

Respected Members of the BRAC Commission, 06022005

Hearing that Cannon AFB was on the list for closure was like watching the house in which I was born burn to the ground.

I came here from New Jersey as a young kid of five months. Although we are no longer together, we are both still here after over thirty years. There are thousands of us who came here with the Air Force and stayed because of the way this community has always opened its arms to those stationed here.

I will attempt to give you the reasons this base should be spared.

1- Our airspace is almost unlimited. Major air traffic is a hundred miles to the northeast and southeast. It is hundreds of miles in any other direction.

2- The weather is conducive to flying almost every day. In the winter we can have a foot of snow overnight and it is gone by noon.

3- The base is located several miles outside town and has plenty of room to grow without encroaching on the town.

4- The base can accommodate many types of aircraft.

5- Base housing was built in the best part of town and an elementary school was built within walking distance to accommodate the children.

6- There is a bombing range which poses no danger to anyone.

7- We have excellent public schools and there are two colleges within 20 miles.

8- There is ample employment for spouse and teenage dependents.

9- We have quality health care with a newly remodeled Women's Unit to welcome the newest Cannoneers.

10- The cost of living is low which saves on the cost of housing allowance.

11- ~~The incidence~~ With the threat of terrorists coming up from south of our border, do we really want to reduce the number of troops in this area?

I was in New Jersey on Sept 11 midway between New York, Washington and the field in Pennsylvania. I was terrified. I didn't know what would happen next.

I was so happy to return to Clous. I felt safe listening to sound of the fighter jets overhead.

I am a Registered Nurse and I work with many Air Force wives. They give them support especially when their husbands are deployed.

Clous and Cannon are really a family. Please don't break us up.

Respectfully,
Barbara Cannon