6/7/05

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

RECEIVED 06 JUN 2005

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,

James W. Lepkoske
(A concerned Citizen)

James W. Lepkoske
7705 Wheeler Rd
Gasport, NY 14067

Member - Niagara County Haz Mat Team
* on Sun. May 29, 2005
We had an incident on the
Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls -
The Niagara Falls air Force Base
backed us up at the scene.
We are very thankful for them.
We need to keep this base open -