

06262005  
 RECEIVED

June 21, 2005

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

The purpose of this letter is one of support and clarity regarding one BRAC choice for closure from our most recent round of base realignment and closure selections. The base I refer to is Cannon Air Force Base in eastern central New Mexico. I believe including Cannon AFB as a candidate for closure constitutes a travesty of sorts, most particularly for the people of the area. I am not a military strategy expert and as such I am not qualified to label the inclusion of Cannon Air Force Base on the closure list as “flawed reasoning;” the choice of so many who are proponents of removing the base from the closure list. I am, however, an economist, and I believe I can shed additional insight into the impact of the closure on the local economy in ways that were not adequately explored.

First, and perhaps foremost, Cannon Air Force Base is located in one of the poorest states in our nation, and as such the dependency ratio on government spending is very high in our state when compared to other states in our nation. Therefore, any loss of a source of government spending tends to become magnified in terms of multiplier effect loss when this occurs. While I believe analysts' projections of 25% initial job losses in the Clovis area from initial impact are accurate, multiplier effect losses and poor economic replenishment were ignored, and in this case, these reverberating after effects will be more damaging than the initial closure impact. Please allow me to clarify with a simple example. Each dollar migrating into this region from an outside source becomes multiplied several times over, usually at least seven times, and that multiplier value directly drives demand, and indirectly supply in the local economy. During instances of occurrences such as a base closure, the removal of this spending stream is reversed over time, and the local economy goes into long-term contraction further devastating the money supply in the local economy. In the instances of many base closures, this loss of government spending is quickly replaced with economic replenishment in that the local economy is robust to the extent that capital goods such as abandoned real property are quickly employed and replenishment jobs are created as the bases leave. Unfortunately,

eastern central New Mexico, and western states in general have historically very poor economic replenishment profiles.

The only vague model we have to follow in this regard is the loss of Walker Air Force Base in nearby Roswell in 1966. The economy of Roswell listed and property values were devastated for over a decade in the area during a time of substantial national economic growth and moderate inflation, both variables profoundly effecting real property values nationwide over this same time period in the remainder of the nation. Statisticians would generally conclude that the economy of Roswell was impacted significantly for at least twenty-five years, and perhaps is still impacted today.

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I wish to reiterate the fact that I have very little knowledge of military strategy and I hold your knowledge and wisdom in high regard. In addition, I am deeply appreciative of your efforts yielding the strongest military in the history of the world. I do, however, know economics to the extent that I have committed my life work to understanding and sharing this knowledge with others in an effort to make life more rewarding for all citizens in our nation. The basic fact of the matter is that there are closure choices that will have insignificant impacts on local economies. One such base that comes to mind is Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, AZ. The economic replenishment effect of that area is so active that the loss of government spending in the region would scarcely be felt at all, and quite frankly I believe many businesses would relish the opportunity to employ real property forfeited as a result of the base closure.

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Terry L. Christesson, B.B.A., M.B.A., Ed. D., A.B.D.



June 21, 2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen  
BRAC Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

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BRAC Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

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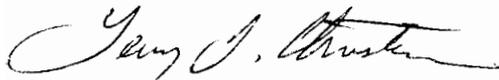
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Terry L. Christesson, B.B.A., M.B.A., Ed. D., A.B.D.



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General James T. Hill  
BRAC Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.  
BRAC Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

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In conclusion, I must admit that it is also very difficult for me not to be nostalgic about the possibility of the closure of Cannon AFB, too. I live on land in the region homesteaded by my grandparents over 100 years ago and although I am almost one-half a century old, Cannon Air Force Base has been here since I was born. An F-100 (lead sled) plane crashed 100 yards behind the house I live in today when I was five years old and I've been actively engaged in interacting with active duty personnel stationed at Cannon AFB since that day. I have met an inordinate number of fine people such as MSGT. Patrick Nino, one of my closest friends currently serving as flight engineer on the Gulf

Stream fleet for our Commander in Chief, and numerous others who were stationed at the military installation through the years. I will miss the opportunity to continue doing so greatly should the base close. In addition, I will mourn the loss of culture the people of the military have brought to my life. These were the gem stones in my life resulting from the presence of Cannon AFB in this area.

