

6/16/05

Anton Iliuk

EMMU # 2775

Portales, NM 88130

DCN 4722

BRAC Commission

Received

6/23/2005

Dear General Lloyd W. Newton,

I am very concerned about the BRAC Commission's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base.

I sincerely hope that the Commission will consider some of the benefits that Cannon Air Force Base offers to our U.S. defense system, and to our local community in particular.

First of all, the placement of the Cannon Air Force Base is perfect, providing year-round training possibilities, and making Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and the other military air craft. Second, the Medrose bombing range is seconds away from Cannon. Third, Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint warfare training and readiness.

All military details aside, Cannon has had an incredible impact on local community. The relationship between Cannon and the surrounding area is warmer than anywhere else in the country. The closing of Cannon will cause a 20% decrease in jobs in Portales/Clarks area; moreover, this will have a severe effect on the economy of entire New Mexico and West Texas. As a student, I'd like to point out the huge negative effect the closing of Cannon

will have on our Eastern New Mexico
University in Portales (starting with
significant decrease in enrollment, and potentially
much worse).

Please reconsider all the benefits of the
Cannon Air Force Base before making
your decision.

Respectfully Yours,

Anita Shier

6/16/05

Anton Iliuk

ENMU #2775

Portales, NM 88130

BRAC Commission

Received

6/23/2005

Dear Brigadier General Sue E. Turner,

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Respectfully Yours,

Anton Duke

6/16/05

Anton Iliuk
ENMU # 2775
Portales, NM 88130

**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen

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Please reconsider all the benefits
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~~Respect~~ Respectfully yours,

Aubrey Shuck

10-16-05

Christina Aragon
1326 S Ave C
Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable James V. Hansen

I am writing this letter for the operation concerning Cannon. There are some considerations that must be made before the decision to close Cannon becomes final.

Cannon is a true asset to the communities surrounding it and also to the nation. Please recognize that Cannon not only has the adequate space to operate, but also provides the sufficient weather to conduct projects year round.

It should be known that if Cannon is closed, many people will lose their jobs. Businesses in both Cloris and Portales will have to close and families will be forced to relocate to other towns. Since Cloris and Portales are small communities, you can imagine what this would do for our economies.

Also, tuition for Eastern New Mexico University will increase. If Cannon is closed, enrollment

will drop 20 percent. This directly affects me. As a student, I realize how paying for school full-time can become a financial hardship.

Please take into consideration all the points I have provided. It will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours

Christina Dragon

6/23/2005

6-16-05

Christina Aragon
1326 S Ave C
Portales, NM 88130

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Please reconsider all the benefits of the Cannon Air Force Base before making your decision.

Respectfully yours,

Paula Glus

6/16/05

Anton Iluk
ENMU # 2775
Portales, NM 88130

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6/23/05

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BRAC COMMISSION

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Respectfully yours,

Anita Stout

6-16-05

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1326 S Ave C
Portales, NM 88130

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become a financial hardship.

Please take into consideration all
the points I have provided. It will
be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours

Christina Deagen

Dear Mr. Skinner,

I am writing this note in an effort to keep Cannon A.F.B. Opened.

This community thrives on the diversity that Cannon A.F.B. offers and works hard to incorporate base people into it. Anyone that gets stationed here can expect to grow as individuals and family beyond measure. Clovis has an outstanding school system and Eastern New Mexico University is only 30 miles away for anyone seeking higher education.

The most important reason to keep Cannon opened is its ability to support the Air Force mission. We offer massive air space, a bombing range on the west side of the base and we have no encroachment problems here. In the past Cannon has been an award winning Wing and can be again. Instead of talking about closing Cannon lets see it grow and thrive in a community that has always been 100% behind it.

Sincerely,

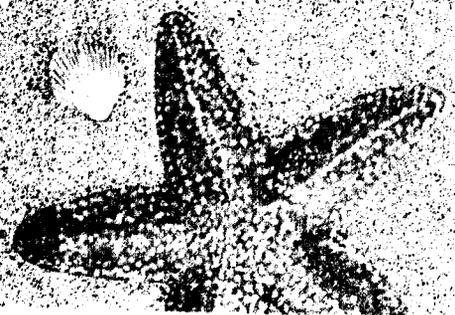
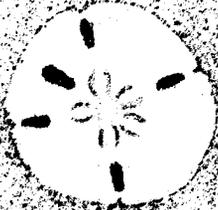
CAPT & Mrs Roger Maddy
Ret. USAF



Roger D. Maddy
209 Kathie Dr.
Clovis, NM 88101-4323



Miss Skinner
BRAC Commission 9501 S Clark St
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202



6/14/05

06212005

RECEIVED

Mr Johnson

Please keep Cannon
we are very proud of CAFB

Thank you

Doreen Ziegler



6/14/05

Mr Hansen

RECEIVED 00212005

of lease keep them
We are very proud
C.A.K.B.

Thank You

Dona J. J. J.



6/14/05
RECEIVED 06212005

Mr. Anthony J. Francis

Please say Cannon AFB.
We need Cannon - it is
important to Gov's economy
It is an asset to our
community - we are proud
of CAFB!

Thanks
Dona Ferguson



4/14/05
Mr. Libbey RECEIVED 06212005

Please Keep Cannon -
We are very proud of CAFB.

Thank you

Doreen J. Jorgensen



5/18/05

To Whom It May Concern,

053 12 005

I am a 42 year old woman that has been greatly affected by the military. My father served in the Navy for 20 plus years and my husband just retired from the Air Force after serving 20 years. My life has been the military and the military bases around the world.

My "service" to our country has not always been easy because of some of the places we have lived. You cannot understand what it feels like to be treated as an

unwelcome guest by a community that you have been sent to by the military. I have lived in parts of the USA where people mumble or make comments regarding the military members and their families just because we are "invading" their hometown. Just imagine what you might feel like when your child is not put in during a sporting competition because the coach just found out you are a military family and will not remain in that particular town. We have

had to learn how to ignore a lot of letters to editors of different hometown newspaper in which all of the town problems are blamed on the military in that particular hometown. A refreshing attitude is what we have found in Clovis, New Mexico.

We came to Cannon Air Force Base three years ago and like all of our PCS moves, we were not sure how the local people react to the military base and its people. We were pleasantly surprised by Clovis. We have never lived in a community

Cannon Air Force Base to
remain open. It is a great
asset to the morale of our
men and women in the Air
Force. They deserve a place like
Clavis, New Mexico.

Thank you,


Robbyn L. Rungtorn

07152005

BRAC COMMISSIONERS,

IF THIS LETTER REACHES YOUR
HANDS, IT IS THROUGH PRAYER THAT
YOU ARE READING THIS. I PLEAD THAT
YOU WILL CONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF CANNON
AIR FORCE BASE FROM YOUR LIST. YOU HAVE
HEARD THE FACTS AND SEEN THE FACES,
PLEASE KEEP THE SWORD FROM OUR THROATS.

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES

Miles Watters



ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING
PLAY HARD PLAY TOGETHER



500 miles away
His name is...

 Roger D. Maddy
209 Kathie Dr.
Clovis, NM 88101-4323



Mr. Lloyd Newton
BRAC Commission 2621 S. Clark St
Suite 600
Arlington, VA
22202



 RECEIVED

Dear Ms. Turner, I am writing this note in an effort to keep Cannon A.F.B. opened.

This community thrives on the diversity that Cannon AFB offers and works hard to incorporate base people into it. Anyone that gets stationed here can expect to grow as individuals and family beyond measure. Clovis has an outstanding school system and Eastern New Mexico University is only 30 miles away for anyone seeking higher education.

The most important reason to keep Cannon opened is its ability to support the Air Force mission. We offer

awesome flying weather, a bombing range on the west side of the base and we have no encroachment problems here. In the past Cannon has been an award winning Wing and can be again. Instead of talking about closing Cannon lets see it grow and thrive in a community that has always been 100% behind Cannon. As a taxpayer I would hate to see the Base improvements not used.

