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HOME OF CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202

Dear BRAC Commission:

I am sure that you are ready for your visit to Clovis to see what Cannon Air Force Base is all about and why this community has been writing letters to you.

This is not just an other letter to say how good Cannon is, even though it is the best Base in the Air Force. This is a letter to say that the troops and their families are part of our community and they would be missed so very much. We have Air Force families that are foster parents. We have family members that work in our growing health community. We have families that are part of our church groups and school board boosters. We are a community that appreciates our military families.

The impact of Cannon Air Force Base in eastern New Mexico is underscored by the fact that Cannon participates in coordination of the Curry and Roosevelt County Habitat for Humanity. I wish to point out the volunteer efforts of base personnel. About 90 percent of Habitat's volunteers consist of base personnel. This is according to figures that are provided by the United Way of Eastern New Mexico. Without volunteers from the base, Habitat could not have gotten a lot of the projects completed. The closing would impact contributions to Habitat and other charities in the area. There would also be a shortage of manpower the sudden decrease in the number of volunteers 500 to 600 per year, according to United Way.

Our Clovis News Journal readers ask the question "why not bring our troops home from Okinawa?" Has secretary Rumsfeld considered how much money he could save the U>S> taxpayers by moving the United States Air Force assets currently stationed at Kadena on Okinawa back to the United States? The F-15 fighters and HH-60 helicopters would be a nice fit for Cannon AFB, and the tankers and E-3 Sentry's could go to Ellsworth AFB, the two bases he plans to close and that are needed in today's war on terrorism.

Please take the time to see what Cannon means to HOME LAND SECURITY.

Raejean