



STATE OF NEW YORK

BRAC Commission

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

JUL 19 2005

Received

July 19, 2005

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On June 27, 2005, I had the privilege of testifying before the Commission on behalf of the State of New York during your regional hearing in Buffalo, New York.

During my testimony, you inquired as to whether I, or The Adjutant General of New York had been consulted by the Department of the Air Force during the preparation of their Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations which are now before you for your consideration, and which affect the State of New York. Since the Buffalo and Boston hearings, the issue of Governor or Adjutant General notification has been discussed in a number of media accounts and analyses of the BRAC process. In addition, it is one of the central issues raised by your own office of General Counsel in the July 14, 2005 memorandum authored by Deputy General Counsel Dan Cowhig.

Recognizing that not all of the Commissioners were able to attend the June 27 hearing, I wish to formally supplement my testimony before the Commission with this correspondence to state for the record that neither I, nor the Adjutant General of New York were consulted on the Department's BRAC recommendations. Further, I categorically do not support the Pentagon's closure recommendation affecting Niagara Air Reserve Station (home to the Air Force Reserve's 914th Airlift Wing and the Air National Guard's 107th Air Refueling Wing), nor the realignment proposal which would remove aircraft from Stratton Air National Guard Base (home to the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing).

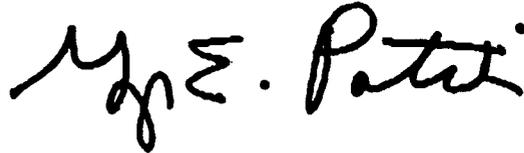
I urge the Commission to overturn these recommendations, which if approved by the Commission, would adversely affect our homeland security and disaster response capabilities. Both of these units played an important role following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and they each remain a vital part of our State's emergency response, command and control capability.



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I appreciated the opportunity to provide testimony in Buffalo as well as the chance to add to my formal testimony at this time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. E. Pattee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "E".

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