



DCN: 2964

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Office of the Mayor

Vincenzo V. Anello
Mayor



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

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Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission to reverse this decision and remove them from the 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. Of all the bases to pick to close, how do you close the base whose unit helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region? Will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove Niagara Falls AFB from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures and to stop the continuing retreat of the military from our region of the country.

Sincerely,

Vincenzo V. Anello
Mayor

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