

June 8, 2005

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

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner  
The BRAC Commission  
2521 S Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner:

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.

June 8, 2005

**BRAC Commission  
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6/23/2005

General James T. Hill  
The BRAC Commission  
2521 S Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Hill:

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.

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Michelle Schmidt, Ed.D.

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

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

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.

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The BRAC Commission  
2521 S Clark St.  
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2521 S Clark St.  
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Chairman, The BRAC Commission  
2521 S Clark St.  
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