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May 18, 2005  
Clavis, N. M.

BRAE Commission

These are just a few of the letters  
published in the Clavis News Journal  
concerning closing Cannon Air Force  
Base. There is many more. I do wish  
you would take Cannon off your  
list. These letters say much more than  
I ever could,  
Sincerely,  
Myra Robertson

Ms. Myra L. Robertson  
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# Cannon, Clovis had impact on family

The news that Cannon Air Force Base was on the Base Realignment and Closure list came just as I was leaving my civil service job at Tinker Air Force Base to attend my son's graduation at Eastern New Mexico University last weekend.

I was numb as I made the drive from Oklahoma City to Clovis.

I spent seven years stationed at Cannon on active duty and have many friends in the area. My youngest son

Jeremy was born at Plains Regional Medical Center and in many ways Clovis is home to our entire family.

Your staff could not have been more accurate when it said the relationship that Clovis and Portales have with Cannon is what sets the area apart from the rest of the region.

According to the Department of Defense, the number of jobs lost on base is approximately

2,800. The CNJ that I picked up at Cook's on my way out of town had the base reporting an employment number of 4,000.

What accounts for such a large difference in the numbers?

One of the criteria the BRAC is supposed to look at is economic impact. On the surface, it appears the lower DoD employment numbers are biased and do not represent the true economic picture.

**Paul Johnson  
Moore, Okla.**

## BRAC decision makes little sense

The boom at the announcement Friday morning was the sound of my heart breaking, the sound almost as loud as the sonic boom that I loved to hear as a child growing up in Clovis.

My childhood friends were "base brats." My husband of 35 years was stationed at Cannon. Our son, born at Cannon and now active Air Force, has tried to be stationed there.

My heart is heavy at the thought of the end of Cannon. I cannot imagine the tunnel vision that the committee had to come up with this hairbrained idea!

Utilizing the property that the government owns is a fine idea. Cannon has been owned by said government for more than my 51 years on this Earth.

Albuquerque has other businesses and avenues to recoup the losses it would face should Kirtland be closed.

Why Cannon? Why crush Clovis?

**Victoria (Pitts) Lucas  
Wabash, Ind.**

## Base closure would devastate economy

In response to a local hairstylist who said "In a way I care, in a way I don't..." regarding the proposed closure of Cannon:

As a student of economics, I feel compelled to discuss the impact of a closure of Cannon. As one BRAC commissioner indicated, a base closure would be a tsunami on the local community. I project home equities would evaporate, stores would close, some services would cease, the "Cannonites" would move and many others would follow. More than one in five regular paychecks would not be deposited.

Imagine more than one in five

customers not getting their hair styled. Competition for the pool of fewer clients would increase. Consumers would be able to demand more for less. Competition amongst service providers would become fierce as fewer customers could afford such discretionary services. As a consumer, this would be nice and housing would be very plentiful.

The 4,000-plus DoD employees would be moving. Hundreds of government-leased housing units in Portales and Clovis would be vacated and resold. The same applies to the vast array of houses on the base. Between 600 and 800 private homes would be sold or bought back by the government, at reduced prices of course. Business space would also become plentiful.

Soon a drive along North Prince may seem like a walk down Main Street, Clovis. If you aren't convinced, take a few minutes at lunch time and look for Cannon vehicle stickers and out-of-state license plates along Prince Street.

To the hairstylist: I project you would have more time to study economics.

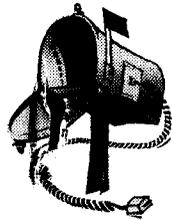
**Richard Noble  
Clovis**



**Letters  
to the  
Editor**

# Community can still save

I was one of the first 150 military personnel who arrived at Clovis Army Air Field back in 1942. At that time there were no buildings on the base and the runway was being reconstructed.



For the first six months after the base opened, the 150 men were housed in the Clovis community, I, myself, and one other soldier lived with the Schwartz family at 801 Connally. During this tenure the Cannon personnel received wonderful support from the surrounding community.

Considering the wonderful community support that still exists, the costly investment of major facili-

ties now existing on the base, the nearby bombing range, efforts to expand the supersonic airspace and the excellent flying weather we have for training pilots, it is difficult to understand why the Department of Defense chose to target Cannon for closure, while retaining other bases where congested and excessive commercial aircraft traffic exists.

I believe there is a good chance this proposal to close Cannon can be blocked. Our people must make their views known.

**Len Santi**  
Clovis

## Government benefits if Cannon stays put

The BRAC Commission needs to know every way that it will save the government money to keep Cannon Air Force Base in place.

Here are some money issues to consider:

Cost of living allowances are not as high in eastern New Mexico as where they plan to move the base.

Cannon has an updated new runway; sending planes to another location would waste that asset and accelerate wear on others that may not be as up to date.

Everyone can think of ways the government can benefit by keeping Cannon.

Why not have a special column in the News Journal for all ideas to be listed?

**Anne M. Locke**  
Clovis

**Letters  
to the  
Editor**