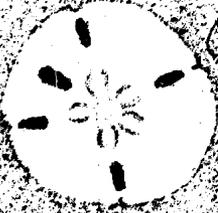
Sincerely, CAPT. & MRS. Maddy
RET. USAF



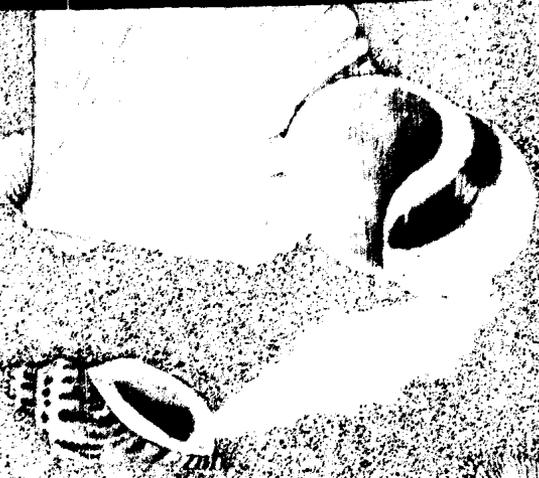
Roger D. Maddy
 209 Kathie Dr.
 Clovis, NM 88101-4323



Ms. Turner
 PARACOMMISSIONERS Clark St.
 Suite 600
 Arlington, VA 22202



POSTNET barcode



Small text at the bottom of the page, possibly a copyright notice.

BRAC Commission
Received
6/21/2005

Date: June 10, 2005

To: BRAC Committee

From: Cherrie Hayden
2104 Northglen
Clovis, NM 88101

**BRAC Commission
Received**

BRAC Commissioner, Chairman Anthony Principi

Please reconsider and take Cannon Air Force Base off the base closure list because:

KEY MILITARY FACTS:

- Abundance in air space with no encroachments
- Safer, more realistic training scenarios for all types of planes and missions
- Once implemented, supersonic flying through the N.M. Training Range Initiative
- Great year-round weather for flying conditions
- Melrose bombing range is seconds away
- New runways on the base—two runways, not just one
- Ample space and ramp space for surge force requirements
- Support of training missions for F-22, F-35, Joint Strike Fighter, etc.
- Award winning base on ACC, Air Force, and NAF levels
- A relationship like none other with the communities of Clovis, Portales, and the surrounding areas
- Large military retiree population within a 150 mile radius

KEY COMMUNITY FACTS:

- \$60 million expansion to Plains Regional Medical Center with new Heart, and Cancer Wings, 10,000 sq. ft. Rehab Center as well as the addition of 60+ new medical staff
- Expansions to Clovis Community College and Eastern NM University—classes offered on base
- New VA Clinic opened this year
- Expansion and new industry is providing job opportunities for spouses and children
- Many new housing developments are providing housing needs
- New restaurants, building suppliers, and retail businesses adding to the established base
- New Civic Center under construction for increased community events
- Military discounts offered by local businesses
- The best schools and teaching staff in NM
- A Christian-based community that is family oriented and caring
- Portales community was not considered in the economic impact of closure

Signed: *Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Crebaugh*

PS *We are praying that you will take Cannon off the Closure list. We feel that Cannon is a great and much needed training base for our Military.*

This letter will be copied to send to the following:

CC: Commissioner James Bilbrary
Commissioner Philip Coyle
Commissioner Adm. Harold W Gehman, Jr.
Commissioner Rep. James V Hansen
Commissioner Gen. James Hill
Commissioner Gen Lloyd "Fig" Newton
Commissioner Samuel K Skinner
Commissioner B.G. Sue Ellen Turner

CC: President George W. Bush
First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush
Governor Bill Richardson
Senator Pete V. Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Tom Udall

RECEIVED

06102005

May 24, 2005

Mr Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, 2005 BRAC COMMISSION
2521 S. Clark ST. Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:
Greetings in the Lord!

I am writing in reference to the proposed closing of Cannon Air Force Base, at Clovis, New Mexico. I want to express to you how absurd this decision seems to me in relation to the criteria guidelines laid out for closure and realignment by

I am the pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Clovis, New Mexico, and about 1/4 of the families that we serve are affiliated with the Base.

I believe that it would be a great loss to the military and to the safety and security of our country, if Cannon Air Force Base was to close.

In regard to military value I propose:

1. The weather in this area is ideal. The military planes fly as many as 350 days a year because of the nice weather. There are no commercial airports within a 100 mile radius so there is no conflict with air traffic other than a small municipal airport that accommodates private or smaller planes. Training is an essential element to the readiness of the Air Force to do its mission and, as such, is not in any way hindered or impeded due to external forces like, bad wether, complaints of residents due to noise, serious encroachment difficulties, or a community that does not want or support the Air Force and its mission.
2. Safety is an essential element that that I believe is critical to the mission of the Air Force. If an accident was to happen during training, it is likely that the casualties would be keep to a minimum due to the fact that civilian encroachment is not a major problem as it is in many of the other Air Force Bases. . The surrounding area is ranch land so there are no major populated areas.
3. There is endless room for expansion of the facility surrounding the base and bombing range without concern of encroachment by population.

of the other Air Force Bases. The surrounding area is ranch land so there are no major populated areas. Cannon Air Force Base provides miles and miles of air space for training without having to worry about issues of vast amounts of casualties if an accident was to happen.

3. There is endless room for the expansion of the facility surrounding the base and bombing range without concern of encroachment by population.

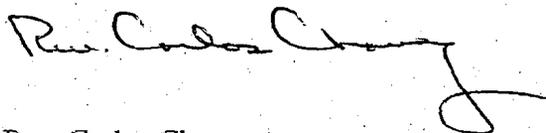
4. If my information is correct, twenty-seven percent of the fighters in the Iraq war came from Cannon AFB and there was not a single plane lost or even one casualty. They have a reputation for safety and excellence.

5. Due to the enthusiastic support of the community that Cannon Air Force Base enjoys it seems that the mission of the Air Force does not have to remain fixed and static. Since F - 16's are being retired, it seems that transition would not be impossible if the mission were to change and another plane needed to be brought in.

6. Clovis loves the military base, and is very committed to working with the Air Force to make it a win-win situation for the betterment of Clovis, and the Air Force as well. The Hospital in the city has just gone through major reconstruction in order to better serve both communities. The Community College is committed to serving the needs of the military personnel as well as the community at large. All of our schools in Clovis, and city services have major commitments in helping the Cannon Air Force Base to fare well in this location. In fact, a New Fire Department facility has been built in the north side of the City, where a major portion of the military personnel live. I don't believe that you can find another city in the country that has as much interest and commitment to the Air Force, as we do here in Clovis. I have never once, in the time I have served here, been to any public meeting where the concerns of Cannon were not taken into consideration. Our City and County Officials are always very cognizant of the needs of the Base, and open to expressing this and taking it into consideration whenever change is being considered.

In closing, I know that when you and the other members of your Commission come to Clovis, you will see for yourselves how wonderful this community really is and what an ideal location it is for an Air Force Base. You have to see this area and set foot in Clovis to really comprehend and understand what an asset Cannon Air Force Base is and what a catastrophic loss it would be economically for this area if it is closed. May God bless you in your discerning process of making wise decisions for the safety and well being of our country. Thank you for your consideration of this letter. In the peace of our God.

Sincerely Yours,



Rev. Carlos Chavez
Pastor



June 2, 2005

06102005

Attention: 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

Subject: Keep Cannon Open

Base/Installation/Facility: Cannon Air Force Base

State: New Mexico

Dear BRAC Commissioners:

We are writing regarding the Department of Defense's recommendation Cannon Air Force Base be closed.

