

BRAC Commission

JUL 13 2005

July 18, 2005  
received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

I am a new dependent to Cannon Air Force Base. My wife and I came from Fairfield, CA near Travis AFB. Travis AFB is how all bases should be! Clovis says they support Cannon, yet until the BRAC came out, the only vehicles that I saw any type of "Support our Troops" ribbons were those of military personnel and their families. Even now, all you see is the "Operation Keep Cannon" signs, not "Support Our Troops" signs! Clovis is more worried about their agenda and their way of life then the lives and economy of those they supposedly "support". I am appaled that the only time they care about the base is when it may be shut down!! On the matter of Cannon AFB itself, the on-base housing is about 1 step away from being condemned. As a matter of fact, the housing my wife and I are living in now IS condemned! The off-base housing is in good condition, but there are too little houses to support the families on base! The biggest and heaviest weighing issue about Cannon AFB is that the airmen do not want to be here! If you were to speak to the average airman at Cannon (ages 19-27) they would state that they do not like it here and have put in for transfer! For the average airmen, Clovis does not have the facilities and is not will create those facilities. The Committee of 50 or "Shifty 50" has held Clovis small and will not let it expand. The main draw to the airmen in Clovis is the bars, which in turn creates a lot of drinking problems with airmen. I appreciate your time and your consideration, and I implore you to consider the happiness and well being of the airmen that make the military go over the city that would be affected by the closure!

Sincerely,  
Maj. Gloria Albright

JUL 13 2005

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Received

I resent Clovis fighting to "Keep Cannon AFB" I would like you to know I am hoping the Commission will move forward with the bases closure. The small business owners and locals are disgustingly overlooking the quality of life issues military families face while stationed at Cannon. The base simply does not afford military members and their families the benefits which are attributed to being Active Duty.

1. We are disconnected from our base as it is 15-20 miles away (impossible for a 1 vehicle family)
2. We do not have a modern medical facility. We are sent 2 hours away for special needs
3. The housing.....  
Old and in need of repairs  
Too far away for 1 vehicle families  
Not patrolled by MP's  
Not gated/secured from civilians  
Impossible when it comes to renovations & improvement
4. The squadrons are low manned and even lower on moral
5. The commissary and BX run out of food(s) and supplies, forcing us to shop in town.
6. There is a lack of child care and good paying jobs.
7. There is Discrimination against hiring military spouses.
8. Not many businesses offer military discounts.
9. There is no entertainment for children (Would a Chuck E Cheese kill you?)

Everyone says they support our troops, but everyone needs to support our troops by allowing the USAF to offer them a better quality of life. Clovis is being selfish and totally focused on financial gain.

In Support of Cannon AFB Closure,

Mary Abbott  
Cannon AFB

BRAC Commission

JUL 13 2005

11 JUL 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

I am well aware that the BRAC got the embarrassing opportunity to come to Clovis and see why the airmen all hate it here, but I am not aware that they have got the opportunity to go to the website [www.closecannon.com](http://www.closecannon.com) It is very insightful and fairly accurate.

My husband and I feel like we are being punished by being forced to live in Clovis. This indeed, is the worst city I have ever been in. Not only that, 100% of the people I have met since I arrived here 4 months ago would agree. The morale of this entire military community is at 0 and the Air Force would be wasting an obscene amount of money trying to save this dump. Please move us!

Thank you!

Melissa Bruggeman

JUL 13 2005

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Received

am writing to support the decision to close Cannon AFB in Clovis, NM. We have been here for three years, and I would like to briefly tell you how we feel about Clovis. To start off with I believe the fight to save Cannon is too little, too late.

I will begin with child care. When we arrived in 2002 both of the CDC's on base had waiting lists. We looked downtown for childcare, but what we found was minimal at best. The CDC's on base could have easily doubled in size to accommodate the children; however, monies were not allocated for CDC improvement, so we had to settle for less than adequate daycare for our children.

Also when we arrived, the base had two swimming pools. One of which we went to almost everyday because the shallow end was only two-feet deep, and perfect for children. The next summer we were told the pool was condemned and would not open. The pool has been condemned and vacant ever since. In addition to the pool, there are dozens and dozens of condemned vacant houses by the base clinic. They too have been there for years and years.

Speaking of the base clinic, healthcare in Clovis is atrocious. Clovis does not have specialists in town, so military members are constantly referred to Lubbock and Albuquerque. The monies paid to outside physicians alone are a huge waste of tax payer money, because Clovis cannot support the healthcare needs of military members and their families.

The area outside of the main gate is a "Shanty town". A house burned down two years ago and the debris is still there. Clovis has a large drug and gang problem. When we first arrived here we were told the areas of town not to go to after dark, rather than the nice places in town to go.

