

June 2005

BRAC Commission
c/o NIMAC
P.O. Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

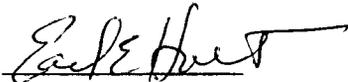
I am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission to reverse this decision and remove the Niagara Falls Base from the list.

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 more costly Active Duty bases. Of all the bases to pick to close, how do you close the base whose unit was able to help rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves? You must also recognize:

- 1 The federal government has invested more than \$35 million in Niagara Falls since 1995 in new facilities.**
- 2 Base Operations Support costs have been reduced more 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.**
- 3 Closure of the base eliminates the ability to recruit and retain New Yorkers in a region in which the units have both maintained in excess of 100% manning rates.**
- 4 Niagara Falls' existing infrastructure can accommodate eight (8) additional C-130H model aircraft without any military construction.**
- 5 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 urge the Commission, in the strongest possible terms, to remove the Niagara Falls AFB from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures and to stop the continuing retreat of the military from our region of the country.

Sincerely,



Name



Address (mandatory)

Please see note outback,

BRAC Commission

AUG 02 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

I agree with all the reasons on the other side of this letter and I have one added thought for consideration:

From a strategic standpoint - not on economic one - it makes good sense not to centralize all our military assets in one vicinity - especially when one considers this is the age of smaller and more portable nuclear weapons.

I believe strategically it is a very big mistake to make any base enormous because it just invites terrorists to take a shot at it. It is far wiser to "spread out" and make it harder for anyone who wishes America and fighting forces any harm.

Thanks for listening,
Eugene Hart

June 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 02 2005

Dear Chairman Prencipe + ^{Received} BRAC
Commissioners:

Niagara Falls is one of the most valuable natural resources in our country with the power project providing power to a good portion of our country. The Niagara Falls Air Force Base is our only defense against a terrorist attack. It also provides protection against coming through our neighboring Canada. Why would you even think of closing that base so essential to our country's defense?

Sincerely,
Lois Stebbin

June 2005

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c/o NIMAC
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Sincerely,

Lois M. Steplein

Name

4376 Lake Ave. Lockport, N.Y. 14094

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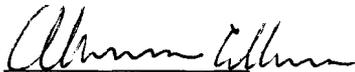
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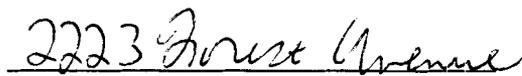
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Sincerely,

Wardale Winchester
Name

820 Onondaga St. - Lew. N.Y.
Address (mandatory)