

May 26, 2005



BRAC Commission
Attn: James H. Bilbray
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Bilbray,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

Being from Nevada, I'm sure you've seen both the booming cities, and the small overlooked communities along the road. Well, this is one of those smaller communities that many times gets overlooked. I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

On the other hand the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. Again, being from Nevada, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take it's fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake to go uncorrected.

Respectfully,


Pam M. Olivarez



May 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn: James T. Hill
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Gen. Hill,

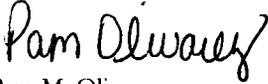
I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

On the other hand the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. As a former military leader, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take it's fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake to go uncorrected.

Respectfully,


Pam M. Olivarez

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May 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn: Mr. Samuel Knox Skinner
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Skinner,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

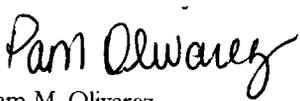
I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

Furthermore, the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. Coming from your background, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take it's fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake to go uncorrected.

May 26, 2005

Respectfully,


Pam M. Olivarez

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06062005

May 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn: Anthony J. Principi
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

First, economic impact on the City of Clovis was not considered. If so, then the decision would not have been made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint.

The Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently there. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. Why waste this at this time, when the military is stretched so thin we can't win a war over a country without an organized military? Are we being sacrificed for being such a "cheap" location to close? We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closes those that are so expensive to operate, in locations where the base is encroached in all directions, where airspace limits training, etc.?

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take it's fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. I look forward to your visit to this fine community and to a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake to go uncorrected.

May 26, 2005

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Olivarez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pam M. Olivarez

May 26, 2005

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MAY 26 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn: Philip Coyle
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Coyle,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

On the other hand the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in its current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. Being so closely involved in defense issues, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take its fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake to go uncorrected.

May 26, 2005

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Olivarez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "P" and "O".

Pam M. Olivarez

RECEIVED
06062005

May 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn: Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Gen. Turner,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

I'm not sure if you were ever stationed here or visited this installation during your career with the Air Force. If you have not been here recently, I believe you will be amazed at the condition of the city and the base. It continues to improve at a quick pace and we are all just sickened by the impact this recommendation has had on this community. And on the future impact it will have if it's not overturned. I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

You are much more inclined than I am to understand the military implications of this decision. But in my opinion, the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. As an Air Force leader, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take it's fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake

1829 FAIRWAY TERRACE
CLOVIS, NM 88101

May 26, 2005

to go uncorrected.

Respectfully,


Pam M. Olivarez

May 26, 2005



BRAC Commission
Attn: James V. Hansen
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Hansen,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

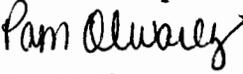
I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

On the other hand the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in its current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. Being so closely involved in defense issues, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take its fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake to go uncorrected.

May 26, 2005

Respectfully,


Pam M. Olivarez

May 26, 2005



BRAC Commission
Attn: Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Adm. Gehman,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

On the other hand the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. Being so closely involved in defense issues, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

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May 26, 2005

Respectfully,


Pam M. Olivarez

May 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn: Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202



Dear Gen. Newton,

I am writing concerning the proposed closure of Cannon AFB. This recommendation deeply concerns me as a lifetime resident of Eastern New Mexico, as an employee of Cannon AFB, and as a citizen of the United States. I would like to address some very important factors that I believe were overlooked when choosing this installation for closure.

I'm not sure if you were ever stationed here or visited this installation during your career with the Air Force. If you have not been here recently, I believe you will be amazed at the condition of the city and the base. It continues to improve at a quick pace and we are all just sickened by the impact this recommendation has had on this community. And on the future impact it will have if it's not overturned. I definitely believe that the economic impact on the City of Clovis was overlooked when this recommendation was made. You can not remove a workforce the size of Cannon AFB from a community of approximately 25,000 without huge implications. You can't just assume that 10% of the workforce is gone, but you must assume that one of the highest paid portions of the workforce will be gone. Wage earners at Cannon AFB earn approximately 35% more than the average citizen working a similar job in the local economy. Furthermore, many of the businesses that rely on military spending for just a portion of their income will be affected. It's basic economics, fewer customers equals less money available. Competition will increase resulting in lower prices that businesses can charge for their products and services. Many businesses that have been in existence since prior to World War II will have to shut their doors. The list goes on and on, but let's address this from a defense standpoint. I understand that many communities have overcome such a closing, but I have seen no examples where a community of this size, so reliant on the military presence has recovered. The examples given are for cities like San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and even Lubbock which is larger than our city times four.

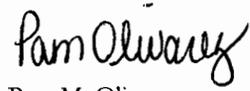
You are much more inclined than I am to understand the military implications of this decision. But in my opinion, the Air Force, Department of Defense, nor the United States can not afford to lose a facility with the potential of Cannon AFB. Not only is it a mission essential facility in it's current state, the possibilities for expansion are endless. Encroachment is not even an issue, there are huge amounts of undeveloped acres already located on site. And the potential to expand outside the fence line exists in every direction. There is no competition for airspace here, there are no major airports for miles. Furthermore, I don't believe the training range initiative and super sonic air space availability were explored through the BRAC questionnaire process. Although this decision has not yet been made, it will be finalized in the fall and all indications are that it will be approved. Why would we give that up to save money? Training of our forces is even more vital during this time of cutbacks, and also during this time of war. As an Air Force leader, I'm sure you understand the importance of wide open space and good weather when it comes to maximizing training. Space is needed and this location has an abundance of that both on the ground and in the air. Training days available are higher in quantity here than most any other location for fighter aircraft in the United States. Our runways have been modernized and are equipped to handle aircraft much larger than the F-16s currently here. We have enough hangar space to house all of our aircraft indoors during hazardous conditions. That also means we can accommodate another mission, aircraft, etc. We should be keeping the cost efficient bases open and closing those that are more expensive to operate, in locations where the training days are not available in such abundance and space is so limited.

I just feel too many factors were overlooked and that this base was sacrificed in order for the Air Force to take it's fair share of hits on the list. Mistakes in the process must be corrected and this recommendation must be overturned. It would be a big mistake in the defense of our country to overlook the value of this installation and proceed with a decision that was not made based on the criteria set forth under law. If you are one of the commissioners to come take a look at this base, all of us would appreciate you taking a fair and honest look at the military value of this installation. Please don't allow this mistake

May 26, 2005

to go uncorrected.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Olvarez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pam M. Olivarez