

Roland Selfridge
893 Hollywood dr
May 24, 2005
Lockport, New York 14094

RECEIVED

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

05272005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am writing in reference to the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base. This recommendation is obviously a horrendous mistake that has been decided based upon little insight into our units capabilities and our accomplishments. I am strongly urging the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove the Niagara Falls Base from the list immediately.

Why has the BRAC Commission decided to take our mission and our aircraft and put them on more costly active duty bases, when the guard and reserves have proven their capabilities to stand and fight proudly with our active duty counterparts, while operating at a fraction of the cost? Additionally, why are they moving these aircraft to more volatile locations where hurricanes and tornadoes are more prevalent?

Did the commission consider our involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom? Our unit sustained some of the worst conditions while constantly being pulverized by sand storms and temperatures in the 130 degree range; yet we maintained a 98% on-time flight ratio while flying missions 24 / 7. While operating in Operation Iraqi Freedom, we participated in the largest gathering of C130's ever in one location and did you know that the 914th unit is the lead night vision C-130 unit in the entire Reserves? I have not even scratched

the surface on the countless missions and excursions our unit has participated in, as well as the well trained personnel that our unit possesses.

Additionally, the Commission should consider our allegiance to the mission and some of the greatest folks from any single unit. The Guard and Reserve has a sense of ownership to their assets that will never be found in any active duty unit; I know I am a proud reserve member of the 914th, and spent 10 years on active duty.

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove Niagara Falls ARS from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures and to stop the degradation of our military and its mission abilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roland Selfridge". The signature is written in black ink and includes a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Roland Selfridge
USAFR

RECEIVED

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2005 11:34 AM

From: "ROSE M. REECE" <kn_rosemreece@webtv.net>

To: info@nimac.org

Subject: Save Air Base

05272005

As an ordinary citizen living in Niagara Falls, so near to the border the decision to close the airbase scares the heck out of me. We have so many important targets for terrorists should they want to affect such a large area. Why dwell on social security while closing so many airbases ? We may not be around to enjoy it. Besides the closings may save five billion dollars but that is a drop in the bucket compared to the many billions that Iraq is costing us.

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Cherry Creek ny.

5/16/05

05272005

Dear Sir:

As a Firefighter, and
Response Team, for Fire Police
I strongly express that the
Magna Falls Reserve Base
stays open.

We feel that our borders
are affected by the closings
we need protection against
Terrorism.

We have several who have
served in Iraq and are
safely back home, because
of the air base.

If you need me to speak to
anyone. My phone number is
716-296-5323. Sincerely
Nalores LeBarron
Firewoman

Marie Kissinger

05272005 05/23/05

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC

We want the Niagara Falls
Air Base to stay open.

The Men + women of the
914th and 107th are a
vital part of the community
both from a military and
a non-military standpoint.

They have served their
country when and where
needed.

Until now - deployment
time has never been an
issue.

Placing too many planes
in one spot is asking for
another Pearl Harbor -

I'm old enough to remember.

M. J. Kissinger

31 Steele Circle • Town of Niagara, New York 14304 • 716-298-5308

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05272005

Near BRAC Commission

5-15-05

Am writing in regards to the
Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station
being on the "Closure list."

This is a sad situation for the
Niagara area and community. Our
economy is at a low, civilian jobs
will be gone. The 'Air Reserve Station'
is home of the C-130 Hercules, 107th
Air Refueling Wing, 914th Airlift
Group, the Army Reserve and youth
program - Civil Air Patrol only to name
a few will have a great effect on families
having to move away.

We pray President Bush and officials
will see the importance of letting the base
stay open and operational and improving
the status of the base for our home land
security, and the "Niagara Area!"

Please **SAVE OUR BASE!!**
Keep it operational.

The Norma Jacobs-Rose
Families

NIMAC number



RECEIVED



Ms. Irene Barnett
401 E Union St Lowr
Lockport, NY 14094-2533

06272005

6-4-2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi

I live in Lockport, N.Y.,
which is 20 miles away from
Lockport, N.Y.; if you close
the Niagara Falls Air Force
Reserve and the N.Y. National
Air Guard Base.

I am more than upset
about this closure of the Niagara
Falls Base.

1. This Base is also used by
the 914 Air ^{Force} Reserve Unit from

Buffalo, N. Y. These Air Force Reserve men from the 914, have gone to trouble spots throughout the world, delivering supplies; setting up Army Field Hospitals; transporting Medical units etc. to the areas where they are needed.

2. The Niagara Frontier is a very strategic area; We have a very big Power Project in this area. The electricity it produces here; is also used by New York City, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Albany and Lockport, O'Leary, Newfane, Sanborn, Wheatfield, Cambria, Niagara County Community College and of the City of Niagara Falls, N. Y. and the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

Page - 3 -

The Niagara Falls Base needs to stay open. This is whole Niagara Frontier Region is a target for the Terrorists.

If you close the Base on June 27, 2005, you will regret it for the rest of your life.

The Air Force Reservists and N.Y. National Guard members who live here, would have to Pittsburgh, Pa. from here, and it would take them 5 to 6 hours to get there for their Reserve training on weekends and they would be tired and need some rest first before they could even attempt to participate in their reserve training exercises. When their weekend training exercises are over, they would then have the long drive

Page - 4 -

drive back to their homes from Pittsburgh, Pa.

If you want the Reservists to be able to perform their duties willingly without being tired,

I remember 9/11 and the 2 days after 9/11, when the road to the Niagara Falls Air Base was closed to general public so that the Reservists and Regular Military Personnel could get to the Base and fly out their assigned missions from there. The 107th Air Guard Refueling wing was assigned to go to the New York City area and refuel the Air Force Planes in that area.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton is outraged that you would dare to assign the Air

Page - 5 -

Reserve Unit 914 to Little Rock, Arkansas. The 914th Air Force Reserve Unit is based at the Niagara Falls Air Base; it is an Air Force Reserve Unit from Buffalo, N.Y.

In today's Lockport Journal, (Union Sun & Journal) I read that BRAC is going to come to the Niagara Falls Air Base on 6-27-2005, to look it over and hopefully the Commission will eliminate from the BRAC List of Base Closure.

However, we will still have to wait until 9-8-2005, before we know if the Base remains open.

BRAC ten years ago, closed Griffith Air Force Base in

in Rome, N.Y. and BRAC
also closed the Air Force
in Plattsburg, N.Y.

I think the Niagara Falls
*Air Base is the only Air
Base still open and it
should remain open.

Ten years ago the above
mentioned Base was on the
BRAC list also. We fought
hard to keep it open then and
now 10 years later we have
to fight to keep this Base open!!!

This Base has a lot of
civilian employees who would
lose their jobs if you close
this base. Jobs in the West-
ern New York Area are very
hard to find right now. The
High School and College Gradu-
ates in this area have a very
hard time finding jobs right now.

* The Niagara Falls Air Base I think is the only
Air Base that is still open in New York State!!!

Western New York's
Niagara Frontier Region used
to have a lot of Big Fact-
ories here and also Smaller
factories here. In the last
25 to 30 years this has all
changed. The Bigger Factories
moved down South. Lockport
had a big General Motors
Plant here. It was Harrison
Radiator Division of General
Motors Corp. In 1985, after
my husband retired from
Harrison Radiator Division, (he
(had worked there for 3 1/2 years,)
G M sold the Plant to Delphi
Thermal Systems.

At the time my husband
worked for Harrison Radiator
Division of G. M.; the plant
had 9,000 employees.

Page - 8 -

If BRAC closes the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base; it will put a lot of civilian employees out of work!!!

BRAC will also put the whole Niagara Frontier Region and it will give the terrorists an opportunity to attack the power plant, which is actually outside of the village of Lewiston, N.Y.; we live in a vulnerable area for a terrorist attack in this area if the borders between the U. S. A. and Canada are attacked!!!

This reminds me of the attack on Pearl Harbor on 12-7-1941!!! Remember Pearl Harbor and Remember 9-11-2001!!!

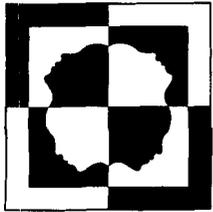
Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Irene E. Barnett

BRAC Commission
Received
6/24/2005.

Dear Brac,
You shouldn't close
down the embassy because
we keep our trucks weapons
there where would the guns
go!! Many people will lose
their jobs.

Sincerely,

Ben Alford



EVERYWOMAN
OPPORTUNITY
CENTER, INC.

Myrna F. Young
Executive Director

*...helping
women
achieve
personal
and
economic
self-sufficiency
since 1977.*

06302005



June 24, 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 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.

The base is not only an integrated part of the economy of the suffering WNY region, it is also the center piece of real and perceived protection of the international border between Canada and the U.S. In the interest of homeland security-keep the base and personnel where it is.

