

May 22, 2005

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Dear BRAC Commission:

I don't know if you will get to this letter or not, hopefully you have thousands to read. I want to pour my heart out to you to reconsider the closure of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

Are you aware of the relationship that Clovis, New Mexico has with Cannon Air Force Base? I was shocked that when my family and I first arrived here there was a picnic in honor of the military (appreciation picnic). I thought what a wonderful thing a community could do for our hard working military members who protect us and go to war for us.

The businesses here have their doors open for the military. It is like walking into a friendly home. They are so welcoming and supportive. While military members are away fighting for us they, their workers, friends, and churches are praying for them. I wonder how many times Cannon's men and women's (that are away from their homes, family, and friends) names are mentioned in prayers on prayer chains, homes, and churches.

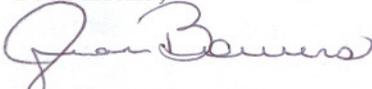
How about our high school children? They are, at this time in their lives, determining whether or not to join the military. Could this have an impact on their decision? I feel it could. The families in this area are tied tightly and their children's hope of one day returning to this base to serve was something they told their mothers to reassure them.

I have brought my children up, teaching them not to waste, to use their resources wisely. Now, take a moment, what will happen to all the land and buildings at the base? Why take something that is already created, established, and comfortable and demolish and rebuild in the future.

How about the families that are established here with the military? The cost of relocating them. The homes they have purchased. The relationships they have built. The jobs they have worked hard in. The education they have put their hearts into to begin a new career in the future by attending the community college.

Please consider EVERYONES feelings in this. You have your reasons to make the military leave, but now you have reasons, other than political, to let the military stay. I pray that your decision will become an easy one for you.

Your friend,



Jean Bowers