



The Enlisted Association of the New York National Guard Inc.

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Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
476 Russell Senate Office building
Washington D.C. 20510-3204

Dear Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton:

We are upset about the BRAC's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Base.

Some of our concerns as to why the base should not be closed

1. The WNY MEPS is in the possess of being built on Niagara Air Base this facility will service all branches of the military in Western New York.
2. Closure of the base will have an impact on Morale, Recruiting and Retention. Members of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve will have to travel about 3- 8 hours to the nearest Air Facility. These airmen will more then likely have to undergo retraining in different job specialties as the equipment they will be expected to work on will be much different then they equipment they had at Niagara.
3. Today both the Army and Air Force National Guard and Reserve's are undergoing restructuring. Future reserve component units will be able to Plug and deploy with active Units when needed. We need to look at how the active can plug into the reserve as well as the reserve forces plugging into the active.
4. Units stationed at Niagara can and presently do world wide deployment with out putting any missions in danger; their ability to react and perform missions has been proven over and over again. Why do we want to take apart a success story? The plan to move the men and equipment does not seem to improve our countries readiness.

We need to retain the Base at Niagara and expand its role to include Homeland defense of the Niagara peninsular and western New York. We need to look at developing a plan to react if there is ever an attempt to destroy either of the power plants in the US or Canada. One simple solution would be to relocate or develop a helicopter reaction force (Army or Air Active or Reserve) at Niagara with additional ground forces such as a Reserve Component MP unit. One of the missions of these units would be to

help protect the northeastern Power Grid if ever needed. As well as being deployable if needed around the world. We need to insure that the Niagara region which is one of the largest producers of Electrical Power on the east coast can be protected at a moments notice.

We hope some of these issues will be considered and that the BRAC reconsiders the closing of The Niagara Falls Air Base

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance

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