The Community speaks of how much money they will lose if Cannon closes. I believe this is a gross exaggeration. If there are 3000 people at Cannon who make an average annual salary of 40K, that is 12 million dollars a year. The only store who would drastically be affected is Wal-Mart, and for a huge financial conglomerate it really won't make a difference to them in the end.

The people in Clovis are nice, but do not want their town to grow. Two restaurants in three years is not city growth. Wal-Mart has a monopoly because there are no other stores comparable to shop at. Why not bring in a Target, Old Navy, or Toys R US? I'll tell you why, the community wants their cake and eat it too. They should have been working all along to improve Cannon and the community to make it a place where military members want to come. Military members consider Cannon to be one of the worst, if not the worst, Air Force assignments there is. I hope you look long and hard at every aspect of the base, and go along with your decision to close Cannon AFB.

In Support of Cannon AFB Closure,

Robert Fechter  
2908 Vohs  
Clovis NM 88101

JUL 13 2005

11 JUL 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Please close Cannon AFB in Clovis, New Mexico! I am the wife of an active duty AF member. All of the other military personal and there family members hate it here and hate the base. The locals are not nice people. They are giving the BRAC commission what they want them to hear and see. We have NO pediatrician on base!!! What are we supposed to do!! This is a horrible area and the locals do not like us! Just look at the retention rate! When AF members get stationed here, they finish up there contract and GET OUT of the AF!!! When you get stationed here at Cannon, you NEVER leave!! We have one of the highest divorce rates for smaller bases! And just take a closer look at how many of us are on antidepressants!!! There is no shopping here. We have nothing to do! And the locals only want us to stay for our money!! They turn away any stores that want to come here! They are rude, two-faced people and they want you all to think that they love us! They do not!!! Please come back for another visit and just speak to us that live on base and then you will see how bad it is here! Please close this base NOW!! There is a lot of crime here. They just don't report it because they want everyone to think that it is a safe place to live. Just last week a TV station from Texas reported that there were over 26 gangs in Clovis!!! We want to leave here and go to a better base in a better area!! We sacrifice everyday for this country and we deserve better!!! Why would you do what the local area wants? WE are the ones who should matter!! We put our lives on the line everyday for this country and this is how you repay us? By sticking us here in HELL on EARTH?!! Please close this base.

Thank you,  
John Stiles

JUL 13 2005

15 JUL 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

I believe that CANNON AFB., should be closed because the cost of maintaining this facility outweighs it's usefulness. The fighter wing currently assigned to this base can easily be absorbed into another unit. There are several Morale issues that affect the performance of the wing personnel, this is reflected in the number of personnel that choices to not renew their enlistment, as well as serving to maintain the power base of the committee of 50 that runs the Clovis area with an iron grip, using their power to manipulate the businesses that try to come to the Clovis area. Using such methods as purchasing alcohol licenses and doling them out at their leisure. The aircraft currently assigned to the 27th fighter wing are rapidly becoming obsolete and thereby harder to maintain in working order. Another base may be better equipped to maintain these aircraft. These are only a few of the reasons that Cannon AFB should be allowed to close, and the personnel reassigned to more useful bases as well as equipment, in order to be far more useful to government resources. Thank you for taking the time to read these thoughts.

Sincerely,

A voice of one that serves

JUL 13 2005

July 14, 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

*Quality of Life for the Military at Cannon AFB is what I would call Shameful that our high ranking official should have to live in Clovis to see what I am talking about. Being a military brat and also married to a retired AF Lt Col., I have been to several bases that the quality of life is 100% better than the one at Cannon. Hill AFB in Utah even though it is a Civilian base is better than Cannon AFB. The military at this base is treated with some respect and the town of Layton UT welcomes the military and their families. At Clovis the people don't have signs of encouragement for the military, until NOW. At Sheppard in you see signs of joy that they give to the military 24 365 days. I remember when the base was closed in Smyrna TN and how it affected the town, but I also remember they were glad the military left and the land where the base was located has brought in a billion dollar project and Smyrna has survived quite well. I agree that we need to save money but not at the expense of our military, from a one striper to a full bird Col*

*Close Cannon,*

*A Military Spouse*

JUL 13 2005

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Received

I am a spouse living on Cannon AFB. I wish for Cannon to stay on the BRAC list for closure. I enjoy military life, but daily life here at Cannon can be an arduous task.

I arrived at Cannon three years ago, and I cannot believe the health issues I have had since moving here. I was healthy until I arrived. Within the first week, I went to the doctor; I have now been 32 times for many different reasons. I can no longer drink the local water and must buy every ounce I cook or drink. It has become very expensive. This is a common problem among the many residents of Cannon.

Imagine living in a place where opening a window for fresh air is like opening a door to a barn full of manure. The stench gets in your clothes like smoke; it is disgusting.

