

DCN 3023

RECEIVED
208 W. Yucca
Clovis, NM 88101

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

05312005

Dear Commissioners:

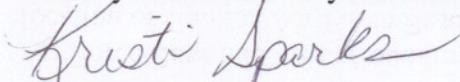
I am writing in reference to Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, being on the BRAC Commissions closure list. I sincerely feel that a huge mistake was made when our base was put on that list. I realize that the face of danger is ever changing, but Cannon Air Force Base has proven time after time that it can change to suit any need. Not only that but also many improvements have been made to Cannon Air Force Base in recent years that have made it a stronger, safer military installation. Things that have been added or updated include the fire department, a new runway, and beautiful new tower, just to name a few.

I also feel that the BRAC Commission overlooked valuable information about Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding area. Clovis, NM, is the town that is closest to the location of Cannon Air Force Base. Portales, NM is also close by. Both of these cities are relatively small in the scheme of today's world. This is a plus for Cannon Air Force Base because the air space around Cannon Air Force Base is uncongested. Cannon Air Force Base has other plusses as well. Cannon Air Force Base is very close to the Melrose Bombing Range, which is an excellent training facility. Cannon Air Force Base has recently applied & could easily be granted Super Sonic Air Space.

I am an eleven-year veteran of the local school system, Clovis Municipal Schools. I have taught at many different levels. One thing I can say as an educator is that Cannon Air Force Base adds to the diversity of our community. Without Cannon Air Force Base, many of our students who are low income, would never have an opportunity to see artifacts from other countries, hear languages other than English or Spanish, or see the availability of so many important jobs in the military. Over the years I have watched many students succeed only for a chance to do what they see the proud women of the military doing on a daily basis at Cannon Air Force Base – defending our freedom.

Please reconsider this addition to the BRAC closure list. You will never regret leaving Cannon Air Force Base open for business.

Thank you so much for your consideration,


Kristi Sparks