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From: Jen
Date: 06/14/05 06:58:48
To: info@nimac.org
Subject: Fw: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

06302005

-----Original Message-----

From: (Valerie A. Schiefer)
Date: 06/13/05 19:55:30
To: info@nimac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Valerie A. Schiefer () on Monday, June 13, 2005 at 19:55:27

address1: 4030 Dry Bridge Road

city: Alexander

state: NY

zip: 14005

comments:

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's economy.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossing between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower complex which harnesses the waters of the Niagara and supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Grid.

While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable to allow the addition of a fighter squadron to further secure America's northern

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border and power grid infrastructure. It should be expanded rather than closed.

According to the Niagara Military Affairs Council:

- Closure of Niagara would reduce the Air Force presence in NY by 40%, and eliminate the last Federal Air Force flying mission in the State. Since 1995, Niagara has been modernized with \$35M in new facilities and lengthened runways which have improved the operational effectiveness of the wings.
- We have also reduced our Base Operations Support costs by not less than 33% (to include a 25% reduction in utilities) to make the base one of the most cost-efficient facilities in the Air Force Reserve Command.
- Closure of the base would also eliminate the ability to recruit and retain New Yorkers in a region in which the units have both maintained in excess of 100% manning rates.
- Niagara Falls existing infrastructure can accommodate 8 additional C-130H model aircraft without any military construction.
- Niagara Falls faces no physical encroachment nor air traffic control constraints and has acreage on the base and adjacent to the installation for expansion.

I humbly request that you strongly reconsider the decision to close the station. The fine men and women of the 107th Air Refueling Wing and 914th Airlift Wing have been instrumental in securing the homefront and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Schiefer

submit: Send Letter
