



**The Niagara County
Building & Construction
Trades Council**



06152005

OFFICERS

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President
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**COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Asbestos Workers
Local 4

Boilermakers
Local 7

**Bricklayers &
Allied Craftworkers**
Local 3

Carpenters
Local 280

Carpenters
Local 9

Cement Masons
Local 111

Electrical Workers
Local 237

Ironworkers
Local 9

Laborers
Local 91

Operating Engineers
Local 463

Painters & Glaziers
District Council

**Plumbers &
Steamfitters**
Local 22

Plasterers
Local 9

Roofers
Local 74

Sheetmetal Workers
Local 71

Sprinklerfitters
Local 669

Teamsters
Local 449

June 10, 2005

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

Regarding: Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

The Niagara County Building and Construction Trades Council of Western New York has been notified that the US Defense Department has recommended that we close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. The Niagara County Building and Construction Trades Council of Western New York is an association made up of over 10,000 skilled trades' people who make their living and raise their families in this region. Many of our members serve this country as National Guard men and women, US Air Force Reserves, and many other areas of the armed services.

One of our main concerns would be the security in this region if the base was closed. The Western New York Region borders Canada and extra security is crucial in our effort to fight terrorism. In addition the security is needed to stop illegal aliens from coming into this country from Canada. We are also vulnerable because of the Hydro Power Plant in Lewiston New York. This power plant in the largest producer of electricity in New York State and generates nearly 2.4 million kilowatts. You can imagine how debilitating it would be to New York State if the plant was under some sort of attack. The nearby airbase gives us the security of knowing that they can and will respond quickly.



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Chairman Principi

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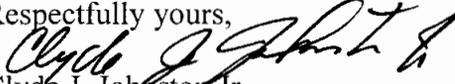
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We also question what would be the economic reason to take planes, missions, and jobs so far away and put them on more costly active duty bases. Is this cost effective? The reality is the military is already challenged regarding recruitment during war time. We have members that have already made the decision to quit the armed services if the base closes its doors. They do not wish to up root their families, or relocate. The military would lose many trained individuals and that would be a travesty.

The Niagara County Building and Construction Trades Council of Western New York and its membership are united in their support of the Niagara Falls Air Force and Reserve base. Don't let one of the remaining military installations in Western New York close. Make every effort to overturn the decision made by the Pentagon and keep the base open. We believe the security of this region would be in jeopardy if the base is closed, and our families may become this nation's latest casualty.

Thank you for your serious consideration in this matter.

Respectfully yours,


Clyde J. Johnston Jr.
President

CJJ:dlc

cc: Merrill Lane - NIMAC