We want to make you aware of our family's concerns about this before a final decision is made:

1. It is one base where pilots can make many bombing runs due to a large amount of close space and good weather year around (saves money, time, and adds more practice runs).
2. We have family members who are retired military and go there for medical services which will mean more travel and expense for older veterans.
3. We have family members who live in the Clovis area an who were previously stationed at Cannon. The financial impact it will have on the area would be devastating to this small community. It is a rural area that attracts little industry, so this will affect the small community more than if it were an urban area (businesses, public schools, colleges, etc.).
4. The surrounding area has been very supportive of Cannon (even donating land recently); please support it by taking Cannon Air Force Base off the closure list.
5. The supersonic air space could be expanded by the Air Force for future use by the military (the F-16 or other aircraft that could be used at this base).

Please come and visit Cannon and Clovis so you can see first-hand what Cannon does for our community, and how our community has supported Cannon Air Force Base.

Keep Cannon Open:



Gary and Linda Jones
1809 Currier Avenue
Artesia, NM 88210
505-748-3575

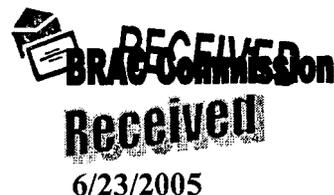
The above are just a very few of many remarkable military-related dynamics which justify why CAFB should be removed from the BRAC list. In addition, please consider the following significant issues:

With a community population of only 37,000 and it being located in a seriously remote portion of the state, Clovis and its surrounding communities are **incalculably** dependent upon CAFB for not only future growth, but indeed for their sheer survival. While the "official" estimate is that Clovis could expect a 20% decline in its population and jobs, many experts believe 40%-90% as more realistic! The massive decline in the tax base would negatively impact every facet of the quality of life which is recognized here. As a critical example, school funding would be severely diminished and our children's futures would be negatively impacted. Communities out to a distance of 200 miles would be forever **detrimentally** impacted.

Sir, Clovis and the surrounding area are **exceedingly** proud of their long-standing support of CAFB and our military. In this day and age of global terrorism and the need for a rapidly deployable military, it is imperative that CAFB be not only kept open with its current mission, but that its mission is greatly expanded in the future.

Thank you in advance for your time and reconsideration of removing Cannon AFB from the BRAC list, it is most legitimately warranted and justified.

Sincerely,



Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Honorable Commissioner Gen. James Hill:

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to read this letter. I realize during the BRAC process you will be hard pressed with your time so I will attempt to keep it short. My understanding is that the key element in the determination of keeping, closing or realigning a base is "military value". I also realize that "military value" must include future considerations, some of which cannot be disclosed to the public. In reviewing the criteria by which each base is reviewed, it appears that Cannon meets all criteria, therefore, rather than rehash the criteria I present the following for your consideration.

My son is a senior at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee where he is a Political Communications Major. Being home for summer break when the BRAC report came out in mid-May and prior to any review of the recommendations in the report, I asked him hypothetically of course, if he was Secretary of Defense, what his primary concerns for America would be. He said "the borders". I asked further, what concerns he had about American borders and his reply centered around terrorism. So I asked for further explanation as to what he would do to protect the borders. To which he replied that his idea would be to build up the military presence near those areas that may be terrorist targets in an attempt to deter terrorism (due to the show of strength) and response time. Assuming some of those ideas may have been a part of discussions concerning the BRAC recommendations I then asked him to consider the build up of the American military presence in Hawaii during World War II and what happened as a result. Is it possible that the closing of Cannon and bases in South Dakota and Alaska along with the buildup of bases in more densely populated areas may actually play into the hands of Americas enemies? In event of attack, would it not be militarily advantageous to have response teams in place away from intended points of attack where the attackers cannot create substantial civilian and military casualties at the same time? Does history repeat itself? What can we do to learn from it and make choices to avoid the same mistakes?

Ann L. Rowley
BLAC Commissioner

JUL 14 2005

Received

June 10, 2005

Dear Commissioner,

My husband & I have been members of the Committee of 50 since 1982 and feel strongly that Cannon and its people are an integral part of our community.

Our business alone would be impacted over \$105,000.00 per year plus the "trickle down" effect. This would be devastating to us as we reach our retirement years.

Please, keep Cannon open - for the good of our community & certainly the best interest of Air Force.

Sincerely,
Ann R

Clovis, New Mexico
 RECEIVED 105

Dear Sir:

Our town of Clovis is hoping Cannon will stay. We have the wide open spaces for the aircraft; great weather year round.

College for people to attend in seventeen miles away in Portales.

Cannon has so many jobs for people needing work. It would be a negative impact on our economy and surrounding area.

The base people fit into our community. Let us keep Cannon it doesn't fit the criteria for base closure.

Thanks for your consideration,

Irene Watkins

RECEIVED

Mr Cough,

06212005

Please keep Cannon. We
are very proud of CAPB.

Thank you
Doris Lopez



Anjelica Papageorgiou
1508 Belvoir Circle
GLOVIS, NM 88101

JUNE 17, 05

BRAC Commission

RECEIVED

6/23/2005



RECEIVED

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Anjelica Papageorgiou, I am a 7th grader at Yucca Jr. High in Clovis, NM. My Mother Gerry Uchmiewicz is Head of the Education office at Cannon, A.F. B. The main reason I am writing this letter is because I do not want my mom to lose her job. If the base closes my mom will have to move away and I will only be able to see her once a year. Another reason is Cannon is like my home. In the summer I won't be able to go to the pool, or go to the nice bunches they have sometimes on sundays. The third reason is because Clovis is already getting a cheese factory on top of all the cows, the last thing we need is an oil refinery. Please give alot of thought into closing the base,
^
not

Sincerely,

Anjelica Papageorgiou
Anjelica Papageorgiou

P.S. Thank you for reading my letter and please consider thinking about it.

Please Read!

10/10/10

To: Whom it may concern
From: Anylica Rappagourion
SUB: Basic closer list for Cannon

June 8, 2005

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

Admiral Harold W. (Hal) Gehman, Jr.
The BRAC Commission
2521 S Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman:

It was with great sadness and concern that I learned that Cannon Air Force Base was on the list for closure. I can think of a number of reasons, some personal, and some of great military value, that Cannon should remain open.

My parents both retired from Cannon, my father from active duty in 1977 and my mother from Civil Service in 1994. My in-laws were military retirees and lived here until their death. I moved here as a sophomore in high school and have spent more than half of my life here, with the base as a vital part of that life. Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and West Texas are home to a large military retiree population who rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

I have known many military members who got out of the Air Force, moved elsewhere, and then came back to Clovis to raise their families. I have worked at Clovis Community College for the last 22 years, and the College's commitment to the military includes a full-time staff member located on the base to meet the military community's educational needs.

Eastern New Mexico has a climate conducive to year round training, with many miles of air space and no encroachment issues, offering safer and more realistic training opportunities, which also makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft. Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, pilots will be able to fly supersonic during training missions, allowing them to better train for real-life situations. The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon, which allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than wasting their fuel and time just to get to the range.

In the early 90s, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force base and gave them to the Air Force. The local community purchased the land north of Cannon and gave it back to the Air Force for additional housing. Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and gave it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

In the last 50 years, the community has consistently given much of its human, financial, moral, and spiritual resources to Cannon and to the United States military effort, creating a symbiotic relationship unlike any other installation. We are them and they are us. Please do whatever is possible in your position to carefully review the decision to close Cannon, making sure that it's award winning history, two runways, vast airspace, lack of encroachment issues, and community support are all considered before a final decision is made.

Sincerely,


Michelle Schmidt, Ed.D.

5-25-05

Joy F Gardner
600 E. 17th St.
Portales, NM 88130

05312005

The Honorable Anthony J Principi

Everyone in Portales and Clovis Area is very concerned about the proposal to close Cannon Air Force Base.

We do not believe the Commission is fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our National defence. These include an abundance of Air Space and no encroachment issues, a bombing range that is a short distance away, the airspace to fly at supersonic speeds, and ideal weather, nearly year around.

In addition to the military value to the nation, Cannon has been supported over the last fifty years by the local communities. We consider Cannon part of our family.

The closure of the base will also have a great impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 20 percent of its work force, plus the ripple effect that we will have on our public and higher education systems.

