



**RECEIVED**

June 5, 2005

**BRAC COMMISSION**  
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

**06172005**

**SUBJECT: KEEP CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, CLOVIS, NM**

**Dear BRAC COMMISSIONERS:**

As a lifelong citizen of Clovis, New Mexico, I would like to express my personal reasons for taking Cannon Air Force Base off of the base closure list.

I feel this was a judgment call made without knowing all of the pertinent facts which make Cannon a special base and so vital to the military. Please consider this plea along with the thousands of others from our community and all surrounding areas.

To consider: 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 I 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 with open arms. 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 and shop. We bring them into our churches to worship God and fellowship. We comfort them when they have family members who must be deployed. We give them our hugs when they are ill or experience the loss of a loved one. These are just a few of the reasons why many who are stationed here at CAFB make a point 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 their years. They are very concerned over this disturbing news that a group of government officials can 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 and the surrounding areas or elected to retire here because of our lower cost of living. Property taxes are very low and housing is very affordable.

Clovis has a new Veteran's Clinic and many military families use this facility as well as the state of the art Commissary at CAFB. The local hospital hired 60 new physicians to help provide the medical needs of the military after the closing of the base hospital. The local hospital is completing major renovations to the Emergency Room and the additions of the Cancer and Heart Wing.

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 stationed here in Clovis or Portales. They offer online classes as well to not hinder their busy schedules. They also offer child care.

I want to personally plead with you to consider and re-consider your previous decision concerning the closing of CAFB. Please think of the impact this is having on our local area communities and our economy. I am employed by a small business here in Clovis. Many of our customers are military families and we enjoy working with them. The loss of CAFB would also mean the loss of many wonderful people to our community and of course, a great financial loss to my employer's business which affects my paycheck.

Clovis is a great place to live and CAFB is vital to our country's security..

Sincerely,

*Jessica Stundivant*



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joni Anthony". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise G. Autrey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Louise G. Autrey".

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DAVID STEWART". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".