Nichole Renfro
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RECEIVED
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Dear Commissioner James H. Billray

I am a resident of Clovis New Mexico and am presently employed by a locally owned restaurant. I have been friends with many military families during the years and have grown to love the diversity they offer our community. Losing Cannon will leave a gapping hole in our community. I understand that you have criteria to follow in making this decision and I would like to offer my opinions.

Curry County, located in eastern New Mexico, has 320 days a year of good flying weather. Melrose bombing range is located 30 miles to the west and is quickly attained. There are thousands of square miles of unencumbered air space for supersonic airspace training. The city of Clovis has been growing to the north and east of CAFB and is no threat of encroachment. The F-16 air craft is an aging plane and is presently being used in the fighting in Iraq. CAFB is located in the central area of the United States and could be used to defend any of our borders in a matter of a few hours.

The impact of closing CAFB on our community would be dramatic. Cannons' public affairs office has said there are more than 4,000 active-duty members and civilians at the base, including 270 officers and 3,201 enlisted airmen. It is estimated that Cannon is directly responsible for 20 to 26 percent of the areas' jobs. The population of Clovis is approximately 33,000 persons. Clovis voters have always built and maintained schools to serve all of our citizens including military dependants. Clovis Community College is where many spouses of active-duty personnel receive associates degrees in areas including nursing, radiology technician, and construction. Just twenty miles away is Eastern New Mexico University. Both of these institutions have classrooms at CAFB for the betterment of the military family. Wayland University of Plainview Texas also holds classes in the Clovis community and at CAFB. Presbyterian Hospital and local health related groups have invested $60,000,000.00 in recent years to meet the needs of base personal and our local citizens. Clovis has much to offer any person living here.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to send this letter to you. Closing any military installation is a grave matter and has many ramifications. As you can see it would have serious consequences for Clovis and the entire state of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Nichole Renfro