Please consider all fact before making your final decision

Respectfully Yours:

Joy F Gardner

5-25-05

Joy S. Gardner
600 E. 17th Ln.
Portales, NM 88130

05312005

Admiral Harold W. Gehmon, Jr.

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Respectfully yours:
Joy S. Gardner

5-25-05

Joy S. Gardner
600 E. 17th Ln.
Portales, NM 88130

05312005

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner

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Please consider all fact before making your final decision

Respectfully yours:
Joy S. Gardner

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

May 24, 2005

BRAC COMISSION
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, Va 22202

Re: CANNON AIR FORCE BASE ON CLOSURE LIST

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

Our City and Community, as well as Portales, Roosevelt County, Cities of Amarillo and Lubbock, Texas were all shocked to hear CANNON is on the closure list.

It is most difficult to understand why, as CANNON has met, in fact exceeded the requirements of the Pentagon Officials who developed the closure list. Millions of dollars have been spent recently on expanding the fire station, hospital, runway and the overpass.

It will be very devastating and far reaching for us, even closing one of our schools that mostly children of CANNON attends.

All consideration possible should be given to removing CANNON from the list. We are all human and can make a mistake, and I certainly feel a human error was made when CANNON was placed on the list.

I'm looking forward to attending your meeting in Clovis next month.

Sincerely;


cc: William H. Galt

President George W. Bush
The White House

Gov. Bill Richardson
Santa Fe, NM

Senator Pete V. Domenici
238 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Senator Jeff Binagman
703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Rep. Tom Udall
1414 Longworth House Office Bldg.

6/23/2005

June 4, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S Clark St. Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

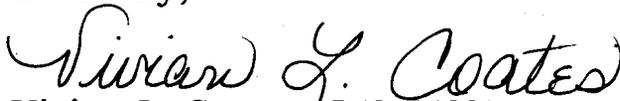
Dear Members of BRAC Commission,

I am writing in support of the retention of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, NM. As a member of the Clovis community and a school nurse who works on a daily basis with the children of the Air Force personnel at Cannon, I can tell you this is a grave mistake.

Our entire community, especially the school community, provides a positive and supportive environment for the children and their families. They are an important part of our community and we do not want to lose them. In addition, we are very proud to be associated with them and be able to support them in the vital work they do for the USA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

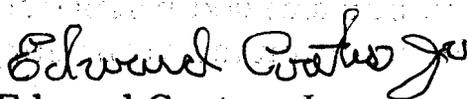
Sincerely,



Vivian L. Coates, RN, MSN
School Nurse, Ranchvale Elementary School
Clovis, NM 88101

My husband is a retired person and he would like to express his personal support for retention of Cannon Air Force Base.

Sincerely,



Edward Coates, Jr
605 Rosewood, Clovis NM 88101

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Lesli and Greg Duffield
1528 Lexington Rd
Clovis, NM 88101
505-763-6241

June 15, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman, Jr.:

Although the closure of Cannon would negatively impact our community and our personal investment here, being raised as "Air Force Brats" taught us that personal sacrifice is sometimes necessary to protect our freedom. Unlike many Americans our motivations are not always for personal or political gain. Since Cannon AFB does not meet the criteria outlined for base closures and its attributes are so valuable, we find it hard to understand how this sacrifice will have a positive impact on our military readiness.

Although I would like to thank your commission for stimulating our interest in learning more about Cannon, the more we learn the more confused over your decision we become. It is hard to understand how closing a fighter wing is a good decision given recent global events and threats to our Nation on our home turf. How is it that Cannon's abundant airspace, free of encroachments and impending Supersonic training capability is not valuable to our National defense? In addition to the airspace, the weather in Eastern New Mexico allows for virtually year round flying and training capability. With the Melrose bombing-range located so closely to Cannon, it seems to be the ideal location for realistic training of our military pilots. Although Cannon is an Air Force base, it has capacity for expansion facilitating joint military training and operations. While valuable on their own, each of these factors combine, to create an invaluable military asset. At this point, the fact that the cost is minimal seems to be the only positive aspect of the closure.

Finally, my husband and I came to Clovis as military brats, without a real choice. As adults we decided to settle here, open our businesses, and raise our family, because this is a great community. From our military backgrounds, we both understood how it felt to live in places where the military were unwanted. Not only does this community support our military, they have done so for many years in ways that go beyond the normal "hoopla" of support. It gave us even more pride in this community to learn that we acquired and GAVE to the military the airspace with no encroachments, land for additional housing, and land for improvement and expansion. Yes, GAVE to the military! Was this overwhelming support of our Armed Forces forgotten or overlooked?

Since the facts support keeping Cannon, we are left to wonder how this recommendation can possibly be justified. Did you look at the same facts? Is the motivation for this recommendation truly to protect our freedom for future generations? We ask that you re-examine the facts and make sure your individual decision is made for the right reasons.

Sincerely,


Lesli and Greg Duffield

May 20, 2005

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC COMMISSIONERS:

As a concerned citizen of Clovis, New Mexico and for the keeping of Cannon Air Force Base, I want you to hear my personal reasons for taking Cannon off the base closure list.

I feel this was a judgment call made without knowing all the pertinent facts which make Cannon a special base. I want you to consider this plea along with those of our community and surrounding area.

First of all we have over 300 good flying days a year. We have bright sunny weather with very little rain or snow. It is excellent for daytime or night flying maneuvers. This makes for perfect training. When citizens hear the planes flying at night or zooming around in the day, I thank God for allowing them to protect us and our nation.

The additional air space that is currently being negotiated for purchase will allow for greater missions for many different planes which need supersonic airspace.

The Melrose bombing range is only seconds away for great training and blends into our farm land with no problems. It is vital to training missions for war time planes to practice maneuvers.

The air force personnel that come into Clovis are looking for families to take them under their wings and offer them a place to belong. We do this without reluctance. We can help them meet each need whether it be to find schools for their children, homes to rent or buy, suggestions of places to eat, or shop. We bring them into our churches and offer them closeness to God as a family. We comfort them when they have family members who must be deployed. We give them our hugs when they are ill or loose a loved one. These are some of the reasons why many who are stationed here make a personal reason to come back to Clovis to retire.

Our military retirees now are a great number of our area population and have a great voice in our local, state and national government. Many are getting up in years. They are very concerned over this disturbing news that a group of Government officials can actually change the course of their lives with a single stroke of a pen. Many veteran retirees serve on local civic government positions; have teaching positions, and other income which make their income taxes higher. Still they are able to maintain their independence and be productive citizens. Many returned to Clovis or elected to retire here because of our lower cost of living. Property taxes are very low and housing is very affordable.

6/23/2005

Received
BRAC Commission

There is a brand new Veteran's Clinic in our community and many military families use this facility as well as the state of the art Commissary on base. The local hospital has just hired 60 new doctors to help provide the medical needs for the military when the base hospital was closed. They are doing major renovations to the Emergency Room, and adding a Cancer and Heart Wing. The hospital would not have considered making these costly improvements if they had had knowledge Cannon Air Force Base closing. This news is depleting so much of our local economy and will severely hurt our economic base for our surrounding businesses.

The two area colleges are also a great plus factor as all the military and their families can continue to work on furthering their education while they are stationed here in Clovis or Portales. They offer online classes as well to not hinder their busy schedules. They offer child care as well.

When they first arrive the wind may be blowing and we may be in a no rain time of year where the land is flat and the grass is brown, but soon there is more to be found in Clovis than rolling green hills and lots of trees. It is the friendliness and caring of the community. The veterans learn to love us as we love them.

I want to personally plead with you to consider and reconsider your previous decision and consider the impact on our local area communities and our economy.

In addition the air force personnel stationed here at Cannon do not want to leave Clovis. Countless families want to stay here, but will go if sent somewhere else, but if given the choice. Clovis is like no other home to them.

