

BRAC commission
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Dear Members of the BRAC Commission

My name is MSgt Julie Angle, USAF Retired. If you would, please indulge me with a moment of your time, I would like to talk to you about my home of Clovis NM and Cannon AFB. My family and I were reassigned to Cannon three years ago after my husband retired from the Air Force and began working with the Civil Service at the base as the Chief of Protocol. We desired to move to a place we could call home when I retired in January 2005. When I saw a job at the Cannon Family Support Center, I knew this was where we were supposed to go. I have to say the time I spent as the Superintendent at the center greatly opened my eyes to the willingness and dedication of the men and women who serve at Cannon AFB. As a lead AEF wing, we processed hundreds of men and women several times a year to deploy to locations around the world. Cannon has been depended on for many years to produce top-notch war fighters, which they have done with ease, which brings me to my first point.

Training is the number one priority to any base, but as a lead AEF wing, it is even more paramount. With the location of our base, we offer many things. First, with the superior weather we have year round, our pilots can fly and meet sorties with ease. I have never lived anywhere in my 20 years of Air Force service that has the outstanding weather as Eastern New Mexico. Secondly, the ready access to the bombing and training ranges. With Melrose range and the White Sands Missile range being so close to the base, our war fighters spend more time practicing the scenarios than they do flying to get there using far less fuel going to a training sight than our sister bases do. Thirdly, being located close to our Southern most borders, Cannon can play a vital role in Homeland Security by providing close air support and working with our boarder patrols in the security of the United States.

Fourth, Cannon used to be host to two fighter wings allowing us to bring in any new mission with ease. We also have the ease and flexibility to expand Cannon due to the fact we suffer no encroachment issues as so many other bases due. Being located 10 miles from the city of Clovis gives us open fields and nothing but room to grow and grow and grow. You give us the mission and we will give you the space to facilitate it! Fourth, we have the supersonic initiative which has been approved and awaiting signature. How many places in the United States can you actually train at supersonic speed as you would in a war time environment? We need to train like we would fight. This brings me to the communities of Clovis and Portales. We have to think as well about our community and what impact of closing the base would have on it.

Cannon AFB employs roughly 4,000 active duty and civilian people. Imagine for a moment the impact of closing the base would have on the community of Clovis and Portales ... a

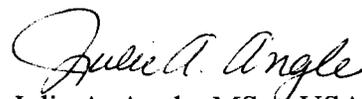
community of about 50,000 people many of which are armed service veterans who have retired here and depend on the base for commissary, Base Exchange and medical care. The Cannon family works very closely with both Clovis and Portales. The interaction shared between these two cities and the base is enormous. I have never experienced such love from two communities toward a base in the 20 years that I served in the military. Cannon Appreciation Days, days in the park to welcome home the troops from conflicts, to selling "support our troops" pins and turning the proceeds over to private organizations to use for the families of our deployed troops. The commitment of our communities as well as the Clovis Committee of Fifty and the Portales Military Affairs Committee is undying and to take the base away would be devastating to everyone who has supported and poured their heart and soul into Cannon AFB.

Clovis and Portales are two cities that have begun to expand, which is evident by the housing market. If Cannon were to close, this I'm afraid would come to a screeching halt. Who would want to come here and build a \$250,000 home when the value of the housing market and the economy is on the verge of collapse due to a base closure? What about those of us who are already here? With the initial announcement of the BRAC alone, the housing market is beginning to suffer. Many families have pulled out of housing deals for fear the base is going to close.

Education is also a factor to consider. We have a 12-year old daughter who has graciously, for many years, moved from school to school due to the fact we were both active duty. Yucca Junior High School is her fourth school in seven years. One of my primary concerns with any move is education and Clovis was no exception. She thrives as a straight-A student and has found her niche in the athletics program. We are extremely happy with the educational programs they have to offer here. Having to relocate her again, as many other families would, would cause a great deal of disruption to children who are entering such an impressionable and important time of their lives. Not to mention how school enrollments would suffer if the base were to close.

I thank you for your time and ask that you remove Cannon AFB from the BRAC list. Put yourself at our base and in our community and you will see what I say is true. Our community anxiously awaits your visit at the end of June, and we embrace the opportunity to prove to you that closing our base would be a mistake.

Sincerely



Julie A. Angle, MSgt, USAF Retired