

May 31, 2005

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Honorable Skinner:

What do I write? How can I put into words the consequences we face if 25% plus of our economy in Clovis and Portales, New Mexico is wiped out?

Buildings and houses will be empty. No jobs will be available. Friends will have to move to find work. The cultural diversity and ideas that Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB) personnel bring to the community will be gone. Our streets will be empty. Our schools will lose close to \$5,000,000 with the loss of students from CAFB which will impact the education of the remaining civilian students.

For the first time, Clovis was booming with major chains building in Clovis and now it has come to a standstill. We do not have the ability that other larger towns have to offset the loss.

There is no doubt that Cannon Air Force Base has "military value". The Clovis/Portales town leaders and the many letters you have already received mention all the reasons Cannon AFB is important to military readiness and training. The idea of keeping the air space we have provided and shutting down Cannon at a tremendous expense to the civilian population is not a proud American move. We have the air space. We have the training facilities without encroachment problems. We have room to fly without commercial planes to interfere. Planes can be in the air in minutes. So, why is CAFB on the list?

My request is for you to consider the impact and keep Cannon Air Force Base open.

Sincerely,



Sharon Gardner  
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505.769.0105

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