

Dear BRAC Commissioners:

I live in Clovis, NM. I was born here and I have lived here most of my life. My Mom married my stepfather when I was six. At the time, he was in the Air Force stationed at Cannon AFB. Naturally, the military moved our family around the world for the next 9 years. We were stationed at Howard AFB in Panama when my parents decided that they really wanted to go back to Cannon because they loved Clovis and my Mom's family is in Clovis. My stepfather requested to be stationed at Cannon. We did get orders here again. My parents thought this was a great place to raise us kids.

My stepfather ended up retiring at Cannon as a Captain. My Mom has worked for AAFES for XX years. She is the manager of Cannon's military clothing. My mom is planning to retire here in Clovis with AAFES in around 15 years. She has also served the military forces in Iraq with AAFES. She now has to try and come up with a new plan. She loves Clovis and wants to stay here but if Cannon closes she is forced to move. In fact she has had to sign up with AAFES to go "mobile" and move away because if the base closes she will not be allowed to go "mobile" with AAFES at another base, thereby cutting off her ability to be promoted any further. She has had to list her house for sale. My Mom is one of many people who will have to leave Clovis if you approve the closure of Cannon.

My husband and I met here because of Cannon AFB. His parents were also stationed at Cannon and we actually met on base. We married here in Clovis and have chosen to stay here to raise our two boys. My husband manages an independent Christian bookstore. My husband loves his job and has worked there for 10 years and has managed it for 7 of those. They relocated and expanded the store to meet the needs of their Clovis and Cannon customers. The store has been scraping by to stay afloat and serve the community. However, if they experience a marginal loss the store will not make it due to the cost of the relocation and expansion they recently incurred. If the store closes we will be forced to leave Clovis. My husband loves the Christian retailing industry and therefore would have to find employment in another city to continue doing what he loves. We would be one of many families, not individuals forced to leave Clovis due to lack of employment. However, the housing market will be flooded with empty homes and we probably will not be able to sell our home for what we owe on it. When the floor falls out of the real estate market it will devastate many families' financial well-being should the base close.

Cannon is such a part of our everyday lives that I can't even begin to imagine it not being here. My sister even married someone from the military. Without Cannon AFB all of the retirees in this area, which could be close to three states, if you consider the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, would be without the only AFB that they have access to for things such as health care and shopping needs.

I am sure it will not go overlooked that Cannon AFB is a valuable asset to both our community and to national defense. Our base enjoys unencroached runways, flight paths and soon will enjoy a supersonic bombing range within a few seconds of takeoff. Our

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base has won numerous awards placing them as some of the best fighting men and women in the U.S.A.F. Over the years, Cannon and Clovis have become one community; to close the base would be the same as tearing out our heart. I pray that after you have considered all of the facts that were overlooked in the Department of Defense' evaluation you will overturn their recommendation to close Cannon AFB. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Christina Covington
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