

5-26-2005

Mr. David A. & Mrs. Faith A. Rinderman
2210 E 12th Street
Portales, New Mexico 88130

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

I am very concerned about the BRAC Commission's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base. My husband is retired from the Air Force and we count on the base for our medical care, and our grocery shopping. In addition I have been working at the base as a part-time employee. Yes we could have our medication mailed to us, and make monthly trips to Texas but we are getting older so travel will be harder as we get older. Local doctors are already overburdened so we wouldn't have much choice in the matter. We really cannot afford to pick up and move to another community. We already considered all of this when we moved here. My husband was at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan when they closed that base. Cannon has been our home.

The estimated 20% loss of workforce is really just what would be immediately recognized. The loss of people and the subsequent revenue cannot be tabulated as yet. The loss to the local colleges and universities would also have to be considered. Many local business would close, the effect on local schools, housing etc would also not be fully realized until too late. The so called "taxpayers savings" turns out to cost taxpayers more than a closure saves in most instances. It may look good on paper however when you add up the cost of other government funds that will have to be utilized to sustain both Clovis and Portales, the cost of relocation of base personnel, and civilian relocation, base housing etc when fully tabulated would outweigh any savings.

Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, and Portales, have always had an extremely good relationship that has inspired statewide patriotism and support for our nation the loss of which would be immeasurable in monetary terms. The three are inseparable when a disaster arises they all work together because they are together. To close Cannon would be devastating in the long run.

It is my sincere hope that when you make that final decision about Cannon you will refuse to throw away this opportunity to truly save taxpayers money. Work with us to find more effective ways of utilizing the great combination of Cannon, Clovis, and Portales to serve our government and our nation. Cannon is a great place for training. We have an abundance of air space, with perfect weather and location. We have always been able to work together as part of "a team".

Please reconsider all the facts before making your final decision.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. David A. Rinderman Mrs. Faith A. Rinderman

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