

BRAC commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite600
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Dear Ms. Turner

I am an instructor at Clovis Community College and I was raised in the air force my father is a retired E7 and my wife was a crew chief on F-111's at Cannon when we met. I have a definite link to Cannon, if not for Cannon I would not have met my wife and my adorable 8 year old daughter would not be here. Personally I can't utilize base facilities anymore but I know for those who can this will be a great loss such as my father retired air force E-7 twenty-three years service, my brother retired army major twenty years service, and my brother - in law disabled Vietnam veteran, even worse than this is going to be the economic impact on the surrounding communities. Notice I did not say Clovis this is because Clovis is only a portion of the area that will be hit by the closure I happen to live in Portales which I also feel will be hit very hard by the closure. The closure of Cannon will have a catastrophic effect on the economy of this area; we have already seen an effect on such areas as construction, reality and in enrollment at the college where I work.

Being a military brat all my life I know the job in front of you is a difficult one and that you have to think about the military value of Cannon primarily and economic impact and personal feelings about Cannon second. Cannon has many military values to offer one is NO ENCROACHMENT which was one of the base closure standards but bases that are slated to receive our F-16's are have major encroachment issues such as Hill AFB or Luke AFB which many of the local community members don't even want! Cannon is 10 miles to the west and Clovis is growing to the north away from Cannon which has already slowed and will stop if Cannon closes. I already know of several construction sites that were abandoned when the closure list was released.

Cannon has lots of room to grow on the ground as well as in the air of which it basically has no other airport competing for air space. Our community has done several things in the past to insure this issue. In the early 1990's Curry County and the state of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon and gave them to Cannon in order to protect Cannon from encroachment. On two different occasions our local community has purchased land and given it to Cannon for needs they had at the time

Leaders in our community have worked with New Mexico Training Range Initiative to expand the flight capabilities of pilots at Cannon to include super sonic flights at lower altitudes to accommodate modern tactical combat training requirements.

As an LTA student Pilot I know how important of a factor weather can be for any type of aircraft and our weather here is perfect for flying year around. We have Melrose bombing minutes off the end of the runway the Cannon pilots have quick access to extensive training missions with virtually no travel time involved saving money for the military.

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Being an ex-bomber base Cannon has lots of ramp space to accommodate expansion whether it be new inventory or consolidation of other inventory (Luke or Hill) or even temporary inventory of aircraft involved in joint training exercises such as Roving Sands.

In closing while so many other communities are having a difficult time getting along with their neighboring military installations and we have worked so hard to get along with ours yet we find ours is the one in jeopardy of closing surprises me. I would like to personally extend a request for you to reconsider the closure of Cannon and decide to KEEP CANNON open. I feel this would not only benefit our community but more importantly will benefit the security of our nation because Cannon combined with Melrose bombing range the New Mexico Training Range Initiative this is a perfect training area for the type of hostile threats and battles we seem to be faced with in modern times. We look forward to hosting the entire commission on the 24th of June so you can see first hand the support Cannon receives from our community

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Blair", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Blair
1918 Diamond way
Portales NM 88130
Home Phone # (505)-356-8053

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Dear Mr. Bilbray

I am an instructor at Clovis Community College and I was raised in the air force my father is a retired E7 and my wife was a crew chief on F-111's at Cannon when we met. I have a definite link to Cannon, if not for Cannon I would not have met my wife and my adorable 8 year old daughter would not be here. Personally I can't utilize base facilities anymore but I know for those who can this will be a great loss such as my father retired air force E-7 twenty-three years service, my brother retired army major twenty years service, and my brother - in law disabled Vietnam veteran, even worse than this is going to be the economic impact on the surrounding communities. Notice I did not say Clovis this is because Clovis is only a portion of the area that will be hit by the closure I happen to live in Portales which I also feel will be hit very hard by the closure. The closure of Cannon will have a catastrophic effect on the economy of this area; we have already seen an effect on such areas as construction, reality and in enrollment at the college where I work.

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Dear Mr. Hanson

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Dear Mr. Coyle

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