Sincerely,

Myrna F. Young
Executive Director

MFY: gw

MAIN OFFICE:
237 MAIN STREET,
SUITE 330
BUFFALO, NY 14203
716-847-1120
Fax: 716-847-1550
www.everywoman.org



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05272005

1000 North Daws Rd.
Elma, New York
14059

May 22, 2005

Dear Sir

I am writing to protest the closing of the Niagara Falls AFB. From what I read the base is picked mainly because it is a Reserve Base regardless of its performance. What about the men who don't have enough time in to retire? I guess they'll just be written off. The study is biased and unfair and also all your eggs will be in one basket. I know the Powers to be have no regard for Personnel Hardships they create.

Sincerely
Les James

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05272005

Save Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Name	Address
1 Kari L. Ritz	7104 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Lkpt
2 Mary M. Ritz	7104 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Lkpt
3 Christopher L. Keith	687 Walnut St. Apt. 1 Lkpt.
Katie Keith	687 Walnut St. Apt. 1 Lkpt.
Martin David Spore	4359 LAKE AVE LKPT.
Megan Stralud	3610 Coomer Rd Newfane
David E. Laufer	4359 LAKE AVE LKPT
Ellen J. Strobel	3610 Coomer Road, Newfane, NY
Peter Strobel	3610 Coomer Rd Newfane NY.
Edward A. Shipley	101 Autumnvale Dr. Lockport, NY
Robin L. Ritz	7104 Chestnut Ridge Rd Lkpt. NY
Bryan Shipley	101 Autumnvale Drive Lkpt.
Thomas M. Ritz	2076 FULLER RD BURT NY
Thomas M. Ritz	7104 Chestnut Ridge Rd Lkpt NY.
Lisa Williams	2728 Coomer Rd, Newfane, NY
Michael	7104 Chestnut Ridge Rd Lkpt NY.
Rebecca Cline	7104 Chestnut Ridge Rd Lkpt NY.

May 17, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

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05272005

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Defense has recommended to the BRAC Commission that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station be closed. This comes as a very big disappointment to the western New York Community. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's already declining economy.

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 harnesses the waters of the Niagara River 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 fighter 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 the Niagara base would reduce the Air Force presence in NY by 40%, and eliminate the LAST Federal Air Force flying mission in the state. Since 1995, the Niagara base has been modernized with \$35M in new facilities and lengthened runways, which have improved the operational effectiveness of the wings.

*The Niagara base has reduced its 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-130 model aircraft WITHOUT ANY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

*Niagara Falls faces no physical encroachment or air traffic control constraints and has acreage on the base and adjacent to the installation for expansion.

I request that you STRONGLY RECONSIDER the decision to close this base. The fine men and women in the 107th Air Refueling Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing have been and continue to be instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 11:48 AM

From:

To: Info@nimac.org

Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

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05272005

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ralph F. Burow Jr. () on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 11:48:49

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 3012 Lockport Road

city: Niagara Falls

state: NY

zip: 14305

comments: The B.R.A.C. Commission must consider the volume and quality of human resources available to support the local units for world wide deployment. In the 20 years working at Niagara Falls Air Station and the six years active duty, I've never seen a better quality force. The overall positive attitudes, dedication, and attention to detail have made our unit that is a model for the rest of the Air National Guard and all of the United States Air Force. We not only draw on human resources from the active duty Air Force, but have more highly educated personnel than we ever have had. Even many Non-commissioned sergeants and airman have bachelor and associate degrees, or have taken a number of courses toward a degree. Our unit has always stepped forward to volunteer for deployments and expeditionary force commitments to all regions of the world. I am proud to serve with this unit, and even with so many pending retirements, I have extreme confidence in our human resource! s, that have an aggressive attitude toward training, that we will continue to meet and exceed all mission requirements. God Bless America!

submit: Submit Petition

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May 17, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

The department of Defense has recommended to the BRAC Commission that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station be closed. This comes as a very big disappointment to the western New York Community. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's already declining economy.

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 harnesses the waters of the Niagara River 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 fighter 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 the Niagara base would reduce the Air Force presence in NY by 40%, and eliminate the LAST Federal Air Force flying mission in the state. Since 1995, the Niagara base has been modernized with 35M in new facilities and lengthened runways, which have improved the operational effectiveness of the wings.

*The Niagara base has reduces its 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.

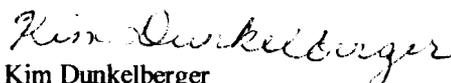
*Niagara Falls existing infrastructure can accommodate 8 ADDITIONAL C-130 model aircraft WITHOUT ANY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

*Niagara Falls faces no physical encroachment or air traffic control constraints and has acreage on the base and adjacent to the installation for expansion.

I request that you STRONGLY RECONSIDER the decision to close this base. The fine men and women in the 107th Air Refueling Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing have been and continue to be instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Kim Dunkelberger
2541 N. Main Street
Newfane, NY 14108

May 18, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.
% Niagara Military Affairs Council
PO Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

RECEIVED
05272005

Re: Niagara Falls Air Base

Dear Sirs:

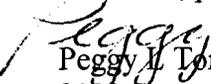
Please reconsider your thoughts of closing the Niagara Falls Air Base. This is a very viable base, a very active and strategic base.

Since World War II, Western New York has been on a list for the possibility of being a target for the enemy. Remember: we are a border town with three bridges to connect us with Canada, four if the Peace Bridge in Buffalo is counted. Plus, please take into consideration our Power Plant.

Our Air Force is here if we need protection. The East Coast needs protection. Arkansas does not!!!

Gentlemen, put on your thinking caps!!! We, the United States of America, are at war. Don't fix what "ain't" broken.

A sincere, proud to be an American, citizen.


Peggy L. Tompkins
2132 Sawyer Drive
Apt 115
Niagara Falls, New York 14304

RECEIVED
05272005

May 17, 2005
BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear BRAC Commission:

I am a registered nurse and a Niagara Falls, N.Y resident, who is deeply concerned over the proposed closing of the Niagara Falls, N.Y. Air Base.

My oldest brother gave his life for his country in 1970 in Vietnam. He was only 20 years old. I am proud of his service to his country.

Now I am concerned for National Security since 911. The Niagara Falls Air Base is in a strategic location being a border town and close to Canada. Our runway is long and can accommodate the larger aircraft.

Our National Guard has been very active in the past and present helping out in Desert Storm as well as Iran and Iraq etc...

Also our weather is not as harsh as Buffalo, we usually are spared the really big snowfalls. We have no danger of floods, Hurricanes or Tornados.

We have a large hydroelectric facility and it supplies low cost power to not only Niagara but areas of the North East as well. This needs to be protected, but also provides low cost power to this facility.

All I am asking is for you to logically look at what is at stake here and please reconsider closing this most needed base.

Thank you for your kind consideration,
Christine (Russ) Cavanaugh
815-83rd Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
716 283-3559

Daniel Eifert

Dana6e@adelphia.net

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05272005

Dear BRAC Members

The Pentagon has recommended the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York to be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's economy.

I humbly request that you strongly reconsider the decision 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.

From what I have read for the reason for closing is just to move the equipment to an active duty base to make a bigger consolidated base, in my military career I was always taught not to put all my assets in one place which makes them an easier target not safer, plus closing the base would cause the reservist to feel that even though they are being used to fight this war more and more, they aren't worth having a base and I feel that a lot of the reservist will get out because in order to stay in they would have to travel hundreds of miles to a base for drill which causes hardship in their jobs as well as in their life.

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

Sincerely ,



Daniel Eifert
151 Lock St
Lockport NY 14094

3666 Ransomville Road
Ransomville, N.Y. 14131

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs;

We are very disturbed that the Niagara Falls Air Base is included on the list of base closings. We feel that, because of the close access to the Canadian border, and the Power Project being there, we need this base for security reasons. Also, many jobs would be lost in an area that is hurting economically as it is. We would be grateful if the powers that be would take our base off the list.

My husband and I have lived in this area for all of our married life which will be 66 years in June.

Thank you for giving this your serious consideration. May it be a positive decision to remove NFAB from the list for closing.

Sincerely,
Lillian H. Neumann
Lawrence W. Neumann

05272005

RECEIVED
May 16, 2005

05272005

Dear BRAC members,

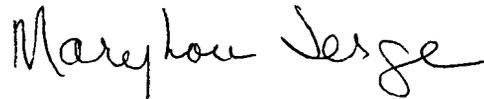
I am writing this letter in response to the Department of Defense's decision to include the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on the closing list. First, please understand that I have no direct connection to the Air Base, but am a tax paying resident of Niagara Falls. My concern is threefold. I am concerned with the economic impact that closing this base will have on the City of Niagara Falls and surrounding area. Any time an area goes the way of economic depression, the Federal Government is also affected negatively. The domino effect will be devastating.

Secondly, our area would be vulnerable to terrorist attack if left unprotected. The possible targets in the Western New York area are numerable - power plants-both nuclear and water generated and border crossings into Canada are of foremost concern.

