



# TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK

S 4295 South Buffalo Street Orchard Park, New York 14127-2609



June 6, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

Upon learning of the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base I felt compelled to write to you. Closing the Niagara Base is not in the nation's best interest, and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove Niagara Falls from the closure list.

Closing the base would have a devastating economic impact on the Western New York Communities: The base is one of the regions largest employer with more than 3,000 full – and part-time military and civilian employees and it has an estimated impact of \$150 million on regional businesses.

Why has the Air Force decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on more costly Active Duty bases? The Niagara Falls Base, located near the electric power plant is a significant factor in protecting the Niagara Power Project.

The media has reported that the military is facing significant challenges in recruiting during war time. 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.

The Orchard Park community stands with the Niagara Falls/Western New York community in support of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base, and its retention. Overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

Toni M. Cudney  
Town of Orchard Park Supervisor

TMC:rb  
cc/File

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