

Date: 6/14/05**BRAC COMMISSION**

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[www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov)

Dear Sir or Madam:

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 fight squadron to further secure America's northern 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 State 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 *107<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing* and *914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing* have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Additional Comments: *During a time of war, we should be strengthening our military installations, not consolidating and closing them. Please reconsider the closing of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.*

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

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