Lastly, it is a concern of mine that to consolidate our defenses into to one area makes an even bigger prime target for attack. Think how devastating that would be, if so much were to be wiped out with one attack. Personally, I think that it is unconscionable, even unethical, for Mr. Rumsfeld to take away from our area, to build up his own state.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Jerge
687-80th Street
Niagara Falls, New York, 14304



Hemel Engineering Products, Inc.
6520 Lockport Road • Niagara Falls, New York 14305-3597
Telephone (716) 297.8644 • Fax (716) 297.9405
E-mail sales@hemel.com • Web www.hemel.com

May 17, 2005

RECEIVED
05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am very concerned to hear that the Commission has recommended closing the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

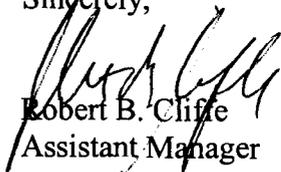
Yes, I'm concerned about the loss of jobs in Western New York. This area can ill afford to lose any jobs, let alone the second largest employer in Niagara County.

However, I am more concerned about the loss of protection for the many critical features located near this base including the four bridges crossing between the U.S. and Canada, the Niagara Power plant, largest of its kind in the Eastern U.S. serving all of New York, and two coal-fired electric stations nearby.

From the Niagara Falls station, a domestic rapid deployment force could reinforce local agencies for over half the people in the U.S. within a couple of hours, while being in position to also assist half of the population of Canada should a major occurrence require our assistance there.

I believe that, in light of terrorist realities, this base should be viewed for continuing changes and improvements. Your consideration of such matters will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Cliffe
Assistant Manager

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C

5002290
RECEIVED

Michael L. McMullen

Mikemcm1@adelphia.net

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 crossings 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 fighter 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 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 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.
- Both the 107th Air Refueling Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing have played an integral part in both the War in Afghanistan and the War in Iraq being among the first units deployed to the hostile environment and being recognized as among the best in not only the Air Force Reserve Command but in the total Air Force.

I humbly request that you **strongly oppose** the decision to close the station. The fine men and women of the **107th Refueling Wing** and **914th Airlift Wing** have been instrumental in securing the homefront and fighting the war on terror overseas.

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

Sincerely,

Michael L. McMullen



RECEIVED

Richard W. Muscatello

6744 Rose Court, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-4508
Telephone & Fax: 716/731-3738 Cell Phone: 471-0520
E-mail: rwm@wheatfield.ny.us

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

05272005

Subject: Base Closure – Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Dear Sir or Madam:

I join with numerous military colleagues, past and present, to share with you our disappointment and concern that your BRAC Commission has recommended closure of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, New York. The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is the home of the 914th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve and the 107th Air Refueling Wing, New York Air National Guard. Depleting their combat readiness at this critical time when our military arsenal is experiencing serious shortages and overuse of resources appears to be contrary to effective and efficient military planning.

Both Air Force units have a 56-year successful history of being embraced by the Western New York community, evidenced by their continued recruiting successes and citizen support at a time when other locations are failing to do likewise. Based upon recent decisions, Command operations planners have recognized the sustained combat readiness of these citizen airmen. For example: the 107th ARW was deployed immediately after the September 11, 2001 tragedy and continually thereafter, serving wherever and whenever needed. The 914 AW has been deployed on more than one occasion to the Iraqi danger zone, demonstrating night flying proficiency in combat conditions, and tasking to fly visiting government dignitaries in the wartime environment in Iraq because of their flying excellence.

Currently, the Niagara Air Reserve Station houses two proven and combat ready air units at a reasonable return on investment to the Department of Defense. Hopefully, your Commission will revisit the data made available to you and follow up with an on site visit before finalizing your work.

From perusing news releases, it appears the BRAC Commission has redistributed military assets with minimal regard to building on the existing base assets. Considering the impressive amount of federal funds invested into the Niagara Air Reserve Station to improve its capability, e.g., new transient quarters, runway extension, construction of a Military Entrance Processing Site, etc., it seems appropriate to build on this momentum by reallocating other regional military assets to the site. Would it not be feasible to relocate the nearby US Army Support Center, the US Coast Guard helicopter operation positioned in adjoining Erie County, and the Army National Guard Helicopter unit from Rochester, New York to the Niagara location? We are sure, with local input, there will be other worthy realignments to weigh in on.

With the emphasis being placed upon the need for implementing homeland security measures, it again appears that the Niagara Air Reserve Station is well positioned for training purposes, stationing of critical equipment, and a consulting resource point for emergency services. Certainly, its location to the major population center of the United States identifies it as a central point when reaching out to the population masses during a crisis situation.

Another disconcerting Commission action is the reallocation of Guard and Reserve assets to active duty units. Not only are you displacing highly qualified personnel and degrading combat ready organizations, your action can be, rightfully or wrongfully, interpreted as declaring subtle war on Guard and Reserve components. Guard and Reserve organizations have continually fulfilled their missions successfully for years and years. Sacrificing reservists to build up the active duty forces may be a short-term gain without addressing the real problem. As you know, our Nation has been historically depended upon their Militias and civilian volunteers.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Richard W. Muscatello

May 20, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington DC

05272005
RECEIVED

Please do not let them close this base. We simply cannot afford anymore job losses and budget cuts in this area. Most of the people in Niagara Falls, NY are already on public assistance and my husband has been out of work for almost a year. What more can this area take? This base is close to four major border crossings! It is also by the New York State Power Authority Hydropower complex which serves power to the Northeast United States Grid. This power complex is also a major terrorist target and has been for years. What are these powers that be thinking? Please help us to save this base. It IS a matter of life & death and severe job loss that this area cannot take. Thanking you in advance for any help you can give us.

Cathy Smith – email address: csmith@facilities.buffalo.edu
1258 Ridgewood Dr.
Lockport, New York 14094

5/15/05

Brac Commission:

RECEIVED
05272005

We would like to express our views on the closing of the military Base in Niagara Falls, New York.

At this point, with no military back-up we would be in a "Code RED" situation. We are at greater risk because of the power plant near the Niagara Falls & River.

Also, at greater risk since there are 4 bridges to Canada in the immediate area.

We implore you to remove the name of the (NIMAC) Niagara Falls Military Base from the closing list.

We are a depressed area. Closing the base would mean disaster in the economy.

Thank you.

Jeanette L. Cadille
Joseph J. Cadille

119 Blanchard Avenue
Niagara Falls, New York 14304-1105
May 19, 2005

RECEIVED

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC

05272005

Gentlemen ,

I'm writing to you in regard to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York. I am respectfully asking you, and solicit your support in having the Reserve Station removed from the 2005 BRAC Closure List.

The Niagara Falls ARS is not only vital to U.S. Air Force operations overseas, but to Homeland Security as well. Its' location on an International Border allows expanded and emerging missions to be based here; to include the Border Patrol, Coast Guard, FBI and other Federal agencies tasked with Homeland Security. Moving such units into Niagara Falls will enhance operations, and provide safety by placing them within a secure perimeter.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is at most, 10 miles from the U.S.-Canadian Border; a Border with 3 major Bridges. Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota is not on the Closure List. One of the reasons given for it to remain open, is being vital to Homeland Security by being near an International Border. But, The Canadian Border is 70 miles away from Grand Forks. I feel Niagara Falls ARS is the more vital Base.

I respectfully request that You not only press for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to be removed from the Closure List, but to consider expanded missions to be based here as well.

Thank You.

Sincerely,



Gary A. McIntosh

Bryan J. Thurnherr
8 Heathrow Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086

RECEIVED
May 20, 2005

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

05272005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

As a veteran active duty Air Force member and also Reservist from Niagara, I am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. This base is well supported by the community and has a strong, deep rooted following from its employee's. The unparalleled dedication of its Air crews and support staff are second to none. It is my humble opinion that this recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove the Niagara Falls Base from the list.

Some key points to also recognize:

- They are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves.
- 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.
- Niagara Falls existing infrastructure can accommodate eight (8) additional C-130H model aircraft without any military construction.
- 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.
- 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 Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures.

Sincerely,



Bryan J. Thurnherr

May 17, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

05272005

To Whom It May Concern:

The department of Defense has recommended to the BRAC Commission that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station be closed. This comes as a very big disappointment to the western New York Community. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's already declining economy.

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 harnesses the waters of the Niagara River 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 fighter 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 the Niagara base would reduce the Air Force presence in NY by 40%, and eliminate the LAST Federal Air Force flying mission in the state. Since 1995, the Niagara base has been modernized with 35M in new facilities and lengthened runways, which have improved the operational effectiveness of the wings.

*The Niagara base has reduces its 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-130 model aircraft WITHOUT ANY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

*Niagara Falls faces no physical encroachment or air traffic control constraints and has acreage on the base and adjacent to the installation for expansion.

