



06172005

June 14, 2005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable James H. Bilbray,

I am writing to you regarding the closure of Cannon AFB. Throughout my husbands' military career, we have been stationed at several bases. Each town has been different in what it has to offer the military community. Clovis, however, has been exceptional. The community is what makes Cannon an outstanding base. I have never seen such an overwhelming outpouring of acceptance. When we arrived at Cannon and were unloading our moving truck, our neighbors came over to help. They were not military members, just caring individuals. One neighbor brought a box filled with food because she knew we had just arrived and had not been to the grocery store. This has never happened to us before.

When we were stationed at Langley AFB, the military housing we lived in was in the Sound Tunnel. Shortly after 9/11 the planes were flying constantly. When I would go to a near by store or restaurant, people in the establishment would be complaining about the noise. It amazed me because a serious event had just occurred and there were individuals more concerned about the noise than the purpose of those flights. I have not witnessed any discontent like that here in Clovis when the base is conducting exercises or with the daily flights.

My children have attended school in four different school districts. The Clovis MSD does not separate or note any difference between military students and non-military students. When we were stationed at Edwards AFB, I served as a School Board Member representing Edwards. During our School Board Meetings, Boron and North Edwards community members would address the board requesting the district be separated. In their statements they believed the base had too much influence on the district and did not want to be affiliated with the base. It was very sad to hear the community members want to disassociate themselves in this manner. The outlining towns and the base depended on each other, yet the small towns could not see it. Clovis and Cannon depend on each other as well, but this relationship has been built on respect and trust.

Cannon is a base without any encroachments. There are not housing developments popping up close to the base or strip malls being constructed outside the gate. Cannon has open land on three sides. Cannon has the ability to expand whereas others have the city directly outside the gates. There is no graffiti, dilapidated buildings, tenement homes or abandoned structures surrounding Cannon AFB. The air space is not

filled with commercial or private aircraft. It is an ideal location to bring additional aircraft or squadrons. Cannon has great potential and it is disheartening the Pentagon does not see this.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration in visiting Clovis and hearing why our community feels so strongly that Cannon should remain open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Finch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Jan Finch
420 Chanticleer Pl.
Clovis, NM 88101



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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN Ret.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Finch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Jan Finch
420 Chanticleer Pl.
Clovis, NM 88101