

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

May 23, 2005

Dear Honorable Bilbray:

I am a member of the great community of Cannon AFB/Clovis, NM. This is my home. My family, friends, church, and livelihood are all encompassed in this little town close to the Texas border. This is the place where I want to raise my children and to see my grandchildren come to later in life. I have two small children and a husband that call Clovis home. My husband was born and raised in Clovis, so we have a lot of history and memories. My son goes to the same elementary school that he did. We love our town. You see Honorable Bilbray, Cannon AFB/Clovis is a town that lives and breathes. It is not just a place on the map and a place for the government to forget about. I know that it has been recommended that Cannon AFB be closed. Let me give you some reasons why this is not in the best interest of our country.

Please consider the following:

- Cannon clearly does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots. If a plane were to go down during a training mission, all they would hit would be a cactus, sand, and maybe a cow. This is not available anywhere else in the United States.
- Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations. It is my understanding that this could be final in a few short weeks.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability. We have four mild seasons with numerous weather conditions needed to train in.
- The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, and then returning to the base.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- Millions of dollars have been spent recently on new runways, housing, office facilities and control tower.
- Cost of living and utilities are very reasonable in Clovis, NM.

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- Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
- The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft. We are open to a change of aircraft and would welcome all branches of the military on one base. We have so much room to grow in our community.
- Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, West Texas, and others, is unlike any other installation in the country. Military personnel are considered family and friends.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.
- Cannon AFB is home to some of the most dedicated volunteers that our community has ever seen. They are great role models for our children and make very interesting friends. We love these people and they love us. I love to see the jets flying overhead. It reminds me that they are flying to keep my family safe.
- The Clovis community wants Cannon AFB. This is not a community that wants the base to leave. We have made our land and resources available to Cannon in order to keep the base.

Closing Cannon AFB would be devastating to our community. I currently have 12 rental units in town that house military personnel and their families. I would have several vacancies and would have trouble renting with so many properties in the area. This would create a hardship for my family. Several of our friends and family would endure other financial hardships if Cannon AFB was to close. Most of them would have to leave to find work to support their families.

When making your final list of base closures, I pray that you will see Cannon AFB for all the wonderful things that it has to offer. Losing it would be a huge and irresponsible decision on the part of the US Military. We look forward to seeing members from the BRAC on June 24, 2005. Maybe we can meet in person and I can tell you in person how much this base means to me and my community. Thank you for your time and may God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,



Brittany Defoor
Clovis, NM

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The Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

May 23, 2005

Dear Honorable Coyle:

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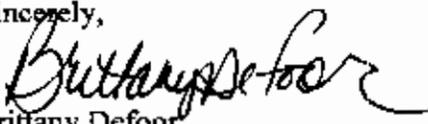
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Clovis, NM

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General Lloyd W. Newton
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear General Newton:

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Clovis, NM

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Arlington, VA 22202

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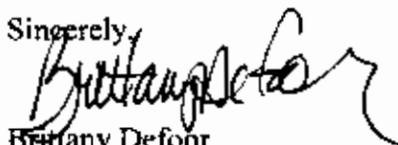
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