Sincerely,



6/23/2005
Received
BRAC Commission

June 13, 2005

The BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Dear BRAC Commission,

Ever since I can remember, I have seen and felt very safe as the planes of Cannon Air Force Base have guarded the skies above my hometown of Clovis, New Mexico. Growing up here, we all know that it would not take much for terrorists or other insurgents to run the border. Our land is so vast and wide-open that it is impossible to protect it 24 hours a day. We have seen this through drug runners and the "Coyotes" who smuggle individuals across the border. This is why I am dismayed that the government has decided to close Cannon Air Force Base.

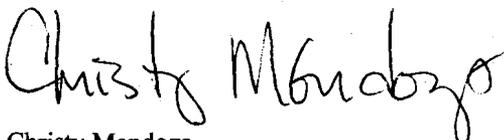
Cannon offers much potential to our country that, in my opinion, has been overlooked by the Department of Defense. Right now the base offers: 1) unencroached air space suitable for training jets at supersonic speeds; 2) several new and existing facilities useful for joint training exercises; 3) a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training; 4) a community that understands and welcomes air force men, women and their families; and 5) Cannon offers retirees and their families the comfort and security of needed services. If Cannon were to grow I think it could in turn be one of our benchmark air installations of the future.

As a community, we are all behind the men and women who form the core of the base. We want them all to feel a part of our community. We take the extra step to make them feel safe and welcome. Many of them decide to stay and retire here or just raise their families. They become a part of us whether it is for a short time or the rest of their lives.

If Cannon closes, it would be a hard hit to our community. I think about my neighborhood and I count five families in my block alone that would have to move. These are just active duty personnel; I have not counted the retirees or civil service workers. The impact to our community would be felt everywhere. Cannon Air Force Base is critical to us.

I respectfully urge all of you on the BRAC Commission to realize and look into the possibilities of what Cannon Air Force Base could be. Remember all the dreamers from the Wright brothers to all the others who have dared to take that leap into America's future. Cannon is vital to us now please reconsider and KEEP CANNON OPEN!

Sincerely,



Christy Mendoza

June 13, 2005

**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

The BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission,

As a business owner, I am very concerned about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base be closed.

I want to help make the Commission fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include unencroached airspace suitable for training at supersonic speed, many new and existing facilities suitable for joint training exercises, and a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training. Cannon is a real asset to the country's armed forces.

Our local community has been uniquely supportive, donating time and land to promote the base's needs. We have also welcomed the personnel and the many veterans in the area make it clear that they feel at home here. We consider Cannon and its retirees a part of our family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Cannon is critical for us.

I ask you to please reconsider Cannon's importance to the nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!

Sincerely,

Mike Mendoza
Owner The Guadalajara Café
916 L. Casillas Blvd.
Clovis, NM 88101

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Mendoza", written in a cursive style.

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

June 14, 2005

The BRAC Commission
2521 S Clark St.
Arlington VA 22202

Dears Sirs/Ma'am;

I am writing this letter to let you know of my concerns, both as a Clovis resident and a recently retired Air Force member, about the recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base be closed.

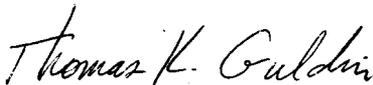
Before I retired from the Air Force in Aug of 2000, I was assigned as the Maintenance Superintendent for the 27th Communications Sq on Cannon Air Force Base. In that capacity, I was in a position to see some of the in-progress and planned upgrades to the base infrastructure that significantly enhance Cannon's flying mission. Most notably the new Air Traffic Control Tower, dual Instrument Landing System, Bi-Directional Fiber Optics Ring, and the upgrades to the airfield lighting system. When these are combined with the un-encroached air space, number of potential flying days in the year, and proximity to an open bombing/target range, the value of CAFB as a combat training base is significant.

Currently I work as an Academic Advisor at Clovis Community College and am in a position to see the supportive nature of the local community. As a college, we have specifically tailored some classes to meet the needs of the Air Force personnel with on-base classes, convenient hours, and on-line formats for when members deploy. Within the community, merchants support the military members through discounts to military members, not just on special holidays but throughout the year, and specials for simply shopping in uniform. Having seen the level of community support for the military at numerous bases throughout my career, I must say that Clovis' support for Cannon Air Force base goes far beyond anything I have seen at other locations.

Having been through several base realignments during my 28 years in the Air Force, I realize that the primary rationale for a realignment is the Air Force mission. However, I also feel that aspects other than the mission need to be considered in the final decision.

Thank you for considering these items.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Guldin, CMSgt, (USAF Ret)

June 13, 2005

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Honorable James H. Bilbray
The BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable James H. Bilbray,

Ever since I can remember, I have seen and felt very safe as the planes of Cannon Air Force Base have guarded the skies above my hometown of Clovis, New Mexico. Growing up here, we all know that it would not take much for terrorists or other insurgents to run the border. Our land is so vast and wide-open that it is impossible to protect it 24 hours a day. We have seen this through drug runners and the "Coyotes" who smuggle individuals across the border. This is why I am dismayed that the government has decided to close Cannon Air Force Base.

Cannon offers much potential to our country that, in my opinion, has been overlooked by the Department of Defense. Right now the base offers: 1) unencroached air space suitable for training jets at supersonic speeds; 2) several new and existing facilities useful for joint training exercises; 3) a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training; 4) a community that understands and welcomes air force men, women and their families; and 5) Cannon offers retirees and their families the comfort and security of needed services. If Cannon were to grow I think it could in turn be one of our benchmark air installations of the future.

As a community, we are all behind the men and women who form the core of the base. We want them all to feel a part of our community. We take the extra step to make them feel safe and welcome. Many of them decide to stay and retire here or just raise their families. They become a part of us whether it is for a short time or the rest of their lives.

If Cannon closes, it would be a hard hit to our community. I think about my neighborhood and I count five families in my block alone that would have to move. These are just active duty personnel; I have not counted the retirees or civil service workers. The impact to our community would be felt everywhere. Cannon Air Force Base is critical to us.

I respectfully urge all of you on the BRAC Commission to realize and look into the possibilities of what Cannon Air Force Base could be. Remember all the dreamers from the Wright brothers to all the others who have dared to take that leap into America's future. Cannon is vital to us now please reconsider and KEEP CANNON OPEN!

Sincerely,



Christy Mendoza
Cultural Arts Director
Clovis Community College

June 13, 2005

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
The BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.,

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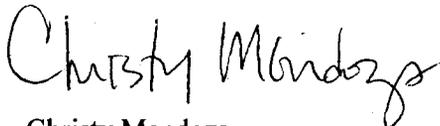
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Sincerely,



Christy Mendoza
Cultural Arts Director
Clovis Community College

June 3, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202

**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray

Dear Sir

Cannon Airforce Base should not be on the closure list for the following reasons.

1. The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
2. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.
3. 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 spending all of their fuel just to get to the range and making one pass over it, then returning to the base, thus saving cost of operation money.
4. 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.
5. Cannon has ample space / ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
6. The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the town: Clovis, Portales, Melrose, Dora, Texico, Grady, Elida. Floyd and many towns in west Texas is fantastic. All of the people in the surrounding area work together to take care of the Air Force personnel and their families while they are stationed here.
7. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of many jobs and have a great negative impact on the economy than any other base on your list. Please Take Cannon Air Force Base off of the closure list. We want the base here.

Thank You

Ruth Coy

June 3, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

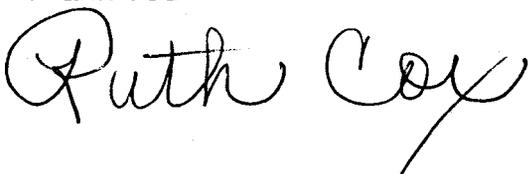
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

Dear Sir

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7. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of many jobs and have a great negative impact on the economy than any other base on your list. Please Take Cannon Air Force Base off of the closure list. We want the base here.

Thank You



OPERATION KEEP CANNON

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

To James V. Hansen, BRAC Commission Member,

We are the communities of Curry and Roosevelt County that have had the honor of having Cannon Air Force Base as part of our community for more than 50 years. There are many reasons that Cannon should NOT be on the BRAC list.

