



June 14, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN Ret.  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Sir:

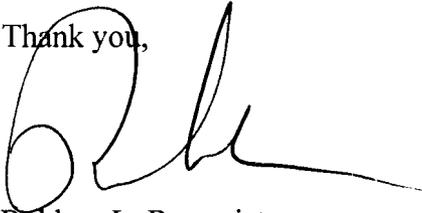
This letter comes to you from a gem in the midst of brown grass, mesquite trees and numerous cows, Clovis New Mexico, the proud home of Cannon Air Force Base. About four years ago my spouse and I had the privilege to PCS here to Cannon Air Force Base. Since that time we have retired and chosen to stay here in Clovis. I consider myself somewhat of an "expert" when it comes to relocating and would like you to know that I have never lived in a city like Clovis that accepts, embraces and encourages the new military families that relocate to this area.

I am a daughter of a twenty-year Navy veteran and a spouse of a twenty-year Air Force veteran. I have moved with the military twelve times in my lifetime and have learned throughout those years that not all communities want the military members or dependents in their cities. I recall once in Rome, New York standing in line at a grocery store hearing a woman behind me commenting on how those military members are so spoiled and remarking on how her life would be better without any of us in that city. I know what it feels like to see your child sit on the bench at a sporting event because the coach found out that he was a military dependent and would only be there for a short time, so why play him. I also recall reading letters to the editor of the local newspaper in Colorado Springs Colorado and in those letters the military members were blamed for all of the wrong in Colorado Springs. I can tell you that when your spouse is overseas in a dangerous situation you do not want to be located in a city where you do not feel wanted. Clovis New Mexico has been a breath of fresh air since the day we relocated here. Our military members and their families deserve to live in a place like Clovis where they are welcome and encouraged to become a part of the community.

I believe that we ask a great deal from our military members and they give willingly. These individuals serve our country for little pay, for little gratitude from the general public and with great personal sacrifice. Just today one of my co-workers just found out that her spouse is going to be shipped somewhere for four months on a humanitarian mission. He is very proud to serve his country, but he is also extremely glad that he is leaving his family in a place like Clovis, New Mexico. Don't we have a hard enough time keeping good people in the services? Perhaps living conditions should be considered when deciding which bases need to be closed. Places like Clovis are few and I think it is important we need to keep our bases, especially in the communities

where they are wanted. If Cannon Air Force Base is closed, the United States Air Force will be loosing its gem! I believe if you would join the others on their visit here to Cannon and Clovis you might see what potential this base has and how the community supports the military.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Runquist', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robbyn L. Runquist  
Clovis, New Mexico