My husband and I are normal size people, but we cannot find fitting clothes in Clovis. The clothes are fitted for the local population which is shorter. We must make a four hour trip to a regular city to shop. With rising gas prices and the inability to price-shop, Cannon life is expensive.

Military spouses and dependents wanting to work off base in professional or unprofessional fields encounter prejudice from local employers. The locals say the spouses take their jobs. They only accept military money at the counter but not working behind the counter. The inability of dependents to find jobs limits most Cannon families to only one income, making money sparse.

In conclusion: living at Cannon is unhealthy, disgusting, expensive and just plain hard. Please do not change the BRAC list. The military members serving here and their families deserve better.

Hoping you value the military dependents opinion,  
ALB

JUL 13 2005

11 JUL 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

I would say that about 9 out of 10 service-members that I know here are MISERABLE at CANNON AFB!!! People choose remote tours overseas to avoid coming here to Cannon in Eastern New Mexico! There are so many contributing factors to my, and plenty of others', opinion. A few of which are the following:

- \* It is a 2 hour drive to the nearest city (Lubbock, TX)
- \* Clovis is pretty much a ghost town, except for Prince St.!
- \* Clovis is dirty, the CRIME RATE of Curry County is the HIGHEST of any county in New Mexico!! The government really wants service-members placed here!?!?

The list could, and probably should, go on, but for the sake of this email, I will cut it short.

Please consider the morale and welfare of service-members, AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES WHICH ACCOMPANY THEM, when deciding on closing CANNON AFB!! I have had to spend one year of my life here, and that is way too long. I would take solace in knowing that no future service-members and their families would have to endure this hole in the earth!

Thank you,  
Tonia S. Rhodes  
U.S.A.F. spouse

JUL 13 2005

Received  
July 16, 2005

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

We appreciate your difficulty in deciding the closing of bases, and we fully support your decision to close Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, NM. Cannon has served this nation well; however, clearly the Cold War is over, and terrorism is the new enemy of freedom. Unfortunately, the methodology of warfare no longer needs all of the tools of the previous century, and Cannon is certainly outlived its purpose. Isn't it wonderful that all of our military strength has actually called for the reduction and realignment of bases! God bless you in your difficult tasks, but have no doubt that you are doing the correct thing when closing Cannon. Fully realize that the only arguments for keeping it open have nothing to do with real issues of national security—these arguments are only the fears of people who have money and jobs involved with the current operations. Please do not let a few politicians and local businessmen sway you from your important task of supporting our troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. They need our support, and we can best do that by making some sacrifices here at home. Cannon Air Force Base is one small sacrifice in this battle against terrorism. Ask those supporters of Cannon if they really wish to neglect our troops overseas. Certainly, no true patriot would wish this upon our wonderful freedom fighters!

Citizen of the United States and New Mexico

JUL 13 2005

July 18, 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Earlier this year, I visited a friend at Cannon AFB, and I was disgusted by the lack of services the city of Clovis had to offer. As a friend of many members of our Armed Services, I have visited several upstanding military cities, and I have come to expect quality and a sense of community pride. The subpart selection of family entertainment, lack of employment for civilian dependents, and the overall attitude of Clovis residents demonstrates that the city is not worthy of housing a military installation. Members of the Air Force deserve better conditions: for morale and for family. It is a well-known fact in the Industrial organizational Psychology and Military Psychology communities that a successful uniting depends on high morale, and keeping Cannon open without drastic changes would be detrimental to successfully completing the missions and goals set forth by the Air Force.

I would like to add that the June 24th rally that was held in conjunction with the BRAC visit was a rarity. From speaking to several military personnel and families, I have been informed that the community only began paying attention to Cannon once the BRAC was issued. Prior to this list, it was a common occurrence to hear adverse comments spoken towards members of the military. When airmen returned from the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the community made little to no effort to welcome them home.

Thank You,

Danielle Swopes  
Portales, NM

BRAC Commission

JUL 13 2005

JUL 15 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Support our troops on the ground! The Cold War is over! Cannon is no longer needed, but our troops on the ground need our support in Iraq and Afghanistan!

With all of the best of arguments at the recent hearing in Clovis, there was NOTHING presented that indicates keeping Cannon we will do anything to REALLY help our troops on the ground!

Cannon AFB is another case of government fraud, waste, and abuse! \$94 million per year in this case according to the initial BRAC findings. Remember the MISSION of the military and the DoD is NOT injecting money into local economies, but military defense of the nation! Cannon AFB's mission is easily distributed to other bases and those saved funds can then be reprogrammed to gain maximum benefit TO THE AIR FORCE!

I fully support the mission and the personnel of the Air Force. Do the right thing, CLOSE CANNON!