Some of the things are the abundance of air space, void of any encroachment issues, the future use of super sonic fly space, and the fabulous weather that permits a year round training ability. In addition, the Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon ~~which 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.~~

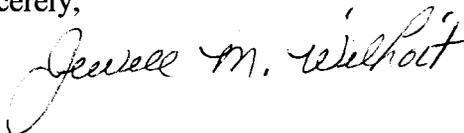
Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. Cannon has won countless awards, both on the ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.

In the early 90's Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force Base and **GAVE** them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space from encroachments and was an important issue for the Air Force as it is today. The local community purchased land north of Cannon Air Force Base and **GAVE** it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now know as Chavez Manor. Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and **GAVE** it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

We hope you will personally witness the relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, Lubbock, Amarillo and many others. It is **UNLIKE ANY OTHER INSTALLATION IN THE COUNTRY**. These towns are home to large military retiree populations which rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping and more.

Our community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the past 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently. We are proud, honored and blessed to have Cannon Air Force Base. We respectfully ask that you visit **Cannon Air Force Base** and the area personally before your final decision to close Cannon is made.

Sincerely,



May 27, 2005

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

05312005

Dear Mr. Coyle,

I am writing to you today about the closing of Cannon Air Force Base. I know that you have received many letters with the facts, so I won't repeat what has already been said. I'm sure that you can tell from all the mail you are receiving that this community really pulls together when we're faced with a serious issue that affects us all. Whether it's a lost child or an air force base closing, this community stands side by side. They support each other and give whatever they can to help. These are the values that our great nation is built upon.

I know that we will survive no matter what the BRAC Commission decides, but I hope and pray that you will decide to let us keep the base. This town is finally seeing some growth and potential and I would hate for that to be taken from us. Our lives are all intertwined and Cannon is often the glue that holds us together. Without the base, we'll lose so many jobs. Funds for our kids in the schools will be drastically reduced and that's our future right there!

I hope that you will study the facts and that you will come and visit to see for yourself. I have to believe that the BRAC Commission will make the right decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mary K Blake

Mary K. Blake

May 27, 2005

05312005

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

Dear Mr. Skinner,

I am writing to you today about the closing of Cannon Air Force Base. I know that you have received many letters with the facts, so I won't repeat what has already been said. I'm sure that you can tell from all the mail you are receiving that this community really pulls together when we're faced with a serious issue that affects us all. Whether it's a lost child or an air force base closing, this community stands side by side. They support each other and give whatever they can to help. These are the values that our great nation is built upon.

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I hope that you will study the facts and that you will come and visit to see for yourself. I have to believe that the BRAC Commission will make the right decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. Blake".

Mary K. Blake

May 27, 2005

05312005

General James T. Hill
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Hill,

I am writing to you today about the closing of Cannon Air Force Base. I know that you have received many letters with the facts, so I won't repeat what has already been said. I'm sure that you can tell from all the mail you are receiving that this community really pulls together when we're faced with a serious issue that affects us all. Whether it's a lost child or an air force base closing, this community stands side by side. They support each other and give whatever they can to help. These are the values that our great nation is built upon.

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Sincerely,

Mary K Blake

Mary K. Blake

May 27, 2005

05312005

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Brigadier General Turner,

I am writing to you today about the closing of Cannon Air Force Base. I know that you have received many letters with the facts, so I won't repeat what has already been said. I'm sure that you can tell from all the mail you are receiving that this community really pulls together when we're faced with a serious issue that affects us all. Whether it's a lost child or an air force base closing, this community stands side by side. They support each other and give whatever they can to help. These are the values that our great nation is built upon.

I know that we will survive no matter what the BRAC Commission decides, but I hope and pray that you will decide to let us keep the base. This town is finally seeing some growth and potential and I would hate for that to be taken from us. Our lives are all intertwined and Cannon is often the glue that holds us together. Without the base, we'll lose so many jobs. Funds for our kids in the schools will be drastically reduced and that's our future right there!

I hope that you will study the facts and that you will come and visit to see for yourself. I have to believe that the BRAC Commission will make the right decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. Blake".

Mary K. Blake

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 black ink that reads "Pat Weekley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sincerely,
Pat Weekley

B.R.A.C. committee:

06102005

I'm writing because of my concern about the proposed closure of Cannon AFB.

You'll receive many letters with facts and figures which show this would be a bad decision, not only economically for the area, but from a practical standpoint. This is an ideal area with its wide open spaces and loyal local support, but I want to give a personal word.

Our base personnel have added so much to our area! They have been loyal friends, colleagues, and companions. Our farm is near the base housing and they've been the best of neighbors. Our children went to school with them at Ranchoale Elementary and many times these wonderful children were guests of our children. The kids learned much from each other and I still remember the friends our children have had with love and good memories.

My grandsons and I have loved to sit in our yard and watch the planes. One grandson would say, "They're not planes, Grandpa, they're JETS"

Many of our friends have stayed in Clovis after retirement. The community and area has been friendly and supportive. The personnel who have complained about our wind, sand storms etc. have learned to love the weather (most of it, anyway)

I'm proud of Cannon. I'll never forget the pride I felt after the tragedy Sept 11 and their loyalty and professionalism. I wept when I saw the guards standing stiffly and proudly at the closed entrances to the housing. Please reconsider. Betty Wall

Base originally chose Clovis because of climate

The Clovis Army Air Base of 1944 embraced a tract of approximately 2,000 acres of federally-owned land located on the Santa Fe Railroad on Highway 60, some six miles west of Clovis, the third largest city in the state of New Mexico.

The site was chosen because of its mild, dry, healthful climate and level terrain for hundreds of miles in every direction. This was essential for best results in training crews for large planes.

From early 1943 until May 1944 the base was used in training crews for B-24 bombers. In 1944 it was converted into a B-29 bomber field. The B-24 crews, trained until May 1945, were largely assigned to the African and European theaters.

The 6,500 B-29 crew members were sent to the Asiatic-Pacific theater. Many took part in the bombing of Okinawa, the Philippines, Burma, Japan, and other Pacific points.

The good judgment used in selecting the site was reflected in the fact that the health of the personnel had been far above the average, there have been no plane accidents in the area traceable to bad weather or rugged terrain, the weath-



Don
McAlavy

◆
Local
Columnist

er has been so nearly perfect that training crews have been in the air 96 out of every 100 days. All of this contributed to the record of performance which the Clovis Base established and holds over all other B-29 bases.

The government expended millions of dollars in making the base one of the most modern in the nation. In fact, it is a city within itself with its water works, sewage system, light and power lines, paved streets, churches, theaters, gymnasiums, fire department, hospital, shops, day rooms, and officers club.

The field has two runways 10,000 feet long. There are many auxiliary strips for coasting to and from takeoffs and landings. The four permanently constructed hangars are so huge one who has not been inside cannot appreciate their

dimensions. Large buses run on 20-minute schedules, affording cheap and rapid transportation to and from the city of Clovis.

Static military personnel averaged 4,500. Civilian personnel averaged 1,500. Crew members in training in B-29s since May, 1944, were 6,500. Total base personnel average was 6,300. Highest total military personnel was 6,500.

Immediately adjacent to the base and for the accommodation of military and civilian housing, the government constructed a modern housing project, consisting of hundreds of bachelor and two and three-room apartments. The project has its own cafeteria and recreation room.

Clovis welcomed the location of the base. It has been a pleasure to open our homes, our clubs, our schools, our churches, our social functions to the base personnel. It has also been a joy to cooperate in all field programs and activities, and to contribute money and otherwise help out with all USO and Red Cross activities.

There has been no friction whatever between base and city. In fact, we have all come to feel as though we are a part

of one great family.

With the average payroll of \$900,000 per month, the base has paid out more than \$10,000,000 annually at Clovis. A goodly portion of this huge sum has remained in our city, among our merchants, our cafes, our hotels, our clubs, churches, and various businesses.

