

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Name Lucille Setlock
 Address 133 Sixth Ave
Lancaster NY 14086
 Phone # 465-1589

BRAC Commission
 Washington D.C.
 C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

Dear Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended to the BRAC that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with over 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver yet another devastating blow to our region's economy. In addition to the financial concerns, the community pride for our past and present military contributions can not be understated.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower Complex which supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Power Grid. The size and location of the base would also allow it to be used for responses to natural disasters or terror attacks in the Northeast United States. While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable. 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 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.
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A lobbyist for New York State on the issue, John M. Simmons, said the Air Force's response proves that the base-closure recommendations followed "a judgmental, and not an analytical,

process." The Pentagon was supposed to judge each base primarily on its military value - yet in this case the Air Force bypassed the tool it created for judging military value. "The Air Force in their response acknowledge that they themselves ignored the results of a key analytical tool . . . created for the BRAC process," Simmons said. "They simply took the position that their judgment trumped the analysis."

Considering these facts and figures; I am writing to remind you, our elected representative, of your obligation to use all means necessary in order to persuade the BRAC to reconsider the recommendation to close the station. The fine men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas and these highly-decorated units have served their country and represented our State and local communities well.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Stock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Name Shirley A. Brown
Address 625 East Park
7710 97th on 24th St
Phone # _____

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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Name

Address

Phone #

Mary Guzzo
P.O. Box 496
N.Y. NY 14120

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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Sincerely, 

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

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Name Jon Thomas
Address 292 Sweeney St
N.Y. N.Y. 14120
Phone # _____

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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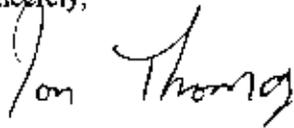
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Name _____
Address 135 ESTELLE DR.
CHATEAU, N.Y.
Phone # _____

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward D. Kochubny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "E" at the beginning.

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Name Diane M. McDonell
Address 554 McKinley Pkwy
Buffalo, NY
14230
Phone # _____

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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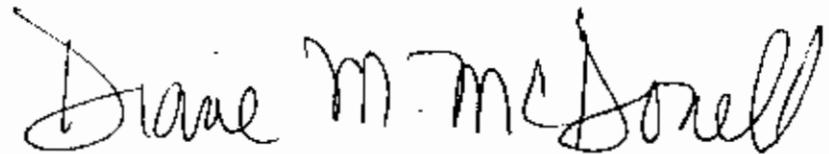
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane M. McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

61 Cleveland
Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150

Name _____
Address _____

Phone # _____

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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Sincerely,

*Dolores Rein
61 Cleveland*

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

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Address 45 Hughes Ave
Buffalo NY
14208
Phone # 886 2220

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C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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Sincerely,

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BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Megan Passanose (Your Name)
446 Roosevelt Ave (Address)
Niagara Falls NY (Phone Number)
14305

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

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their response acknowledge that they themselves ignored the results of a key analytical tool . . . created for the BRAC process," Simmons said. "They simply took the position that their judgment trumped the analysis."

Considering these facts and figures; I am writing to remind you, our elected representative, of your obligation to use all means necessary in order to persuade the BRAC to reconsider the recommendation to close the station. The fine men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas and these highly-decorated units have served their country and represented our State and local communities well.

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

Sincerely,



(Signature)

Megan H. Passanese

(Name)

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Name GARY SANTOIA
Address 315 FARADAY RD
KEENE NY 13523
Phone # 836 2375

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC, PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

Dear Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended to the BRAC that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with over 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver yet another devastating blow to our region's economy. In addition to the financial concerns, the community pride for our past and present military contributions can not be understated.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower Complex which supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Power Grid. The size and location of the base would also allow it to be used for responses to natural disasters or terror attacks in the Northeast United States. While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable. 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 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.

According to the Buffalo News article on May 25, 2005:

Top Air Force officials relied on their "collective judgment" in deciding to recommend their Niagara Falls base for closure, disregarding military value rankings that showed Niagara outperforming several other bases slated to remain open. Air Force spokesman Douglas Karas said the Air Force's "mission compatibility index" was just one of the factors considered in the base-closure decisions. Asked why at least nine bases with airlift missions were slated to stay open when they had lower "MCI" scores than Niagara, Karas said the Base Closure Executive Group sometimes deviated from its own rating system. "There were cases in the analysis process where lower ranked bases were retained," Karas said. "In those cases, the Base Closure Executive Group used their collective judgment, that, when combined with the MCI scores, resulted in the retention of lower-ranked installations. This was true in Niagara's case."

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Considering these facts and figures; I am writing to remind you, our elected representative, of your obligation to use all means necessary in order to persuade the BRAC to reconsider the recommendation to close the station. The fine men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas and these highly-decorated units have served their country and represented our State and local communities well.