I request that you STRONGLY RECONSIDER the decision to close this base. The fine men and women in the 107th Air Refueling Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing have been and continue to be instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hefferon
8416 Haight Road
Barker, NY 14012

May 17, 2005

RECEIVED

05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

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Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Dana Hefferon
8416 Haight Road
Barker, NY 14012

May 17, 2005

RECEIVED

05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

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Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Linnell W. Snell
8416 Niagara Rd
Dunkirk, Ny 14012



Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 10:46 AM

From:

To: info@nimac.org

Subject: Niagara Air Base Closing Protest

05272005

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mark Williams () on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 10:46:07

address1: 1596 Franklin Street

city: Olcott Beach

state: New York

zip: 14126-0730

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 suspect the decision-making that commences in regards to which bases are to remain open or closed is akin to placing names within a hat and randomly selected.

Aside from the huge financial impact that will surely further devastate the City of Niagara Falls, allow me to ask the question; [has not our fair, albeit, faltering city suffered enough at the hands of our government?]

History, gentlemen and respect needs to be recalled since it was the City of Niagara Falls and her once vast amount of industrial technology that provided this country with the means to ending WWII in the form of the Manhattan Project by creating the atomic bomb. If not for this city and its workers, many who suffered and still suffer from the after affects of radiation exposure, are treated as nothing more than casualties of war or simply a spent force. This entire region needs to be resurrected by government investment instead of being further destroyed as if we are the family dirty secret.

Companies that profited greatly and have long since departed this city leaving behind their toxic mess need to be recalled by our government and directed to reopen their facilities in either a mode of operation or a care-taking work force in the form of land and building remediation.

These companies need to be made accountable for the mess they left behind on huge acres of land such as the numerous sites once owned by companies like Union Carbide, Carborundum, et. al.

If not them, than the individual companies or profiteers who purchased the properties in hopes of claiming monetary acclaim from selling off equipment, buildings or scrap.

Closing the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base is a travesty or a continuation of a travesty implemented by our own government fifty-years ago and it needs to end now and past mistakes need to be fully accounted for and not simply swept under the carpet.

Regards,

Mark Williams

5/18/05

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC
C/o Niagara Military Affairs Council

05272005

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in staunch opposition to the proposed closing of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and its listing on the base closure list.

As a life long resident of WNY I know the impact the closing of this base would have on our fragile economy as this efficient base is the second largest employer. Furthermore I am aware of the community's support of this base as evidenced by, among other things, huge crowds at the annual air show held at the base.

However, I believe that far more convincing than the economic impact and community support arguments are the following military facts.

- the WNY region has proven to be traditionally strong in military recruiting and I would think this important especially at a time when volunteer enrollment is down.
- the painfully obvious need to maintain a strong military presence at a strategic border location that includes 4 international bridges, major regional power plant and key financial institutions.
- the base is efficient and will become even more efficient with the advent of low cost power from the power plant. Additional capacity and efficiencies were added during a recent \$75million investment.
- the ability to retain hundreds of skilled local reservists in a service ready status who can deploy in a matter of hours.

Then fact that the \$75million investment within the last few years will dwarf annual savings from this closure must be considered. Also, rather than close the base, consider adding anti-terrorist military assets to the base such as fighter planes or army reservists.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding of the benefits of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve station to WNY and the country as a whole.

Sincerely,


Thomas Sy

RECEIVED

May 17, 2005

05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

The department of Defense has recommended to the BRAC Commission that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station be closed. This comes as a very big disappointment to the western New York Community. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's already declining economy.

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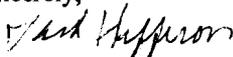
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I request that you STRONGLY RECONSIDER the decision to close this base. The fine men and women in the 107th Air Refueling Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing have been and continue to be instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Hefferon
1441 Hosmer Road
Barker, NY 14012

RECEIVED



Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 10:47 AM

From:

To: info@nimac.org

Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

05272005

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
JEANIE JABLONSKI () on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 10:47:24

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the
Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 12 POUND ST

city: LOCKPORT

state: NY

zip: 14094

comments: Enter your own comments here.

submit: Submit Petition

RECEIVED

05272005

Kaura E. Haque
3221 Bellring Dr. C-7
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304
May 16, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.

There are so many reasons to keep the Niagara Falls Airbase open. The one thing I feel is important is that it was about history of wars I learned in school, knowing that our Airbase was involved way back then and now is making History for my children and other children.

Also with all the updates and improvements they have done over the years and still have room to add on if needed. Knowing the Niagara Falls Airbase is the 2nd largest and the best place for emergency landing, training ect. Would you really find it feasible to close the base and lose a Billion Dollars that made it what it is today? Knowing

3
that even though it didn't cost a few billion for improvements, at least it looks like it.

The Airbase shares the runway with the airport, but since we don't let planes land here except for when the President or other High ranking Government officials come to town. The runway was made longer and our airport has the Best security in the State with the Base about 2 seconds away if that from the airport. Plus with us having 2 major water/electrical plants in town, the Air Base is close enough to protect that as well. Our Niagara Falls Air Base should Never Ever be put on a Closing List.

Sincerely
Mrs. Paula Waque

RECEIVED



Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 11:48 AM

From:

To: info@nimac.org

05272005

Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ralph F. Burow Jr. () on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 11:48:49

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 3012 Lockport Road

city: Niagara Falls

state: NY

zip: 14305

comments: The B.R.A.C. Commission must consider the volume and quality of human resources available to support the local units for world wide deployment. In the 20 years working at Niagara Falls Air Station and the six years active duty, I've never seen a better quality force. The overall positive attitudes, dedication, and attention to detail have made our unit that is a model for the rest of the Air National Guard and all of the United States Air Force. We not only draw on human resources from the active duty Air Force, but have more highly educated personnel than we ever have had. Even many Non-commissioned sergeants and airman have bachelor and associate degrees, or have taken a number of courses toward a degree. Our unit has always stepped forward to volunteer for deployments and expeditionary force commitments to all regions of the world.

I am proud to serve with this unit, and even with so many pending retirements, I have extreme confidence in our human resource! s, that have an aggressive attitude toward training, that we will continue to meet and exceed all mission requirements. God Bless America!

submit: Submit Petition

RECEIVED

May 17, 2005

05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

The department of Defense has recommended to the BRAC Commission that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station be closed. This comes as a very big disappointment to the western New York Community. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's already declining economy.

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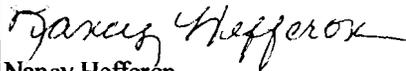
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I request that you STRONGLY RECONSIDER the decision to close this base. The fine men and women in the 107th Air Refueling Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing have been and continue to be instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hefferon
1441 Hosmer Road
Barker, NY 14012

590 Morgan Drive
Lewiston, NY 14092
May 16, 2005

05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C.
c/o the Niagara Military Affairs Council
P.O. Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0231

RECEIVED

Dear Commissioners:

I am appalled that the BRAC Commission has put the Niagara Falls Air Base on the closing list.

Most reasonable people understand the magnitude of this air base to the Niagara/Buffalo region.

Niagara Falls is home to the most important power plant in the State of New York. This plant is especially vulnerable to terrorism since it supplies power to various locations in New York State, including New York City.

Additionally, since Niagara Falls and Buffalo border Canada, the need for additional military protection is of utmost importance. Putting all military support in one location only serves to enhance the potential for terrorism. As the old saying goes, "it is never a good idea to put all your eggs in one basket."

Please rethink the consequences of closing the Niagara Falls air base. The country needs this protection, as well as the Niagara Frontier.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Virginia K. Tompkins

FILED

05272005

May 16, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC

Re: Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

To Whom It May Concern:

It was with great disappointment and frustration to learn that your commission has recommended closure of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

As a border city that also houses the Niagara Power Project, I am amazed that you would feel the necessity to close this Base. Not only does it have one of the largest runways in New York State, but also millions of dollars have been put into construction projects at this facility.

In addition to the above, this area has already deteriorated to a state where any further closings will drastically affect the economy of the community. Over the past two decades, the reduction of industry in this area has caused severe loss of tax revenue to our city. Closing of the Air Station will only cause additional problems. We need the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to protect and defend us.

Please don't take away anymore from this community. **We need the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station**, not only for the economy, but also more importantly for the safety and well being of the people who live, work and support the cities and communities surrounding the Air Base, including our Canadian neighbors.

Here our voices. Keep the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station open.

Marian & John Dallessandro
4015 Seneca Parkway
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

RECEIVED

05272005

1113 Lockwood Drive
Lockport, NY 14094-7122
May 17, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

I served four years, ten months active duty in the Air Force. I served at the largest Air Force base in North America, and at a base which is now closed. I have also served almost eight years in the Army National Guard and Reserves.

The news that the Department of Defense wishes to close the Niagara Falls Reserve Base is fascinating. I can understand the fiscal sensibility of creating "super-bases" where entire fleets are housed. However, from a security stand point, such a move is ludicrous! Placing all cargo operations in Little Rock, and all refueling operations in Bangor places the entire fleet at risk and vulnerable to a single attack. And since December 7, 1941, the U.S. air fleet has been attacked several times while on the ground. If we do not keep our air fleet dispersed over a wide area, we are doomed to lose it.

