



# New York State Armed Forces Legislative Caucus

ORIGINAL

DCN 1206

May 17, 2005

**Co-Chairs**

M/A Jeff Brown, *Air National Guard*  
 Sen. Thomas Morahan, *Army*  
 Sen. George Onorato, *Army*  
 M/A Darryl Towns, *Air Force*

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



**Members**

M/A Thomas Barraga, *Marine Corps*  
 Sen. Joseph Bruno, *Army*  
 M/A Daniel Burling, *Marine Corps*  
 M/A Ronald Canestrari, *Army*  
 M/A Pat Casale, *Army*  
 Sen. John DeFrancisco, *Air Force*  
 Sen. Ruben Diaz Sr., *Army*  
 M/A Joseph Errigo, *Marine Corps*  
 Sen. Hugh T. Farley, *Army*  
 M/A Gary Finch, *New York Guard*  
 Sen. Martin Golden, *Army National Guard*  
 M/A Daniel Hooker, *Marine Corps*  
 Sen. Owen Johnson, *Marine Corps*  
 M/A Brian Kolb, *New York Guard*  
 M/A Ivan Lafayette, *Army*  
 Sen. William J. Larkin Jr., *Army*  
 Sen. Vincent Leibell III, *Navy*  
 Sen. Serphin Maltese, *Army*  
 Sen. John Marchi, *Coast Guard, Navy*  
 M/A Roy McDonald, *Army*  
 M/A David McDonough, *Coast Guard, Air Force*  
 Sen. Raymond Meier, *Army Reserve*  
 M/A Joel Miller, *Air Force*  
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 M/A Charles Nesbitt, *Army*  
 M/A Felix Ortiz, *Army*  
 M/A Chris Ortloff, *Air Force*  
 Sen. Frank Padavan, *Army*  
 M/A Nick Perry, *Army*  
 M/A Anthony Seminero, *Army*  
 Sen. Caesar Trunzo, *Army*

Dear Chairman Principi:

We write to you as citizens of New York and elected members of the New York State Legislature who served, or are currently serving, in the Armed Forces of the United States, to strongly protest recommendations by the Department of Defense to close and realign military installations in the state.

From the time of the Revolutionary War to the present, New York and New Yorkers have been proud to serve an integral role in the military mission of the United States. Our citizens continue to comprise a disproportionate share of the active duty military personnel in the combined Armed Forces, as New York members of our militia, National Guard and Reserve answer our nation's call to defend freedom, both here and abroad.

On September 11, 2001, thousands of New York civilian-citizens answered that call as well as they fell victim to the worst attack on our homeland in our nation's history. In the wake of the attack, thousands of men and women stood shoulder to shoulder with members of the Armed Forces -- many of them native New Yorkers as well -- to protect our critical infrastructure and transportation hubs, help rescue victims, and begin the painful process of healing and rebuilding.

Post-9/11 New York remains not only a proud symbol of our nation's resilience in the face of that cowardly attack, but its status as an ongoing terrorist target stands as a continuing reminder of our need for constant vigilance and determination in the face of this threat.

Since the first BRAC commission recommendations, New York has borne an unusually large share of the base closings that resulted from what Secretary Rumsfeld properly describes as a shift in the realignment of our military mission from a Cold War posture to a rapid response force capable of defeating threats to our security and freedom from America's new, terrorist enemies.

Closing additional military facilities in a state that has twice been attacked by terrorists in the last 13 years seems inconsistent with the Secretary's stated intent. Further, the loss of more than 1000 jobs resulting from the Department of Defense recommendations will further weaken our state's economy, and that of local communities still stinging from the lingering effects of the earlier base closings.





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New Yorkers stand ready to serve and protect the values of freedom that we all hold dear. It is our hope that the members of the BRAC Commission will recognize the sacrifices and important role of New Yorkers in securing that freedom, and reverse the base closing and realignment recommendations by the Department of Defense affecting New York.

We would welcome a discussion or visit with you or any of the members of the BRAC Commission and stand ready to provide any additional information or support that we can to assist in your efforts to protect our nation and its people.

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. MORAHAN  
Senator

DARRYL C. TOWNS  
Member of Assembly

GEORGE ONORATO  
Senator

JEFF BROWN  
Member of Assembly

