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June 16, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to voice my concern and displeasure with the announcement that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is on the base closure list. I think this is a drastic mistake and I hope that this letter and many like it will help to remove it from the list.

As a retired Chief Master Sergeant and member of the 107th ARW I can speak first hand as to the quality and dedication of both units on the installation. There are no better to be found. Depriving the members of these units the opportunity to serve their country at the current location would be a gross injustice. When called upon these units have always responded with the utmost professionalism. Everyone knows that the Guard and Reserves are a more experienced and capable force than their regular counterparts and they are cheaper to operate.

The economic impact on the area cannot be tolerated. The area is already under economic stress from a declining population and the lack of jobs. As the second largest employer in Niagara County, the loss of a total of 3,000 full and part time jobs just might be the straw that breaks the Camels back. We cannot afford to lose any jobs in Niagara County.

Many construction projects are currently underway at the Niagara Falls ARS and many have just recently been completed. To close the base would waste a terribly large amount of money. But the real waste would be the likely loss of 3,000 dedicated and qualified military personnel.

Sincerely,



CMSGT John E. Tuchols

NYANG Ret.