I will admit that the Niagara Falls Reserve Base is small. But the facilities are as-good-as, or better than its active duty components. Over the last ten years the runway has been expanded, several new hangers have been built, new fueling facilities have been constructed, new B.O.Q's and V.A.Q's have been built, and the list of improvements goes on and on. We should also consider that Niagara Falls Air Reserve base sits upon the International border. This border, although currently friendly, is very fluid and is vulnerable to being breached by terrorists. There are three electrical power generation facilities in Western New York, two of them in Niagara County. Without the physical presence of the military in this area, we would be extremely vulnerable to attacks which could have a catastrophic impact to the entire Eastern seaboard!

I also understand the shift from the reserves to active duty. But I ask where is the necessary manpower going to come from? At the present time, recruitment and retention across the military is declining. Numerous times over the last four years we

have heard D.O.D. officials praise the Guard and Reserve forces for their professionalism and willingness to serve their country. If these units are moved and bases closed, who will augment the active duty forces in time of crisis or war? The people of the 914th and 107th proudly serve with distinction and they are citizens of Western New York! I fear that closing this base, and transferring the unit headquarters is to doom these units to failure and would take decades to rebuild to the current level of professionalism.

I am currently in the process of re-enlisting in the reserves. This would be my final run for retirement. I am fully qualified and licensed in a "critical" or shortage career field. My first choice is to return to the Air Force. But knowing that there is a serious possibility that Niagara Falls would close, and I would have to travel to Arkansas, Virginia, Maine, or Massachusetts one weekend per month makes me seriously reconsider this option!

I would ask that the BRAC Commission step back and take a look at "the big picture". Closing bases such as Niagara Falls Reserve Base in an attempt to save money will end up costing more money in the long run and would seriously compromise the nations security both here at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Stalker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Robert G. Stalker

RECEIVED

Celeste Crawford
Box, 265, Wilson NY 14172
May 16, 2005

05272005

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs:

What were you thinking? Don't you remember your mothers telling you "Don't cut off your nose just to spite your face" or "Don't put all of your eggs in one basket"?

We are living in a post 9/11 world. This is no time for foolish thinking.

Are you really serious about removing a newly upgraded viable military base near the country's northern border? The safety of this country and the protection of our borders should be your prime concern, not the political implications of your decision.

I have read that the purpose of this closing of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is to consolidate all of the refueling planes on one base in Arkansas. This is supposed to save money. It certainly will save money for those planning the next terrorist attack. One colossal strike will wipe out all of the planes and leave us without the capability to refuel in the air.

I ask you to consider the proximity of this station to the Niagara River border crossings and to remember the sacrifices that the men and women of this station, and their families, have given and are still giving to the war in Iraq.

Yours truly,

Celeste Crawford

RECEIVED

05272005

450 - 22nd Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
May 16, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC

To whom it may concern:

I cannot believe that you are thinking of closing the Niagara Falls Air Base. In a time when Homeland Security seems to be a critical issue, you would actually think of closing this base? Don't you realize that we are right near the Canadian border, plus there are two power plants nearby. I would think this alone would warrant this base being open.

I know there are numerous jobs that will be lost because of this. I also think you will be losing a lot of reservists. The economy in this area is very bad to begin with. This would be a major blow to the Western New York area. We never seem to get a break in this area of New York State. Everyone thinks New York means the "New York City area", and we are the poor cousins at the other end of the state. No one cares about us.

If you close this air base, you might as well hang up a sign in Niagara Falls saying "Rest in Peace". There are just too many things to recover from. This area is not growing, even with one of the seven modern day wonders of the world located here. We are dying a slow death. You are just putting another nail into the coffin.

I hope you reconsider the decision to close this air base. You are just playing into the hands of the terrorists by removing a protection point in this critical area. Think about it. Use common sense instead of numbers for a change.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Nowak

BRAC Commission

RECEIVED

Washington, D.C.

05272005

May 17, 2005

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BRAC COMMISSION 05272005
WASHINGTON DC

RECEIVED

3948 CALKINS
YOUNGSTOWN NY
14134

Gentlemen:

I wish to comment on the decision to close all the military bases in the country.

op
po
La
?
to
off
cor
car
pre

I frankly see this as an attempt to cut costs at the expense of the safety of United States. It all starts with our giving out our income to Mid East Countries. The Bush administration has got us in a mess beyond our costs and seeks to continue this outlandish expense in a venture that is costing many American lives and all of our money and most of those countries hate us for our involvement.

the
Nia
imm
aliv

There is only one good answer - Get out of the Mid East; stop spending all our money and leave our bases in the U.S. alone.

George W. Frost

RECEIVED

05272005

441 Morgan Drive
Lewiston, NY 14092
May 19, 2005

Dear BRAC Commission:

I have been employed for the past ten years as a Marketing Director for the MWR/Services department at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. I was very surprised when it was announced by the Pentagon that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station was listed on the BRAC closure list. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3000 full and part-time employees, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's economy.

I totally understand that the Pentagon wants to reduce operating costs, but at what price? From what I have read, units here at Niagara Falls are being moved to different locations throughout the country. However, has anyone thought of how this decision is going to affect the Reservists and Guardsmen? These units are not being relocated to a base that is near Niagara, but thousands of miles away. My co-workers will now have to commute thousands of miles in order to serve their country. Not to mention, these Reservists and Guardsmen will have to relocate in order to find a new full time job at their new duty station. Otherwise, they will have to spend their paychecks to pay for travel costs every month for their drill. It really does not make any sense. Along with this, definitely from my experience in dealing with the troops stationed here at Niagara, their morale will decline. I thought my job as well as DoD in general was to support our troops at any costs? I feel that the troops' morale has not been a factor in this decision and it should have been a major factor.

The Niagara Falls ARS is the only base in the U.S. that is located near four border crossings along with the New York State Power Authority Hydropower complex that provides power to the Northeast United States Grid. Many of the 250,000 citizens in the Greater Western New York area feel much safer with the Base located here because it provides a military presence in the area.

Over the years, the USCG as well as the U. S. Border Patrol not only trained here at Niagara, but also, they have launched their helicopters from Niagara. Let us not forget, terrorists have been arrested in Buffalo a few years ago as well as the U.S. Border Patrol constantly arrest people trying to sneak into the U.S. from Canada. The Base is strategically located to support the War on Terror and to patrol our borders. In my opinion, to secure our border even better and that the Base has one of the longest runways in the Northeast, the Base should host a fighter wing to patrol our borders. Therefore, it should not be closed, but expanded to accommodate this additional military unit.

The closing of Niagara Falls would reduce the Air Force presence in NY by 40% and eliminate the last Federal Air Force flying mission in the State. Since 1995, the Base has been modernized with \$35M in projects as well as operating costs have been reduced by at least 25% (Data furnished by the Niagara Military Affairs Council). In addition to these facts, Niagara is the best AFRC installation in recruiting with over a 100% manning rate. This means that the installation is doing its job well with recruiting new members as well as keeping current reservists enrolled in the military.

Along with the strategic location of the Niagara Falls ARS on four border crossings, the Base faces no physical encroachment or air traffic control constraints. This means that the Base could handle additional aircraft and air traffic. The Base also hosts many other Federal Government agencies, military units and civic organizations for training purposes. Therefore,

the Niagara Falls ARS is being used by many other various agencies instead of strictly by the Air Force.

According to the Pentagon's closure list, it seems like the military units that are located in the northern part of the U.S. are being moved south. Why is this being done? Bases in the north like Niagara Falls do not have as extreme weather conditions as people experience in the south such as tornados, hail, and even hurricanes. Back in the early 1990s, bases like Homestead AFB were damaged due to Hurricane Andrew. A few military installations were damaged last year due to hurricanes while bases in the north like Niagara Falls did not close or were damaged due to inclement weather. Years ago, Niagara Falls once hosted aircraft from other bases that were being hit with a hurricane. Besides this, should not our troops be trained in all different types of weather instead of hot weather all of the time?

In regards to the 914th and 107th, both of these units have won numerous Air Force military and civilian awards along with being recognized in the local community. By relocating these units, I am sure that DoD will lose many of these highly skilled individuals because if the troops are ordered to relocate, there is a possibility that they will either resign or retire from the military. Again, the closing of this base will hurt troop morale. As far as the civilians that are employed on the base, many of them will probably chose not to relocate and enter into the civilian job force. This means that DoD will lose all of this corporate knowledge.

By closing many Reserve bases, the Pentagon is really hurting the local communities financially, support for the military, and the Employer Support the Guard/Reserve program (ESGR). Bases that are located in small towns and cities seem to foster "grass roots" support for the troops because these troops live in the community. Local companies support the ESGR program by permitting the Reservists to serve our country. The way the world is today, the military needs as much community support as possible. By combining many of these bases, the Pentagon will lose this support as well as it will definitely have a negative impact on towns like ones surrounding Niagara Falls.