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

Sincerely,

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Name JOHN LABEL
Address 217 ORCHARD DR
TOWN OF NIAGARA
Phone # 716 877 6532

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

Dear Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended to the BRAC that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with over 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver yet another devastating blow to our region's economy. In addition to the financial concerns, the community pride for our past and present military contributions can not be understated.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower Complex which supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Power Grid. The size and location of the base would also allow it to be used for responses to natural disasters or terror attacks in the Northeast United States. While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable. It should be expanded rather than closed.

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Considering these facts and figures; I am writing to remind you, our elected representative, of your obligation to use all means necessary in order to persuade the BRAC to reconsider the recommendation to close the station. The fine men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas and these highly-decorated units have served their country and represented our State and local communities well.

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

Sincerely,

JUL 19 2005

BRAC

Received

Name Robert W. Grass, Jr
 Address 3246 East River Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
 Phone # 713-2183

BRAC Commission
 Washington D.C.
 C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

Dear Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended to the BRAC that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with over 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver yet another devastating blow to our region's economy. In addition to the financial concerns, the community pride for our past and present military contributions can not be understated.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower Complex which supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Power Grid. The size and location of the base would also allow it to be used for responses to natural disasters or terror attacks in the Northeast United States. While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable. It should be expanded rather than closed.

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Considering these facts and figures; I am writing to remind you, our elected representative, of your obligation to use all means necessary in order to persuade the BRAC to reconsider the recommendation to close the station. The fine men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas and these highly-decorated units have served their country and represented our State and local communities well.

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

Sincerely,

From: (Michael J. Vitale)
Date: 06/21/05 07:25:43
To: info@nimac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Michael J. Vitale () on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 07:25:41

JUL 19 2005

Received

address1: 686 Mapleview Road

city: Cheektowaga

state: New York

zip: 14225

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

Michael J. Vitale

submit: Send Letter

From: (Debra L. Wanat)
Date: 06/21/05 09:34:42
To: info@nmaac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Debra L. Wanat () on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 09:34:39

JUL 19 2005

Received

address1: 119 Beale Ave

city: Cheektowaga

state: New York

zip: 14225

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

6/21/2005

Debra L. Wanat

submit: Send Letter

From: (Daniel Mania)
Date: 06/24/05 23:03:00
To: info@nnaac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Daniel Mania () on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 23:02:57

JUL 19 2005

Received

address1: 15 Doyle Court

city: Cheektowaga

state: New York

zip: 14225

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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. Also, how will the Department defend the Western New York region? This base is truly critical to both our economic and military security...please reconsider!

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

Daniel Mania

submit: Send Letter

From: (Cindy L Oberjosh)
Date: 06/24/05 16:39:55
To: info@nimae.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Cindy L. Oberjosh () on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 16:39:53

address1: 254 East Avenue

city: North Tonawanda

state: NY

zip: 14120

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

6/25/2005

Cindy L. Oberjosh

submit: Send Letter

From: (Kenneth J. Swan)
Date: 06/25/05 07:00:38
To: info@numac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Kenneth J. Swan () on Saturday, June 25, 2005 at 07:00:35

address1: 4 Arrow Trail

city: Lancaster

state: New York

zip: 14086

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

<< Kenneth J. Swan

submit: Send Letter

From: (James Senneff)
Date: 06/24/05 19:36:05
To: info@nmmac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by James Senneff () on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 19:36:02

address1: 40 Willow Dr

city: Tonawanda

state: NY

zip: 14150

comments:

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 am very concerned by the recommendations of closing the Niagara Falls Reserve station which I feel will hinder the strategic abilities of the Air Force and financial standings throughout Western New York.

When the results of base closure list came out, emphasis was put on this list being the best course of action for the military which was not politically intruded upon. But, when the original score book which placed Niagara above many bases staying open was not followed, I felt betrayed.

While I do not know the true reasoning for the scores being abandoned, I do know that Western New York is one of the best climates to fly out of and be a part of. There are only a few times a year where flying is impossible, but Niagara Falls is one of the few places in our country not prone to natural disasters. Yes, weather is a little warmer in Arkansas, but moving the C130's to a location in the tornado belt does not float very well with me seeing that billions of dollars worth of equipment can be wiped out in two seconds. There is also plenty of room for practicing west, north and east of the airport with very little air traffic and a lot of room for expansion. Recruitment is very high having so many colleges in the area. I myself am a graduate student in Mechanical Engineering who is slated to leave for flight training for the reserve station

in January. I felt that Niagara Falls is the best location to live, having lived in Tennessee, California and Florida, to expand my intellect and be a part of the military.

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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. It is the in the best interest of the military to expand to Niagara Falls, not deplete.

