

June 9, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

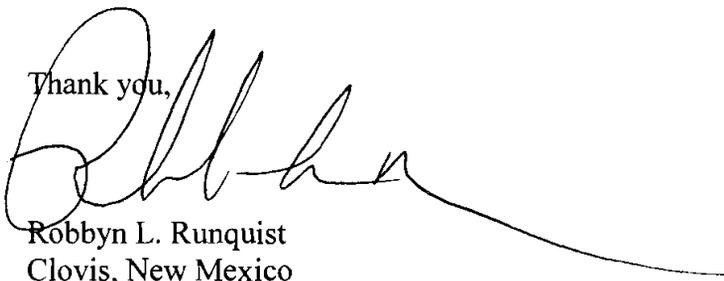
Dear Chairman Principi:

This letter comes to you from a gem in the midst of brown grass, mesquite trees and numerous cows, Clovis New Mexico, the proud home of Cannon Air Force Base. About four years ago my spouse and I had the privilege to PCS here to Cannon Air Force Base. Since that time we have retired and chosen to stay here in Clovis. I consider myself somewhat of an "expert" when it comes to relocating and would like you to know that I have never lived in a city like Clovis that accepts, embraces and encourages the new military families that relocate to this area.

I am a daughter of a twenty-year Navy veteran and a spouse of a twenty-year Air Force veteran. I have moved with the military twelve times in my lifetime and have learned throughout those years that not all communities want the military members or dependents in their cities. I recall once in Rome, New York standing in line at a grocery store hearing a woman behind me commenting on how those military members are so spoiled and remarking on how her life would be better without any of us in that city. I know what it feels like to see your child sit on the bench at a sporting event because the coach found out that he was a military dependent and would only be there for a short time, so why play him. I also recall reading letters to the editor of the local newspaper in Colorado Springs Colorado and in those letters the military members were blamed for all of the wrong in Colorado Springs. I can tell you that when your spouse is overseas in a dangerous situation you do not want to be located in a city where you do not feel wanted. Clovis New Mexico has been a breath of fresh air since the day we relocated here. Our military members and their families deserve to live in a place like Clovis where they are welcome and encouraged to become a part of the community.

If Cannon Air Force Base is closed, the United States Air Force will be loosing its gem!

Thank you,



Robbyn L. Runquist
Clovis, New Mexico