Finally, I ask that you make clean, quick, and permanent changes if it is deemed that the installation must be closed. Please give back the air space of the area and close the Melrose Bombing Range, too, thus allowing the people of eastern New Mexico the use of as many of the remaining economic infrastructure components as possible to salvage the local economies. I thank you for your time and consideration and wish you my very best as you ponder these very critical decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry L. Christesson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terry L. Christesson, B.B.A., M.B.A., Ed. D., A.B.D.

06262005



June 21, 2005

The Honorable Philip Coyle  
BRAC Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable Philip Coyle:

The purpose of this letter is one of support and clarity regarding one BRAC choice for closure from our most recent round of base realignment and closure selections. The base I refer to is Cannon Air Force Base in eastern central New Mexico. I believe including Cannon AFB as a candidate for closure constitutes a travesty of sorts, most particularly for the people of the area. I am not a military strategy expert and as such I am not qualified to label the inclusion of Cannon Air Force Base on the closure list as “flawed reasoning;” the choice of so many who are proponents of removing the base from the closure list. I am, however, an economist, and I believe I can shed additional insight into the impact of the closure on the local economy in ways that were not adequately explored.

First, and perhaps foremost, Cannon Air Force Base is located in one of the poorest states in our nation, and as such the dependency ratio on government spending is very high in our state when compared to other states in our nation. Therefore, any loss of a source of government spending tends to become magnified in terms of multiplier effect loss when this occurs. While I believe analysts' projections of 25% initial job losses in the Clovis area from initial impact are accurate, multiplier effect losses and poor economic replenishment were ignored, and in this case, these reverberating after effects will be more damaging than the initial closure impact. Please allow me to clarify with a simple example. Each dollar migrating into this region from an outside source becomes multiplied several times over, usually at least seven times, and that multiplier value directly drives demand, and indirectly supply in the local economy. During instances of occurrences such as a base closure, the removal of this spending stream is reversed over time, and the local economy goes into long-term contraction further devastating the money supply in the local economy. In the instances of many base closures, this loss of government spending is quickly replaced with economic replenishment in that the local economy is robust to the extent that capital goods such as abandoned real property are quickly employed and replenishment jobs are created as the bases leave. Unfortunately,

eastern central New Mexico, and western states in general have historically very poor economic replenishment profiles.

The only vague model we have to follow in this regard is the loss of Walker Air Force Base in nearby Roswell in 1966. The economy of Roswell listed and property values were devastated for over a decade in the area during a time of substantial national economic growth and moderate inflation, both variables profoundly effecting real property values nationwide over this same time period in the remainder of the nation. Statisticians would generally conclude that the economy of Roswell was impacted significantly for at least twenty-five years, and perhaps is still impacted today.

Although I haven't been able to employ an econometrics model to support these predictions, I believe my rule of thumb estimates will be mostly accurate in that I project the long-term job loss prospects for the Clovis/Portales area to be 40%, and economic replenishment may never occur in this region due to the fact that replenishment in this area is contingent upon another sector of our national economy that is in job contraction status; agriculture.

I wish to reiterate the fact that I have very little knowledge of military strategy and I hold your knowledge and wisdom in high regard. In addition, I am deeply appreciative of your efforts yielding the strongest military in the history of the world. I do, however, know economics to the extent that I have committed my life work to understanding and sharing this knowledge with others in an effort to make life more rewarding for all citizens in our nation. The basic fact of the matter is that there are closure choices that will have insignificant impacts on local economies. One such base that comes to mind is Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, AZ. The economic replenishment effect of that area is so active that the loss of government spending in the region would scarcely be felt at all, and quite frankly I believe many businesses would relish the opportunity to employ real property forfeited as a result of the base closure.

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Terry L. Christesson, B.B.A., M.B.A., Ed. D., A.B.D.