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*BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.*

Subject: Base Closure – Niagara Falls Air Base Station

Gentlemen,

I wish to express my strong feelings on why you should reconsider closing the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Base located at Niagara Falls, New York.

I spent sixteen years working as an Air Technician for the Air Guard. During that time I was activated three times for a total of forty months. I was fully trained as a Jet Aircraft Fighter Mechanic and ready to go!

After Operation Desert Storm the Air Force learned that they had enough Fighter Aircraft but not enough Air Refueling Tankers. We went from a Jet Fighter (F-16) Sq. to KC-135 Tanker Sq.

The Air Force spent millions of dollars in construction money to modify the base to accommodate the KC-135 Tankers that were coming.

If the Base is closed the Air Force will gain the Aircraft and support equipment but not the personnel to maintain them. Aircraft can not fly without the men and women to fly and maintain them.

I don't think the Reserve and Air Guard personnel will travel long distances to attend meetings. They simply will not remain in the Air Guard or Air Force Reserve.

This base really has the support of Western New York, both local businesses and the men and women to recruit.

When the Air Force needs us we are ready to go!

It would be a tragedy to the country to let these experienced troops go if the base is closed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Woods