

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
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SENATOR

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COMMITTEES:
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204
June 9, 2005



RECEIVED

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Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF(Ret)
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

It is my understanding that you will be attending the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) Regional Hearing in Buffalo on June 27, 2005. I write to urge you to attend a site visit on the same day at the Niagara Falls Joint Air Reserve Station.

The Niagara Falls Joint Air Reserve Station has done a magnificent job to support our national security and homeland defense. I strongly believe that Department of Defense (DoD) recommendation to close this facility will negatively impact our national security. It will also be a devastating economic blow to western New York. I appreciate Chairman Principi's commitment to visit the base, and given your Air Force credentials, I would be grateful if you would join the Chairman during the visit.

As you know, the Niagara Falls Joint Air Reserve Station is home to both the Air Force Reserve 914th Airlift Wing and the Air National Guard 107th Air Refueling Wing. The 914th Airlift Wing (AW) has a unique night vision goggle capability that has been utilized in a number of special operations missions in Iraq, including the extraction of Private Jessica Lynch. They operate the most modern C-130 aircraft in the Air Force Reserve and were the first Reserve unit sent back to Iraq for a second tour. In fact, the 914th AW provided my transportation between Baghdad and Kuwait during my 2003 visit to Iraq. The 107th Air Refueling Wing was recently designated as a permanent member of the Northeast Tanker Task Force, supporting every aircraft transiting to Europe and Southwest Asia (Iraq).

Given the timing of the Niagara site visit and the Regional Hearing in Buffalo, I hope that you will take the opportunity to attend the site visit at Niagara Falls. I firmly believe that you will gain invaluable insight into the importance of the Niagara Falls Joint Air Reserve Station by visiting the installation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

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061 42005

General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret)
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear General Newton:

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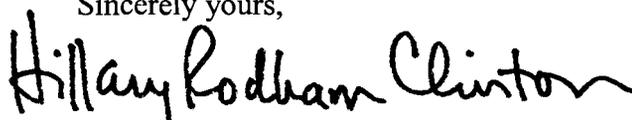
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