Sincerely,

James L. Senneff
USAF Reserves
SUNY Buffalo Graduate Student
jsenneff@eng.buffalo.edu
(716)445-0504

submit: Send Letter

From: (Daniel Mania)
Date: 06/24/05 23:04:45
To: info@nmae.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Daniel Mania () on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 23:04:42

address1: 15 Doyle Court

city: Cheektowaga

state: New York

zip: 14225

comments:

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 Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. This recommendation is a not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and to remove Niagara Falls 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 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. This base is critical to both our economic and military

strenght. Please overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mania

submit: Send Letter

From: (William R. Oberjosh)
Date: 06/24/05 16:40:46
To: info@mmmc.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by William R. Oberjosh () on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 16:40:43

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

address1: 250 East Avenue

city: North Tonawanda

state: NY

zip: 14120

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

William R. Oberjosh

submit: Send Letter

From: Elizabeth Oberjosh
Date: 06/24/05 16:41:31
To: info@nimaac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Elizabeth Oberjosh () on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 16:41:28

address1: 250 East Avenue

city: North Tonawanda

state: NY

zip: 14120

comments:

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

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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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

Elizabeth Oberjosh

submit: Send Letter

From: (NANCY & JERRY GOSS)
Date: 06/20/05 20:15:56
To: info@nimac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
NANCY & JERRY GOSS () on Monday, June 20, 2005 at 20:15:53

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

address1: 3016 LINCOLN STREET

city: NIAGARA FALLS

state: NEW YORK

zip: 14305

comments:

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

<< ENTER YOUR NAME HERE >>NANCY &JERRY GOSS

submit: Send Letter

From: (Rev. Tracy McNitt)
Date: 06/20/05 14:04:18
To: info@nmaac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

BRAC Commission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Rev. Tracy McNitt () on Monday, June 20, 2005 at 14:04:15

JUL 19 2005

Received

address1: 23 Corfu Cir.

city: Amherst

state: NY

zip: 14228

comments:

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
Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. This recommendation
is a not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission
should reverse this decision and to remove Niagara Falls from the
closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take
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Reserve bases and put them on 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,

Rev. Tracy McNitt

submit: Send Letter

JUL 19 2005

Received

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
C/o NIMAC; PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

Dear Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended to the BRAC that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with over 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver yet another devastating blow to our region's economy. In addition to the financial concerns, the community pride for our past and present military contributions can not be understated.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower Complex which supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Power Grid. The size and location of the base would also allow it to be used for responses to natural disasters or terror attacks in the Northeast United States. While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable. 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 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.

According to the Buffalo News article on May 25, 2005:

Top Air Force officials relied on their "collective judgment" in deciding to recommend their Niagara Falls base for closure, disregarding military value rankings that showed Niagara outperforming several other bases slated to remain open. Air Force spokesman Douglas Karas said the Air Force's "mission compatibility index" was just one of the factors considered in the base-closure decisions. Asked why at least nine bases with airlift missions were slated to stay open when they had lower "MCI" scores than Niagara, Karas said the Base Closure Executive Group sometimes deviated from its own rating system. "There were cases in the analysis process where lower ranked bases were retained," Karas said. "In those cases, the Base Closure Executive Group used their collective judgment, that, when combined with the MCI scores, resulted in the retention of lower-ranked installations. This was true in Niagara's case."

A lobbyist for New York State on the issue, John M. Simmons, said the Air Force's response proves that the base-closure recommendations followed "a judgmental, and not an analytical, process." The Pentagon was supposed to judge each base primarily on its military value - yet in this case the Air Force bypassed the tool it created for judging military value. "The Air Force in

their response acknowledge that they themselves ignored the results of a key analytical tool . . . created for the BRAC process," Simmons said. "They simply took the position that their judgment trumped the analysis."

Considering these facts and figures; I am writing to remind you, our elected representative, of your obligation to use all means necessary in order to persuade the BRAC to reconsider the recommendation to close the station. The fine men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing and the 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas and these highly-decorated units have served their country and represented our State and local communities well.

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

Sincerely,

Morton L. Benstead
13800 Courvoisier Rd
Chaffee NY 14030
716-496-8993



Mr. Morton Benstead
13800 Chaffee Couriers Rd
Chaffee NY 14030-9701

JUL 19 2005

Received

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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them 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 helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Also, how will the Department defend the region, or will the Guard respond to man-made or natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts?

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove 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,

*Sister Mary Gregory
Andrews F.M.D.C.*

Sister Mary Gregory Andrews, OSF
129 Glide Street
Rochester, NY 14611

JUN 23 2005

Received

Jun 23, 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 Force Reserve and the 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 handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Aiello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ross Aiello.
(A concerned Citizen)

39 Lafayette Ave
Buffalo, NY 14213

JUL 19 2005

Received

6, 8, 05

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, as stated in the media, 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 Force Reserve and the 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. Please overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base open.

Sincerely,

Mr. Commante

*246 Grandview
Kennerly
NY 14223*

JUL 19 2005

Received

7/10/05

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 am so concerned 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.

Please note that the media are conveying to us 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. Please, overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

Signature: M. Russo

FOR THE LOVE OF
OUR COUNTRY !!

(A concerned Citizen)

34 GARDEN RD

(Address)

CHEERTOWAGA, NY, 14225

(City, State, Zip)