In closing, I humbly request that you strongly reconsider the decision to close the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The outstanding Reservists and Guardsmen of the 914th Airlift Wing and 107th Air Refueling Wing have been instrumental in securing the home front as well as fighting the war on terror overseas. By consolidating Reserve units into active duty bases really does not support Reservist's troop morale.

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

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

Jerry D. Slipko
Jds915@msn.com
716-754-8465

BRAC Commission

Received

6/24/2005

May 1, 2005

Dear BRAC,

listen here you BRAC
Why are you shutting down the air
Base People lose their jobs. How will
they take care of their family? I
think you people are you are making a
Big mistake

Sincerely

Nicole Richmond

Nicole
Richmond

Received

6/24/2005

May 25, 2005

BRAC Commission
 Washington, D.C.
 c/o NI MAC
 P.O. box 231
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Dear Chairman Principi

Don't close Niagara Falls
 Air Force Reserve base.

Two of my friends dad are in
 the base. The governer invested
 35 M dollars.

That base saved Jessica
 Lyncil. The many vision C-130 planes saved
 her. I urge you keep this base
 open.

Yours truly,

Alan Hester

6/24/2005

May 25, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington D.C.
% Nimac P.O. Box 231
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

Dear Chairman Principi,

Please do not close the
Niagara Falls Airforce reserve base.

I do not understand why you
would even think to do so.

I would like to go to sleep at
night knowing I am safe.

Many people will lose their jobs
if you go through with this.

In fact two people will have to
move because their fathers
work there. It would be very
foolish of you to close the base,
because it was this base that
rescued Jessica Lynch from her doom.

If you close the base you would
have wasted thirty-five million
dollars. I have one last reason

I WANT TO LIVE!!!

With all due respect,

Madeline L. Green
Alexander Hamilton

6/24/2005

May 25, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC.
% NIMAC
PO Box 231
Niagra Falls, NY 14304

Dear Chairman Principi

I am asking you as a friend not to close the Niagra Falls Air Force Reserve base. Many jobs will be lost including my father. Why is it this air base.

The Niagra Falls air base helped Jessica Lynch. What if another soldier is beaten again, who is going to save them. Please I beg you keep this base open.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cohen

6/24/2005

May, 25, 05

BRAC Commission
Washington DC,
% Nimac
P.O Box 231
Niagara Falls
Ny. 14304

Dear Chairman Principiv

please Don't close the air force base.
Because some students in our
class have a father in the base.
Also if you close The air force
they would be a rag target.
why did you pick This air force to
close?

Yours Truly,
Kristi Carson

Received

6/24/2005

May 25 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, D.C
% MIMAC
Po. Box 231
Niagara Falls N.Y. 14034

Dear Chairman Principi,

Please don't close the Niagara Falls airbase because if you close it we will not be safe from the terrorist attack. Why did you choose to close the Niagara Falls airbase because I don't think that is a very good decision to make. Why do you need all this money? I think that you should leave the Niagara Falls airbase open because if you left it open we will be safe from terrorist attack. I rather be safe then not safe. I think the best decision to make is to have it open please do not close the airbase.

Yours truly,

Marissa Fahs

Received
25,05
6/24/2005

Brac Commission
Washington DC.
% NEMAC
PO Box 231
Niagra Falls, N.Y. 14304

Dear Chairman Principi,

Please do not close the Niagra Fall
Air Force reserve base. It would make a lot
of people lose their jobs including some of
my friends fathers.

This Air Force base is important because
they helped save Jessica Lynch and they're
the leading night vision C-130.
The government invested 35 million
dollars in new things for the base.
please, I beg of you don't close the
base.

Sincerely,
Nathan Weller

Received

6/24/2005

May 23, 2005

BRAC Commission
Washington, DC.
c/o II MAC
P.O. Box 231
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

Dear Chairman Principi,

I'm requesting that you don't close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base for the sake of our protection. This base is leading the fight Vision C-130. Close the base and you'll have to transfer the job to a base that's already busy enough. Also, the government invested 2 million dollars in new plane equipment, etc.

Please, I urge you to keep this base open.

Yours Truly,
Peter Drago

06-07-05

BRAC Commission
received
6/24/2005

Chairman A.T. Brucis
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark St
Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

It among the rest of the citizens of the county was very upset by the Dept. of Defense recommendation to close Falls Air Force Reserve & Guard

Our air base is a vital U.S. base with the latest has-mat equipment. There be problems at customs on our bridges, such as the scare last week with a white powder dispensing from a bag of counterfeit money causing people to become ill. The Reserves from the base responded immediately treating the ill. The bridge was shut down for several hours, some people were hospitalized. No lives were lost. The FBI arrived to take over the situation. We are thankful our Reserves have been on call for the emergencies.

Please reconsider your decision of taking planes & jobs from Air Guard & Reserve Bases & putting them on the more expensive active Duty Bases. The impact will be devastating to our Air National Guard & our economy.

Sincerely
Fannie Whipple

1309 Cleveland Ave
N. ...

BRAC Commission
RECEIVED

6/28/2005

Marina L. Heppner
5 Ridgewood Drive
Orchard Park NY 14127
(716) 677-0485

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

June 8, 2005

Mr. Roger W. Rozon
6235 Dorchester Road
Lockport, NY 14094
716-434-4235

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

Dear Commissioners:

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6/11/05

Dear Brad,
If you shut the air base
down our men that fight for
our freedom and yours
will not have a base + troops
if you killed them will kill you

sincerely,
Keith McDougald
Keith McDougald

What "our" government threaten
 to do to me is incredible, embarrassing
 dangerous and the height of stupidity -
 but then you in Washington D.C. - wait
 to in danger & guess you can ignore
 me, concentrating on your own area!
 You apparently feel that the
 power plant, the US-Canada border,
 and a depressed economic situation do
 not merit your concern.
 Here, you can save the large
 capitalised power to Arkansas (Clinton
 got??) and spend the amount to
 give us down further - is that
 justice? I think not.
 Any man I meet who has his feet
 not on ground, the ground from, not
 great, Rot, etc. is one of those
 to know from so being - you're
 kicking our ass - learn from your
 feet leave our young, healthy men also.
 I used to think (when I was
 naive) that our country had to be
 more equally fairly - then we know
 better - both make up!! Slope m. (steep),
 RN, 850MS, Murray
 not in all politics.

President
 FRC

815 Page Ave
 Keenston NY 14092
 6/11/05

June 10, 2005
6741 Michael Rd.
Orchard Park, NY
14127

Attention: NIMAC
Box 231
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

I am writing to urge that our
airbase in Niagara Falls not be
closed.

Response time to Canada or
along our east coast is very good from
here. All the tankers grouped
together in Maine or Okla home is
not a good idea.

The units here were sent to the
middle east as soon as the war
began in Iraq. They are important.

Improvements are scheduled to be
done soon and runways were ex-
tended not too long ago.

For national security and training
purposes, the units should stay here.
The committee who makes these
decisions needs to be convinced.

Sincerely,

Dora Lindemuth

6/11/05

To Members of BRAC:

As the widow of a retired Air Force officer I must strongly object to the closing of the Niagara Falls Air Base.

It is strategic to our Homeland Defense. It is on our border, granted a friendly one. However, the Power Vista which supplies much electric power to the U.S. & Canada is located on this border. If anything it should be expanded, possibly to include fighter planes.

Trusting that you will do the right thing, I remain

Mrs Mary M Rogers

RECEIVED

May 25, 2005

B.R.A.C. Commission
Washington, DC.
c/o NIMAC
Po. box 231
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

06232005

Dear Chairman Principi,

Please don't close Niagara Falls Air force Reserve base. I know you get probably get alot of mail on this topic; but if you closed it the whole east Niagara coast will be unsafe. Because it is a prime target for Iraq. All they have to do is drop an 8,000 dollar atomic bomb on it and our whole electric grid will be disfunctional. That and the fact that you'll be throwing away 35 million dollars away. That might not be alot to you but if I spent all that money on it, i'd definitely try to keep it open as long as possible. You probably think it's a hassle to read all of the mails that were writing;

but trust me when I say
this: there's a lot more where
this one came from. A lot of
money, jobs and safety will
be lost. My teacher told
us all to write the same
stuff but I wanted to
say it in my own words.
In conclusion, I think it'd
be unsafe for you to close
it.

Sincerely,

Spence Miliatto

P.S. Please don't close it.

BRAC Commission
Received

6/24/2005

6-1-05

Dear Brack Commissioner,

If shooting down the air base
would probably decrease the
population of Niagara Falls,
New York leaving hundreds of
jobless. Decreasing or population
on New York state, We also
need the airbase as
a backup in war in
the iragu War, right now.
If all the planes are
shot down we'll really need
the backup power of
or troops and jets.

51
Sincerely, Andrew Parsnick

Dear Brac

Sarah

IF you close down the air base you are
so foolish because how is the war plane's
going to fly over Iraq? I request you to
stop them buildings! And how are
you going to save the fuel of
justice if she got stuck in
Iraq again.

