6/05/05

RECEIVED 06 30 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:

I was upset by the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the closure 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.

Also, even the newspapers say that we are facing significant challenges in recruiting during war time. As the only remaining major military installation in Western New York, Niagara Falls has been key to military recruitment.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the New York Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All New Yorkers stand with the Niagara Falls/Western New York community and are united in its support for this base, and its retention. Overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Howe

(A concerned Citizen)

2660 upper Mt. Rd.
SAMBORN, N.Y. 14303

Were considerations given:
- a base proximate to our northern border could be used for mutual defense of both Canada + the US
- while snow removal is expensive, consolidation of aircraft in an area prone to Canada's weather, require expensive "colder" air weather allows heavier aircraft loads - more lift - along with a very long runway - needed allows KC-135's to carry more fuel -