

6 / 15 / 2005



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

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.

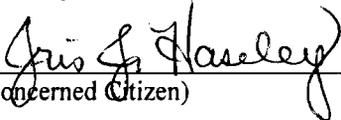
It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

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,



(A concerned Citizen)

IRIS J. HASELEY

2632 Saunders Settlement Road

Sanborn, NY 14132

**SEE ATTACHED LETTER



TO: CHAIRMAN ANTHONY J. PRINCIPI
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION (BRAC)

The Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base, Niagara Falls, New York has provided a sense of security and pride in our local community and the surrounding area. As a resident of Niagara County for 49 years, I welcome the various aircraft over my residence, when executing their maneuvers diligently, knowing that the troops associated with the 107th Air Refueling Wing and 914th Airlift Wing, are ready to perform flawlessly in a combat situation. They have already done so several times in the Middle East, especially Iraq.

The base is available to assist with U. S. and Canada border security issues (four international bridge crossings between Niagara Falls and Buffalo) regarding possible terrorist activity and hazardous material situations along with our local county law enforcement and fire agencies. We know that they are also ready to assist in a catastrophic disaster situation. The base has the largest runway area in the Western New York area and would be able to accommodate the large aircraft necessary to provide the assistance needed in a disaster situation.

The base has provided continuous service to the community with their involvement with various charities and service organizations. The annual community air show, "Thunder Over Niagara" allows the average citizen to see their contribution to our country's defense system and to thank the community for their support. I know that everyone felt much safer during the days after the September 11 attack to know that the men and women at our base were there ready to protect the local community and our country and will continue to do so if called upon in the future.

The economic impact to the closing of this base will be devastating to our local community (they are the second largest employer in Niagara County) and will have repercussions to the City of Niagara Falls, the surrounding counties and Western New York area itself. It will take years to recover from the loss of economic income.

Also several renovations have made to the infrastructure at the base including the visitor's quarters and most currently a new security and recruitment center by grants received through Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Charles Schumer, Representatives Louise Slaughter and Thomas Reynolds. The new recruitment center will continue to provide a source of reserve troops from the Western New York area.

Please reconsider your decision regarding the closure of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base!

IRIS J. HASELEY
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Sanborn, NY 14132