Sincerely, Sarah Small

Sarah Small

BRAC Commission

Received

6/24/2005

6/1/05

Dear BRAC

I want you to stay open
because you protect our town
also help with chemical spills and
you provide jobs. please keep the
air base open.

Sincerely
Austin Amoretti

1101

BRAC Commission
Received
6/24/2005

6/1/05

Dear Brac,

I think we should ~~keep~~ keep
the air base open because they
have some air shows there and
they help many people they
also protect us.

Sincerely,

Samantha Graham

Samantha Graham

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/24/2005

6-14-05

Dear BRAC,

I want the air base to stay open because you provide protection to our city and we would like to see the air show.

Sincerely Andrew Fairbairn

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/24/2005

Dear BRAC, IF you should be doing all
the people will be mad and the people will
not love - how to be a

Sincerely,
[Signature]

BRAC Commission

Received

6/24/2005

Date 6/1/05

Dear, BRAC

I would still love to have the air base because they could have more air shows. And also because alot of people will lose there jobs. Not only that the reserve unit will not be able to protect our border

PLEASE KEEP
IT OPEN

Sincerely, Alexandra Duval
Alexandra Duval

BRAC Commission

Received

6/24/2005

6/1/05

Dear BRAC,

I think we should keep the
air base open because many people
would lose their jobs. ~~Obama~~ Pat
McDonagh would not be happy because
he loves his job. Plus a lot of people
would rather become soldiers than

Sincerely,
Autum K. Burton

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/24/2005

6-1-05

Dear BRAC,

I am against closing down the Air Base and Reserve when I went to the Air Base, I had so much fun. Especially when the kids got to play around.

Sincerely,
Bradlee Wilson
Bradlee Wilson

1/05

Dear B.R.a.C

You are stupid to shut
down in PreviDes TOBs also helps
chemical spills aswell very sim
people and save THE THOPES

~~Sincerely Bx Dan Susta~~

Sincerely Dan Susta



RECEIVED

Robert A. MacPhee
Marguerite A. MacPhee
6322 Milleville Circle
Sanborn, New York 14132
716-731-5288

06202005

Dear : *Brac Commission*

I am the mother of Tech Sergeant Cory M. MacPhee. He is an Air Force reservist with the 914 Airbase at Niagara Falls, New York. Cory has been a reservist since 1985. You have had my son as a nineteen year old and have used him until he is now a man, a husband, a father, a brother and uncle and most of all our loving son. He has always believed he was doing his job as an American to keep his country safe. A place to raise his son in peace. His outfit was deployed in 1991 in the Gulf War. The 914 were again deployed to Tubuk in Saudi Arabia returning home to be re-deployed to Tallil Air Base in Iraq. In doing so he missed a year out of his son's life and returned to NO JOB. A job that he loved and was well paid for. When he did return home Dec of 2003 to NO JOB he was able to get a civilian job at the Airbase. He was home going on with family life, building a house then on May 13, 2005, it was announced that the Niagara Falls Air Base was on the chopping block. How could that happen? The 914 always made 98% of their flights in theater. Their C-130 was the first plane to land at Baghdad airport because they were the only unit that had night vision experience. Their C-130 picked-up Jessica Lynch. Their C-130 flew the Joint Chief of staff. Their C-130 flew the US ambassador out of Baghdad. Their C-130 flew Hillary Clinton, Wayne Newton, and the Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to name a few. The 914 has always been rated number one. In 1991 the Base was awarded C-130H airplanes because of their outstanding performance in theater. How can you in good conscience take a unit that has performed so outstanding and just dismantle and discard them.

I can't believe that my son who has given twenty years to the 914 Air Force is now being discarded like trash. What is to happen to him, his wife and son? To make matters worse our government has the nerve to deploy the 914 again in the next few months. Will they have place to come home to or will the base be closed while they are gone?

The nerve of my country to treat my son and all the son's of American citizen this way!!!! Now the government wants to move all our sons away from family and loved ones. Disrupt his life again.
WHEN WILL THIS EVER END?

Sincerely,

Robert A MacPhee
Marguerite A. MacPhee

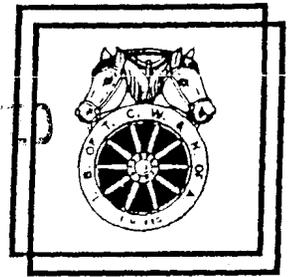
RONALD G. LUCAS
PRESIDENT
PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER
WILLIAM C. McCracken
SECRETARY/TREASURER
BUSINESS AGENT
KENNETH BRZEZINKSI
VICE PRESIDENT
TERRY HUGHES
RECORDING SECRETARY
RICHARD S. CARR
TRUSTEE
ANGELO FIORELLO, JR.
TRUSTEE
PAUL PARLATO
TRUSTEE
ROBERT BONILLA
BUSINESS AGENT
THOMAS W. DZIEDZIC
BUSINESS AGENT
BRADLEY R. HAAG
BUSINESS AGENT
RICHARD LIPSITZ
BUSINESS AGENT
LABOR MOVEMENT LIAISON
EDWARD T. McDONALD
BUSINESS AGENT
GLENN C. MILLER
BUSINESS AGENT
SCOTT CHISMAR
DIRECTOR OF
ORGANIZING / FIELD REP.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 264

AFFILIATED WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS,
TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL No. 46
AND ITS VARIOUS TRADE CONFERENCES AND TRADE DIVISIONS



RECEIVED



MAIN OFFICE:
35 TYROL DRIVE
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK 14227-2715
(716) 668-8007 Fax (716) 668-8122
1-800-773-9115

BRANCH OFFICE:
102 E. MAIN STREET
FALCONER, NEW YORK 14733
(716) 665-4014 Fax (716) 665-6006
1-888-458-1802

June 2, 2005

Senator Byron Brown
65 Court St., Rm 213
Buffalo, NY 14202

06202005

Dear Senator Brown:

The Pentagon has recommended the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, NY 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 Power Authority's Hydropower complex which harnesses the Niagara and supplies substantial power to the Northeast Unity 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 fighter squadron the 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 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 107th Air Refueling Wing and 914th Airlift Wing have been instrumental in securing the homefront and fighting the war on terror overseas.

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

Sincerely,

William C. McCracken
Secretary-Treasurer



PLEASE DIRECT RETURN CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHEEKTOWAGA, NY ADDRESS

5/30/05

To: Chairman, Anthony J. Precipice
Base Realignment Commission

Dear Chairman + BRAC Commission
Living in Niagara Falls - on a
border which could be very vert-
nerable, I don't understand why
this Air Base would ever be con-
sidered for closure. Whenever
there is trouble, our boys are
first in the air. They have
always done their share and
more.

Moreover, the Base is the largest
employer in this depressed area.
The impact of 3000 jobs lost
& families moved away from
here, will devastate this city,
not to ~~even~~ mention that it would
make the defence of the city
harder if should ever become



RECEIVED
06022005

***YOUR
help is needed
to keep the
Niagara Falls Air Base
OPEN!!!!***

Please sign, date, and include your address on the attached letter then return it to the front counter.

Or

Go to www.nimac.org and click on the stop sign that reads "Help save the Niagara Air Base". You can "sign" an on-line petition there.

Numbers Show Our Strength

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

29 105 12005

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

VANESSA SIRIANNI
975 ESCARPMENT DR.
LEWISTON, NY 14092-2021



RECEIVED
06022005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commisioners:

I am 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 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,

Vanessa Sirianni
(A concerned Citizen)

Vanessa Sirianni
975 Escarpment Drive

And a former employee of this Base I am
Lewiston New York
14092

Also Member of this Base!!

(716) 297-0187

Proud of this Air Base. and my fellow members!!

Date: 5/30/2005

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 SOUTH CLARK STREET
STE. 600
ARLINGTON, VA 22202
www.brac.gov

6/2/05

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.
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- 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 **107th Air Refueling Wing** and **914th Airlift Wing** have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Additional Comments: _____

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

Sincerely,

Josephine Tokarchick
8624 Rushing Ave
Niagara Falls NY 14304

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: () _____

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

RECEIVED
06022005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am deeply concerned and troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls International Air Reserve Station. I feel this recommendation is a terrible mistake and goes against all sound military judgment, and does not take into consideration current and future needs of the Defense Department and Homeland Security. I urge you and your fellow BRAC Commissioners to reverse this decision and remove them from the list.

