

June 20, 2005

Members of the BRAC Commission,

As one of many concerned citizens I want to voice my opinion that closing of Cannon Air Base would be destructive to the economy of not only Clovis, NM but Portales, NM and all of Eastern NM and West Texas. As a largely rural area we are highly sensitive to the loss of so many jobs. All of our communities rely on one another. I personally live in Dora, which is about 40 miles south of Clovis. Yet we regularly drive to Clovis to trade and shop. The loss of businesses resulting from the closure would greatly impact us, even as far away as we live.

Without Cannon our area's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, which you may or may not be aware, is struggling to survive to say the least.

As a real estate agent in Portales, NM I have already seen the news of a possible closure impacting the housing market. We get a large volume of retiring military asking about Portales as well as rural properties, some as far away as 50-60 miles from Cannon because of the benefits of remaining near a base after retirement. Since the closure list was announced, many of these families considering locating to the area have put their plans on hold. I can only imagine the impact on the market if all the personnel, along with family and extended family are asked to relocate.

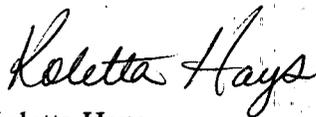
As a taxpayer, I am very confused as to how a move that abandons a facility such as Cannon in order to move to a facility that has to be expanded to accommodate the increase can possibly result in a savings.

As a taxpayer, I worry about the possibility that politics may be affecting sound business decisions.

As a taxpayer, I hope that something affecting the lives of so many people, whether military or civilian, will be carefully weighed before action is taken.

As an American, I am thankful for the opportunity to voice my opinion and I thank you for your consideration to the consequences this closure would have to our fragile economy.

Sincerely,



Koletta Hays  
PO Box 326  
Dora, NM 88115