

THOMAS M. REYNOLDS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
332 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5265

DISTRICT OFFICES:
500 ESSJAY, SUITE 260
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221
(716) 634-2324

1577 WEST RIDGE ROAD
ROCHESTER, NY 14615
(585) 663-5570

August 19, 2005

BRAC Commission

Charles Battaglia, Executive Director
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste 600
Arlington, VA 22202

AUG 22 2005

Received

Dear Mr. Battaglia:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. I know the incredible amount of time and effort you and your staff have put into this effort, and thank you and them for your service to the commission and to our country.

Since you were one of the first people I met with when this process began, I am grateful to have the chance, as it now nears its close, to again make the case for removing the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station from the recommended closure list. Doing so would meet the criteria and legislative intent for which BRAC was intended.

As we discussed, staff has validated our corrected COBRA data, which shows that the Air Force's recommended closure will produce no savings. Further, the commission's General Counsel noted that the recommended closure does not meet the legislative intent. General Heckman said that Niagara Falls was recommended for closure to "correct an imbalance" in the C-130 fleet, which is a programmatic move, and beyond the scope and mission of BRAC.

While community support may not count as criteria, the letters the Commission has received as well as the resolutions from local governments forwarded to BRAC yesterday show how much this base means to the area.

And, finally, since military value is what this is all about, it needs to be noted that the 914th has once again been mobilized, making them the first air reserve component to go to Iraq for a third time. Even with these deployments, we have no problem retaining our service members. The wings' have retention rates in excess of 95 percent, which exceeds Active Duty retention rates by over 50 percent.

Thank you again for your time and service and, as always, please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



THOMAS M. REYNOLDS
United States Representative