I find it hard to understand and justify in my mind why the Air Force decided to close this base, take planes, missions and jobs from a base that ranks higher than other bases that are being kept open and, according to the Air Forces' own statistics, have a lower efficiency, higher utilities, lower manpower utilization and retention rates. The facts and figures of the cost analysis just don't justify the alleged projected savings for closure and therefore are very suspect. I also question why so many Air Reserve and Air Guard jobs, planes, and bases are being eliminated/transferred to a more costly active Air Force Base which is a thousand miles away and located in "tornado alley" and must have millions of dollars spent to accommodate these newly assigned aircraft and personnel. I feel that we might be hiding something from the public, is it similar to the old cannibalization program that was outlawed many years ago? Are we taking Air Reserve/Guard aircraft and personnel and transferring them to the active forces because Air Force/DOD does not want or have the money to replace active Air Force aircraft or personnel due to poor judgment or lack of money? Are we robbing from Peter to pay Paul? I cannot understand how a "judgment call" can outweigh the facts, the figures and the better ratings. The crews from Niagara helped in the rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision qualified C-130 Hercules units in the Air Force Reserve.

The Niagara air station is a relatively new station and has constantly removed and added buildings as the mission changed. Runways and taxi aprons are in immaculate condition. The main runway is the longest in the area, if not the state, and much of this runway and apron upgrading has been done without Defense Department monies. Niagara's combination of long main runway and adjacent shorter runway provide ideal training for C-130 aircrews. Niagara should be a prime candidate for expansion and increased mission requirements under the Department of Defense and Homeland Security Agency. Niagara could accommodate the Boeing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, which has a similar mission but longer runway requirements and can carry heavier loads. This addition would enhance the potential of Niagara and the Air Force mission while staying closely related to what is already at Niagara. The retention of Niagara would support the additional mission of transporting the Army's 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York in a rapid response force for global missions.

While the Niagara serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically located and fully expandable to allow the addition of a fighter/helicopter squadron and a contingent of military police or rapid response force personnel to further secure America's northern border and northeast power grid infrastructure. Niagara lies in close proximity to four major border crossings between the United States and Canada. It has the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower and the Canadian Hydro complex, which harnesses the waters of the mighty Niagara River and supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Power Grid, and has numerous chemical-processing facilities, which are of great importance to the United States economy. Niagara has also been chosen to be the home of the new joint service Military Entrance Processing Station that is presently under construction on the base to process new applicants into the United States Armed Forces. Niagara should be expanded rather than closed.

We are an international border city located in a geographical area that enables aircrews to cover a great part of the United States and Canada without fear of severe weather, such as tornados, hurricanes, drought and flooding. We have snow in the winter; fortunately our geographical location shields us from much of the snow and severe weather received in other parts of the state.

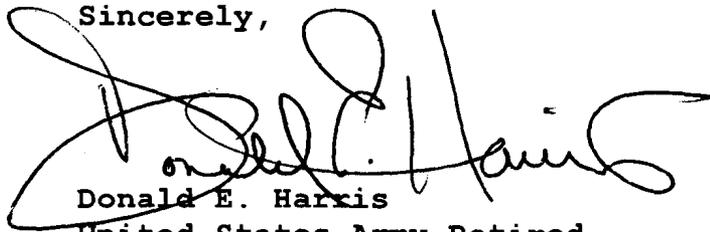
According to the Niagara Military Affairs Council:

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- 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. These units have distinguished themselves and the United States Air Force in the performance of their duty while in Afghanistan and Iraq with no additional time needed for training. In short, "Our planes keep flying."
- Niagara Falls existing infrastructure can accommodate 8 additional C-130H model aircraft and personnel without any military construction.
- Niagara Falls faces no physical encroachment or air traffic control constraints and has acreage on the base and adjacent to the installation for expansion.

I request that you strongly reconsider the decision to close this station. We are extremely proud of the fine men and women of the 107th Air Refueling Wing and 914th Airlift Wing and they have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the War on Terror. These young men and women are serving alongside their active duty Air Force counterparts. They are facing the same dangers as their brother and sister airmen. Our local "Citizen Soldiers and Airmen" and active duty military have paid an enormous price for our freedom in this War on Terror. We have lost 19 brave young "Citizen Soldiers" and active military people from this area because of the War on Terror; we owe to their memory more than "lip service". We claim them, their families and their fellow military as our neighbors. Rather than close this base and send our Western New Yorkers' to the corners of the United States, we should expand Niagara, increase the mission, and provide the necessary men, women, structures and equipment to support that increased military mission and support for Homeland security. I would also humbly ask if someone could explain and justify to me why we are sending everything south and west, and putting "all our eggs in one basket", does not the rest of the country count?

Thank you for your time and your consideration on what I consider to be a very important national matter. This is not a unilateral matter affecting just the Air Reserve/Air Guard station, but also one of saving a military installation that is an integral part of doing the most to effectively utilize our Air Reserve/Air Guard forces to support active military forces in times when rapid responses, and extended deployments are required for our National Defense, Homeland Security and the Department of Air Force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Donald E. Harris
United States Army Retired

cc: NIMAC

Frank J. Losardo
pizzamn@localnet.com

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 crossings 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.

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

Sincerely,



Frank J. Losardo
132 Banko Drive
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 684-6783

RECEIVED
5/25/05

Date: May 25, 2005

RECEIVED
05272005

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 SOUTH CLARK STREET
STE. 600
ARLINGTON, VA 22202
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.

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Additional Comments: _____

Keep Our Base Open!

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

Sincerely,
Carmella Krzyskoski

Name: Carmella Krzyskoski
Address: 8616 Pershing Ave.
Phone #: (716) 283 1904

Date: 5/24/05

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 SOUTH CLARK STREET
STE. 600
ARLINGTON, VA 22202
www.brac.gov

RECEIVED
05272005

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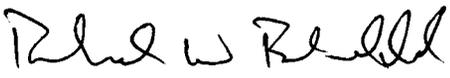
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Additional Comments: _____

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

Sincerely, 



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bradfield
8611 Pershing Ave.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: 716 283 3564

Date: May 23, 2003

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 SOUTH CLARK STREET
STE. 600
ARLINGTON, VA 22202
www.brac.gov

RECEIVED
05272005

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Additional Comments: _____

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

Sincerely,

Lucy C. Lu Scala

Name: _____
Address: 8636 3rd Ave. Niagara Falls, NY
Phone #: (716) 297-4403

RECEIVED

26/05/2005

05272005

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 a nine year veteran of the U.S Army and Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. I am also a native of Niagara Falls and have lived within 5mi of the Niagara Falls Air Base my entire life. I have witnessed how active a role the Army and Air Guard and Reserve units of Niagara Falls have played in the fight for freedom since desert storm. And how the Air Base has been the hub for that support in the area, not to mention the role it has played in the Retention of local soldiers in the Active Duty side, giving them support when they are home and support to their families when they are away.

The closing of this base will be a devastating blow to the local economy of Niagara Falls. It will also be a great hindrance to the recruiting of Active Duty and National Guard/Reserves soldiers. Also the retention of combat proven Non-Commissioned Officers of the local Army National Guard and Reserve units will plummet.

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 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,

Simeon D. Mokhiber
(A concerned Citizen)

From: (CLAUDETTE DUTTON)
Date: 05/24/05 17:16:03
To: info@nimac.org
Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
CLAUDETTE DUTTON () on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 17:16:00

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 10563 hammond hill rd

city: east otto

state: NY

zip: 14729

comments: KEEP NIAGARA FALLS AIR BASE
OPEN

submit: Submit Petition

RECEIVED

05272005



Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 11:40 PM

From:

To: info@nimac.org

Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
KATHIE M RENNER () on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at 23:40:20

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the
Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 27 GALLOWAY ST

city: BUFFALO

state: NEW YORK

zip: 14210-2422

comments: AS A MEMBER OF THE ERIE COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT
OF NEW YORK, I BELIEVE THAT THE CLOSING OF THE NIAGARA FALLS AIR BASE IS A
TERRIBLE MISTAKE. YOUR IDEA OF MOVING OUR BASE AND COMBINING IT WITH ANOTHER
ABSE IS LUDICRIST. WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR A TERROIST TO
ELIMINATE ALL OF OUR MILITARY PLANES AT ONE TIME? IT WILL ONLY TAKE ANOTHER
INSIDENT LIKE 9/11 TO WIPE OUR MILITARY PLANES RIGHT OUT.
KEEP OUR AIR FORCE BASE RIGHT WHERE IT IS AND LEAVE OUR MILITARY ALONE HERE IN
WESTERN NEW YORK!!!

SINCERELY,
KATHIE M RENNER
PAST PRESIDENT
ERIE COUNTY
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

submit: Submit Petition

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RECEIVED

05272005



Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 7:49 AM

From:

To: Info@nimac.org

Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Margaret Mary O'Connor () on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at 07:49:01

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 17 Kimberly Avenue

city: Buffalo,

state: New York

zip: 14220

comments: Enter your own comments here.

submit: Submit Petition

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05272005



Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 11:07 PM

From:

To: info@nimac.org

Subject: Niagara Air Base Petition

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
thomas f sloan () on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 23:07:49

platform: We oppose the Department of Defense recommendation to close the
Niagara Falls Air Base

address1: 188 como ave

city: buffalo

state: ny

zip: 14220

comments: Enter your own comments here.

submit: Submit Petition

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05272005