Sincerely,  
Michael Sandoval  
109 West Plaza  
Clovis, NM 88101

BRAC Commission

JUL 13 2005

15 JUL 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

This base needs to be closed. The military and its families have to drive 2 or more hours for quality health care. The town of Clovis is crime stricken, dirty and though I'm sure they put on a good show for all of you-military unfriendly. There is nothing for families or young single airmen to do for pleasure. The public school system is so horrible. My daughter, who was on the honor roll at a DODs school overseas, was stuck doing first grade work in the fifth grade.-Forcing me to home school. This is the most depressing townase I've ever been to. Everyone in the military and attached to the military apologizes to those who find out they are being stationed at CANNON AFB. CLOSE IT!!!PLEASE!

Sincerely,

  
Mary Abbott

JUL 13 2005

July 14 2005  
Recorded

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Cannon AFB should definitely be closed. The base has 3 F-16 squadrons which can definitely be integrated into bases located in city with access to rail and plane systems which can support the USAF expeditionary way of life. It is a waste of tax payers dollars to support this any longer. Clovis is a nice healthy community and they are getting their say...however, if we in military were released to give our opinions then you would get an honest assessment of how much the city of Clovis doesn't meet the needs of the USAF community, especially the younger troops. There is no one who wants to come here and most retire from here, because once you get assigned here it's impossible to get orders out of here. After the numerous deployments, people hate to come back here, because it really has no recreational activities. There is not even a decent movie theater in this town. Its like a remote assignment in the states. My young troops volunteer for deployments and assignments to Korea just to get out of this town. Let's do the right thing and close this base. The "shifty fifty" should have spent time and money thinking of ways to open the city. You can't even get out of town without driving and hour and a half to Lubbock, TX or Amarillo, TX or 3 hours to Albuquerque, NM. Look closely at Clovis, it has not grown enough or had a clear vision on how to accommodate and make the town more appealing to the military. They might have great airspace, but so does Holloman AFB, send the 3 F-16 squadrons there. Good for the Singapore AF for dumping this place. There is no viable airport, taxi, bus or train system to get out of this town or even to travel around within the city-that's ridiculous. This city is not fit for the needs of the Air Force expeditionary role. The "shifty fifty" have corrupted the system enough and whoever has benefited from them needs to be stopped! Give us in the military a break here and close this base which has chosen to keep itself "closed." Secretary Rumsfield has gotten this right!

Thanks,  
William P. and Shirley Daniels

JUL 13 2005

11 Jul 05  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commissioners:

Your recent inspection of Cannon was a farce. The city of Clovis is an undesirable place to live, and was only fixed up for your benefit. (kind of like concentration camps when the Red Cross went through) The military people weren't able to tell you how they feel about the base, but I assure you, NOBODY puts Cannon on their "dream sheet". There is much animosity between the local civilians and the military, making for low military morale. Airmen have nothing to do in town. No decent restaurants, 1 or 2 movie theaters, nothing to do but get into trouble from boredom. No local airport makes for disgruntled personnel, as well. Poor medical facilities, schools, daycare, etc, make for unpleasant living conditions. Morale is very low. On top of that, some of the local civilians seem to have a lot of influence on the base and what goes on there which causes resentment among the military personnel. When civilians are saluted and our brave enlisted people aren't, there's bound to be bad feelings. Don't fall for all the "nice" things you saw, for once you left it went back to being the undesirable city it is.

Concerned Constituent,

Margaret St. Andre

Margaret St. Andre

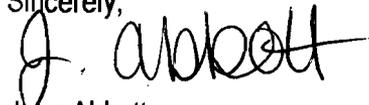
JUL 13 2005

15 JUL 2005  
Received

To the Honorable BRAC Commission:

Congratulations to the Pentagon, Secretary Rumsfeld and the Air Force for recommending the closure of Cannon AFB. Don't believe the hype about Clovis. The people do not love the base as much as they demonstrated and professed. That was all about money. I believe the assets (3 F-16) squadrons and its most valuable assets, the dedicated and committed airmen can be better utilized at other locations, which can fulfill the vision of "jointness". This decision represents one of the AF's core values-- "Excellence in all we do". Weren't the BRAC commission surprised that the taxpayers money was not being put to better use when visiting Clovis and Cannon AFB? I was when I arrive here less than 10 months ago. I bet the BRAC commission was not escorted to the commissary or the BX or better yet or the very deficient medical facility. This is a great time of hope and a great decision to move the assets of this wing and its very stressed out personnel to locations where they are truly supported to fulfill the mission of the military. Kudos on this very courageous decision on the part of our leadership! Hopefully the President supports the decision. Clovis will survive they just don't know it yet.

Sincerely,



John Abbott