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Sweeney Hose Company, Inc. No. 7

100 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

1894-1994

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Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

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June 7, 2005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRACC Commissioners:

At our Fire Company's meeting last night the membership voiced their unanimous opposition to the recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. The membership has directed me to alert you and the commissioners to our concerns. We believe this recommendation is not in the best interest of our country and that the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the base closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

Also, even the newspapers say that we are facing significant challenges in recruiting during war time. As the only remaining major military installation in Western New York, Niagara Falls has been key to military recruitment.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the New York Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All the members of our Fire Company, along with all Western New Yorkers are united in its support for this base and its retention. Please overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

David C. Krieman
Secretary

(On behalf of the 147 Members of Sweeney Hose Co. #7, Inc.)