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May 29, 2005  
Pat Weekley  
2105 Axtell St.  
Clovis, NM 88101

To The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter hoping that you will reconsider the closing of our Cannon AFB. My family came to Clovis and Cannon in 1967 courtesy Uncle Sam. We were here 7 years and when it was time for my husband to retire we never considered living any other place. The base being here was a major reason for that decision. We liked Clovis, the area, the weather, the schools and the promised medical care was a big factor. That eroded away but now that Medicare and TriCare has kicked in it is a mute point. We are still able to get some of our medications there. There are lots of retired military folks living here and in Portales nearby. We depend on the commissary and Base Exchange to help make ends meet. Those are my personal reasons... however there is much more to consider. Our community is much richer because of the diversity of personnel stationed here. Of course, Clovis benefits from the capital income as well. The base has a big beautiful hospital which could be utilized to a larger extent. Just this past year the main entrance was revised at a considerable cost I am sure. Why do all that if it was not to be kept active. That is wasteful. I have no idea what it would cost to close the base, buy homes of personnel leaving, moving the men and all the base equipment to other locations but it must be monumental !! I cannot see how doing this and what ever else would come into question could be a savings. Right now we are involved in fighting two wars and having to use National Guard troops to fill slots not able to be manned by regular personnel. I cannot understand this either....

We have good weather here. Seldom are our activities curtailed because of in climate conditions. That makes for good flying weather too. We have the huge bombing range that is due to be expanded and you can't find that advantage just anywhere. This is just a short distance from here. Not long ago new runways were put in place... cost...?? We were in Amarillo When that base closed and those runways were utilized by their airport so no loss there, but that would not be the case here. This is not a heavily

populated area and allows for various training missions and activities that might not be carried out in other areas. Cannon has won awards for excellence too. It is a beautiful facility and has a good golf course too!

Clovis has grown and has a lot to offer. There is a good job market for spouses. Our local hospital is in the process of expanding and will soon be able to handle cardiac emergencies locally. We have a new Cancer Center capable of both chemotherapy as well as radiation treatments. A new Health-Plex has opened for rehab purposes. We have an additional sixty new doctors and specialties that have come here in the last year.

There are many new developments providing good housing. There are new restaurants and new businesses going in and this helps to support the base personnel as well as the community. Losing Cannon would greatly impede our growth and economy. Our schools would lose funding because of a decrease in enrollment. We have Clovis Community College as well as Eastern New Mexico University in nearby Portales just 30 minutes away for secondary education opportunities. A new Civic Center is proposed...

**Please reconsider closing our Cannon AFB.....**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Weekley". The signature is fluid and written in black ink.

Sincerely,  
Pat Weekley