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Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in response to the recent decision to put Cannon AFB on the Brac list. I do believe that this is a big mistake. I am a military retiree and work at the Cannon AFB commissary. Not only do I see regular customers from the local area shopping here and using other facilities here on base, I also see retiree's that come from Amarillo, Lubbock, Roswell, and other areas in Eastern New Mexico and West Texas. These areas are home to a large military retiree population that rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military in all of these areas. I would say that we serve people in about a 130 to 150 mile radius.

Cannon also does not fit the criteria provided for base closure. Following are just some of the reasons.

This base has loads of abundant air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training for our military pilots.

Pilots will be able to fly supersonic during training missions once the New Mexico Training Range initiative is implemented which will allow them to better train for real-life situations.

The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to spend less time flying to a bombing range and be able to make multiple bombing runs without spending half there fuel getting there and only being able to make one run and then have to get back to base before they run out of fuel.

Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate joint war fighting, training, and readiness as was evident by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the U.S. Navy.

The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support military aircraft such as the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft.

The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and surrounding towns: Clovis, Portales, West Texas and others, is unlike any other installation in the country. These communities actually go out of their way to support Cannon.

In the early 90's, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon and gave them to the Air Force to protect that air space from encroachment.

Land was purchased north of Cannon by the local community and given back to the Air Force for additional military housing.

Land was purchased in the last few years by the local community and given back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at Cannon.

Recently local community leaders headed up the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

As you can see, Cannon has a lot going for it. I hope that you will also see this and decide to remove Cannon from the Brac list. I would truly miss the military in this community if this base were to close. Thank you for your time.

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