pilots. It simply would not be acceptable to our people to have planes from other areas take over the bombing range while at the same time closing our base.

Also, I do not believe the economic impact to the area of this closure was properly evaluated. This base is vital to the economy of Clovis, Portales and the surrounding counties. Employees at the base come from Melrose, Floyd, Texico, Farwell, and Ft. Sumner, as well as Clovis and Portales. The loss of all these jobs would have a terrible effect on these communities. There simply are not positions available for these unemployed workers.

The monetary effect of the loss of base personnel and workers who have to move away would impact every business in the area---retail businesses, real estate, rental, banking, construction, etc. One of our schools would probably have to shut down. Our hospital, which is undergoing major expansion, would be badly hurt.

Cannon, Clovis, and Portales have always enjoyed a very good relationship. We appreciate the people who come to us from other places; who bring us fresh ideas and ways of doing things. In turn, I think they appreciate the small town atmosphere and friendly attitude of the local people.

We shall appreciate your kind attention and reevaluation of all aspects of the value of Cannon Air Force Base.

Sincerely,



Mary Ruth Burns (505-763-6321)
2901 Norris
Clovis NM 88101