

6/07/05

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

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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,

Anna C. Wadlinger  
 (A concerned Citizen)

4963 Creek Rd.

Lewiston, NY

14092

P.S. I had planned to write a letter in my own words, but this form states my position better than I could have done. aw