Clovis appreciates what this has meant to our city and has put forth every effort to serve to the best of its ability. ✓

This information was published in 1944 in a small tract named "Interesting Facts About Clovis Army Air Base," compliments of the Clovis Rotary Club.

(The first airfield at the site of present CAFB was established by Charles Lindbergh in 1929 for commercial trimotor planes crossing the American continent. Clovis Army Air Base was established June 1, 1942, after the U.S. got involved in World War II. The base was named Cannon Air Force Base on June 1, 1957, for the late Gen. John K. Cannon.)

Don McAlavy is Curry County's historian. He can be contacted at: dmcalavy@telescopelab.com

Deadline for submitting items for this section is 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

*Clovis News Journal
May 22, 2005*

May 23, 2005

William E. Shockley
112 Ruth Street
Clovis, NM 88101

BRAC Commissioners
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va., 22202

00108005

RECEIVED

Dear BRAC Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Clovis for over 11 years now and have enjoyed my association with the local area and employment at Cannon AFB. It is one of those rare military installations where the local communities (Clovis, Portales, and the other surrounding towns) strongly support the ongoing critical mission of the Air Base. Whatever the base has asked in the past, the community has stood behind and "partnered" to make it happen. I can tell you that I have spent most of the past 40 years in the service of my country, both active Air Force and Civil Service, and have never experienced the camaraderie like you do in this unique environment. This is why I am amazed and confused why the Government would be in such haste to give up a valuable asset. Cannon has served New Mexico and the Nation extremely well and with great pride for the past 60 years and the future offers so many additional promises of mutual support and cooperation, that to close it now would be counterproductive and cost the US Taxpayer far more than the savings realized by Cannon's closure. You've heard the arguments before, I'm sure. The wealth of assets this Air Base offers to the country. The unlimited and constantly expanding air space, the openness of the range and low-level flying capabilities, the sparse population allowing for unhindered flying operations, the year-round favorable weather conditions, the community support and eagerness of local ranchers and property owners to support continued and expanded operations - it just doesn't add up. Especially when other comparable military operations suffer disparity from the lack of these conditions. With Cannon, these resources are readily available and could easily expand to any future mission.

The United States is at war whether we want to admit it or not. What happened with 9/11 was only a wake-up call, and no part of the United States is safe. Terrorist could disrupt the everyday security of this nation, whether by attacking a big city or our country's heartland. After all, if terrorists decided to launch an attack from the South, how far from the border do we need to be to consider ourselves safe and not needing any type of quick defensive response force. While Cannon may not be the only answer, we certainly possess the capabilities to join a joint retaliatory response force to counteract any such threat.

Let's not lose sight that we have several enemies around the world - those who either detest our superior power or don't agree with our ideology or way of life. These forces would sacrifice anything to see us come to our knees. This has already been shown

through the repeated car bombings and suicide missions experienced on a daily basis in the Middle East. The best way to do erode our strength is to weaken its power from within. Apparently, we did not learn a strong enough lesson from Pearl Harbor. We consolidated our ships and lost. We consolidated our airplanes and lost. We consolidated our fighting forces and lost. And it took the best part of the next four years to regain our national security - at great human and material costs to this nation. Is putting all our forces in one area wise? With all the mega areas that BRAC is proposing, could we be enabling these factions to do their activities easier and hand the United States a serious blow that is not recoverable?

Cannon is in a sparsely populated area and would be easily defended if the need were to arise. Large cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix would be a disaster. The civilian casualties could be enormous. Mega Bases in areas like these could lead to them being targeted. I would think that if the United States were to be attacked, it would be easier to set up defenses in fields rather than in someone's back yard.

As I wrote earlier, I came here over 11 years ago not knowing what to expect. I have come to learn what a great asset this base is and how much it still has to offer our Nation's national defense. I also mentioned that I am a military retiree and have enjoyed the bounty of support the Air Base and local community shows to the retiree. We are members of the community, not just visitors. Many retirees rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close to enable our retired military to receive some of their promised benefits. 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. The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor. The surrounding communities support the military effort at the base and would expend all efforts to support any future mission.

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. Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base. Leaders within our community spearheaded the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness exercises as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. 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, then returning to the base.

In the early 90s, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force.

I do not believe Cannon met the criteria to close.

Clovis would be seriously compromised should Cannon be closed. More importantly the security of the United States could be seriously compromised.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Shockley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

WILLIAM E. SHOCKLEY
MSgt USAF, Ret

May 22, 2005

Horace L. Bates
2520 Williams Ave
Clovis, NM 88101

06102005

BRAC Commissioners
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va., 22202

Dear BRAC Commissioners,

I strongly believe it is a big mistake to close Cannon AFB, NM for several reasons. It is one of the few bases that has virtually unlimited air space. It is in an area that is sparsely populated. It has land that is readily available and could easily expand to any future mission.

The United States is at war whether we want to admit it or not. 9/11 was a wake-up call. I strongly believe there are numerous factions that would like to end the superior power of the United States. The best way to do this is to erode its power from within. Is putting all our forces in one area wise? Pearl Harbor was a serious blow to the power of the United States. With all the mega areas that BRAC is proposing, could we be enabling these factions to do their activities easier and hand the United States a serious blow that is not recoverable?

Cannon is in a sparsely populated area and would be easily defended if the need were to arise. Large cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix would be a disaster. The civilian casualties could be enormous. Mega Bases in areas like these could lead to them being targeted. I would think that if the United States were to be attacked, it would be easier to set up defenses in fields rather than in someone's back yard.

As a retiree who stayed here, I know that Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. Many retirees rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close to enable our retired military to receive some of their promised benefits. 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. The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor. The surrounding communities support the military effort at the base and would expend all efforts to support any future mission.

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I do not believe Cannon met the criteria to close.

Clovis would be seriously compromised should Cannon be closed. More importantly the security of the United States could be seriously compromised.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Horace L. Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

HORACE L. BATES
SMSgt UASF, Ret

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

RECEIVED
4 June 2005
06072005

Subject: BRAC/Cannon AFB, New Mexico

We reside in the Clovis, New Mexico area and the local government has been urging people to write to you all about our feelings concerning the proposed closing of Cannon AFB. Well, I guess I'll take them up on it though I don't think that this letter is what they have in mind.

We arrived here last summer and have been very unhappy since day 1. I have been discharged from active duty and pray every day that my husband gets orders out of here. We are not the only unhappy people here. Most military can give you at least one story about the day they received orders to Cannon, the moment they realized where they were going, and what others said to them at the news of their assignment (usually a 'condolence'). The drive into Clovis is heart breaking and many have reported crying along this road, highway 60/84. It looks like you're driving into a town that time forgot years ago.

This town is not about the military and I find it quite hypocritical the way they are acting since 13 May 2005. The military personnel have not been made to feel 'welcome' here nor do we feel cared about. We come from all over the country and from overseas and are surprised about the ambivalence toward the military in a town such as this. Before the BRAC list came out, this town didn't give a rat's ass that the military personnel would leave town on weekends for Texas or other parts far from here to shop, eat, find entertainment, etc.

Having a life long affiliation with the military through birth, marriage, and being active duty, this is the first 'military town' that I have experienced that is the absolute antithesis of a military town. Who only wants a Wal Mart to shop in? Who wants a mall that has half the stores closed down and is hardly more than an indoor strip mall? You cannot come here and find decent housing either. We owned a home at our last assignment but there is no way we would play Russian Roulette with a home purchase here.

Ask the military personnel and they will tell you how unhappy they are here. This is "CanKun" (Cannon to Kunsan AB) since many resort to volunteering for a remote assignment to "get the hell outta here". How many have separated or retired from this base? How many humanitarian assignments are applied for from here (I know of 2 who were here less than a year and are already gone)? How much money does the base spend annually to send military members and their families to Albuquerque,

Texas, and other long distance locations to receive medical care? And we're not talking about complex problems either. Tooth extractions in Texas are absolutely ridiculous. The nearest large airport is in Lubbock, Texas! That costs the military money for fuel, lodging, and manpower.

