

BRAC Commission
Received
6/30/2005

June 22, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

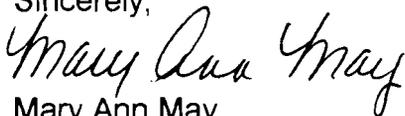
The decision of the Defense Department to recommend closure the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base upsets me tremendously. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission to reverse this decision and remove Niagara from the list!

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? And what about the movement of the 107th KC-135 to a base out of New York State that is in need of infrastructure improvements? What jurisdiction permits the removal of a Guard Unit from its Governor?

What sense does it make to "put all our eggs in one basket"? Does anyone remember what happened at Hickam Field? Granted, the Japanese may not attempt to destroy our planes the way they did in 1941, but what about Mother Nature? The weather conditions in Western New York are far more conducive to flight than Tornado Alley! Also, how will the Department defend the region? How will the Guard be able to 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,



Mary Ann May
897 The Circle
Lewiston, NY 14092