

June 13, 2005

**BRAC Commission  
Received**  
6/23/2005

Honorable Samuel K. Skinner  
The BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable Samuel K. Skinner,

Ever since I can remember, I have seen and felt very safe as the planes of Cannon Air Force Base have guarded the skies above my hometown of Clovis, New Mexico. Growing up here, we all know that it would not take much for terrorists or other insurgents to run the border. Our land is so vast and wide-open that it is impossible to protect it 24 hours a day. We have seen this through drug runners and the "Coyotes" who smuggle individuals across the border. This is why I am dismayed that the government has decided to close Cannon Air Force Base.

Cannon offers much potential to our country that, in my opinion, has been overlooked by the Department of Defense. Right now the base offers: 1) unencroached air space suitable for training jets at supersonic speeds; 2) several new and existing facilities useful for joint training exercises; 3) a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training; 4) a community that understands and welcomes air force men, women and their families; and 5) Cannon offers retirees and their families the comfort and security of needed services. If Cannon were to grow I think it could in turn be one of our benchmark air installations of the future.

As a community, we are all behind the men and women who form the core of the base. We want them all to feel a part of our community. We take the extra step to make them feel safe and welcome. Many of them decide to stay and retire here or just raise their families. They become a part of us whether it is for a short time or the rest of their lives.

If Cannon closes, it would be a hard hit to our community. I think about my neighborhood and I count five families in my block alone that would have to move. These are just active duty personnel; I have not counted the retirees or civil service workers. The impact to our community would be felt everywhere. Cannon Air Force Base is critical to us.

I respectfully urge all of you on the BRAC Commission to realize and look into the possibilities of what Cannon Air Force Base could be. Remember all the dreamers from the Wright brothers to all the others who have dared to take that leap into America's future. Cannon is vital to us now please reconsider and KEEP CANNON OPEN!

Sincerely,



Christy Mendoza  
Cultural Arts Director  
Clovis Community College

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chair, The Brac Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

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The BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

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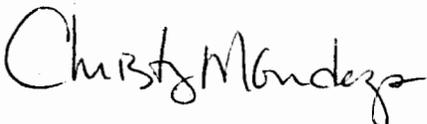
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General James T. Hill  
The BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

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