If we were allowed to speak out about it, the military people would say that we are more than happy to close this base up lickity split and beat feet out of here. We also deserve a better quality of life than an assignment at Cannon AFB, New Mexico provides. Look at the retention numbers, the attempted suicide rates, the number of active duty and family member's on anti-depressant's, the medical care costs, the reactions of other military personnel to another's assignment to the 27th FW (all negative and sympathetic). This is like serving time being here and it feels like we're at a remote assignment in a location outside of CONUS, 25 years in the past.

The 'Operation Keep Cannon' uproar is a joke to us. (Nothing happened here on Memorial Day to honor military personnel, but they sure do have the rodeo going on.) The dirty laundry is being exposed in the local newspaper reader letters. I learned that the Cannon members and families are referred to as "base apes" and talked about as though we are less than the Clovis citizens. There are former and current Clovis resident's who think this whole thing is what the town deserves for their short sightedness, narrow mindedness, and unwillingness to build this town up all this time. I certainly agree.

As far as their selfish, self-centered, self-concerned worries about their local economy, they built their bed in an exclusionary manner to other businesses coming here in the past. Deal with it. They refuse to create a Plan B for the BRAC situation. Foolish? Absolutely. Should the failure to plan be rewarded? I thought this round of BRAC was about what is best for the military, the potential to turn a base purple and cross service possibilities. When did it become about the pacifier being lost for the surrounding community?

This will be the fastest base closing once the word comes down. Every member and family member will do their part to ensure that the front gate has a pad lock on it and nothing moving behind it except for tumbleweeds! We can make that happen before the end of 2006 if so tasked!!



316 Chanticleer Pl.
Clovis, NM 88101

May 16, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission Members:

Like many Clovis residents, I heard the news of **Cannon Air Force Base's** possible closing on my way to work on May 13th. A day which has lived up to its stereotype- Friday the 13th. I was genuinely shocked at this news. I have lived in Clovis my entire life and have known what all of us here know, that Cannon is an awesome base with incredible attributes. There is unlimited air space. In fact, the last that I heard, it was due to expand its airspace in a five county joint agreement and that our planes would soon be going supersonic. The Melrose bombing range is literally minutes away from the base. This is an incredible feature that few bases can boast about. The pilots always comment on this and state that flying here is a pilot's dream. The weather here is really wonderful. A pilot can fly almost every day of the year due our weather conditions. Unlike many bases, such as Luke AFB in Arizona, there is absolutely no encroachment and the community loves their base and military personnel. I have heard a lot about the F-16's being phased out. So... bring in some other planes. The F111's were phased out and we brought in other planes! We welcome this! So, as you can see, it was a shock that our base was recommended on the closure list.

I am a lifelong resident of Clovis. We get over 1/5th of our jobs from the air base. Closing Cannon would decimate this community. I realize that this may not matter to the top dogs in Washington but we care immensely. We love our community and would do whatever it takes to keep this base open. The relationship with the residents of Clovis and our Cannon airmen is great! They are our neighbors. We offer them an affordable community with great prices on housing, no pollution and a neighborly welcome. One of my neighbors is stationed at Cannon. He comes from New York and was completely blown away at the low prices of houseing. He is encouraging his parents to move to Clovis and he has plans of retiring here. My father-in-law is a retired Major with the United States Air Force who also retired to Clovis. These, along with many other individuals, can't believe that Cannon is on the closure list. They see this base as a wonderful place to fly and serve. They boast of Cannon's assets that were listed above.

I will leave the data to the experts, but please come to this community with open minds and hear our citizenry talk about this community and what this means to us.

Closing Cannon would hit Clovis, New Mexico and our surrounding towns harder than any other community in the United States. This is not my assessment, but rather that of the Department of Defense.

I am praying that this nine member panel will take our arguments into consideration. Meet us and remember us. I know that closing Cannon could be accomplished with the stroke of a pen but the reality of this base leaving is so costly to this community. It would be like losing our identity. The diversity that Cannon brings to this cattle town is second to none. We meet people from all over the country and even other countries like the Singaporean Air Force that has been training here. They are our friends and neighbors. We worship with them, live among them, and support them wholeheartedly.

I look forward to meeting with your delegates to this base. Come, hear our story, listen to our reason and please give us back Cannon Air Force Base.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Casillas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billy Casillas
Clovis, New Mexico/ Cannon Air Force
Base

RECEIVED

06222005

P.O. Box 41
Melrose, NM 88124

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington VA 22202

~~Dear Brigadier General Turner,~~

I am writing in response to the announcement that Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico is on the list to potentially be closed. The following factors are important to consider about why Cannon should be removed from the potential closing list.

- Consider the economic impact of Clovis and the surrounding communities, including Amarillo and Lubbock, would be affected tremendously.
- The consequence of loss of resources to thousands of retired military families that live in Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and West Texas would be devastating. These people rely on Cannon for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close to serve the retired military.
- Cannon Air Force Base is a top notch facility with plenty of space for expansion and is an approved base for super sonic flight. The abundance of air space and lack of encroachment issues provide safe and realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding cities, Clovis, Portales, and many West Texas cities, is unlike any other installation in the country.

In summary, the Clovis and surround communities have reached out and supported the base like no other community financially, morally, spiritually, and above all, consistently over the past fifty years. I know that you are faced with a difficult assignment, but please consider the points listed above and remove Cannon Air Force Base from the potential closing list under consideration.

Respectfully,



Mona Burns

June 8, 2005

Admiral Harold Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 S Clark St.
Arlington VA 22202

RECEIVED

06222005

Dear Admiral Gehman,

It is with a heavy heart and great disbelief that I write this letter. I am the proud adult son of a veteran of three wars that spent 30 years serving in the United States Air Force, eventually retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant.

We were transferred to Cannon AFB in 1969, when I was 8 years old. Needless to say, my parents were thrilled to be stationed in a conservative community with high moral values. At the end of our military career Clovis became was our family's retirement choice, even though it was not our last station.

As I have grown up, moved away to college, and returned to work in higher education at Clovis Community College, I have been proud of my military heritage and Clovis upbringing - and proud of the way this community has supported the United States Military. Endless time and effort has been put forth by the community and the Air Force in support of maintaining and broadening Cannon's military value. Over time, expansion has been the key - expanding the bombing range, new housing, upgraded hangars, additional runways, expanding airspace, etc - community support has always been there.

In and around Cannon AFB, there are no encroachment issues, no demanded quiet time, and the willingness to support supersonic training. When combined with weather that is incredibly clear, it's hard to accept the argument that Cannon lacks military value.

Rumors abound about how servicemen and women do not like to be stationed here because there is nothing to do and the air smells of cow manure. One is left to wonder who is being asked if they like being stationed at Cannon. Families find this community preferable to many others, while the single airmen have a strong dislike for it. It's no wonder that they prefer bases in metropolitan areas to Cannon, what with the number of churches greatly outnumbering the number of bars. And imagine a community without strip bars and hookers... It's downright horrible here!

Even the most conservative estimates rank the devastation to Clovis at or near the top of the worst economic impact. We are a proud community, but it's hard to hold your head high when the military that you have supported all your life drops its bombs on the path to a prosperous future while it moves your servicemen and women to bases in communities that wouldn't feel negative economic impact at all. Are we really to believe that this was not political? Our community has no political clout or large voting base, removing 20 plus percent of our jobs will hurt nobody but the citizens of eastern New Mexico.

As an American citizen faced with this uncertain future, I'm left to wonder if our government really has the best interest of "the little guys" in its heart...

It is difficult to be in a position where one feels they must beg for the Air Force to stay at Cannon - it feels somewhat like trying to reconcile with a wife or husband that wants to leave you for somebody else. However, in this instance, our future prosperity seems to depend on it...

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Schmidt
324 Rodeo Dr.
Clovis, NM 88101