



George E. Pataki
Governor

DCN 1093

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First Deputy Secretary to the Governor



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WILLIAM F. HOWARD
FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2005

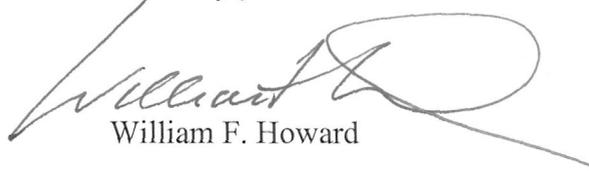
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Governor Pataki. We know that you are very busy with the challenges of your new position and truly appreciate the chance to speak with you personally about issues of great importance to New York State.

I had promised to provide you with some documentation regarding Rome Labs and the Niagara Falls Air Base. This information is included in a format that I hope will emphasize the military value of these two great facilities. We certainly understand what a difficult process this will be for the Commission but believe deeply in the quality of New York's bases. We believe that, if given the chance, our bases can stand on their merits and be recognized for the great value that they provide to the Nation's defense forces. We further believe that if our bases were subject to evaluation by cross service representatives, both Niagara Falls and Rome Labs would receive the highest level of endorsement from those who depend on their services.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help to you on this or other matters of importance. Given your record of accomplishment and your solid reputation for consistent professionalism and fairness, the President has made an excellent choice in selecting you to head this Commission.

Sincerely yours,



William F. Howard

Hon. Anthony J. Principi
Vice President
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RECEIVED
4/28/05

AIR FORCE ROME LABS

Current Situation

The Joint Cross Service package of proposed BRAC closures and realignments includes 5 scenarios, in three of them Rome remains open and two have Rome Labs Closing and going to either Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts or Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio.

The Office, Secretary of Defense will evaluate the BRAC proposals this month and will make final decisions leading to a public announcement on May 13, 2005.

Key Points

AFRL Rome Labs

Full Time Employees	820
Contract Employees	600
Annual Economic Impact	\$212 Million

Griffis Air Force Base in Rome was closed in 1995 as a result of BRAC 1993, resulting in the loss of 4,500 military and civilian jobs. In 1995 Rome Labs was on the BRAC list and a delegation headed by the Governor reversed the BRACS decision.

A \$25 million joint project between New York State and the Federal Government was completed in 2004. All roads and infrastructure are community owned reducing the cost to operate the base.

Military Value – Units’ Mission Capabilities and relationship to the Base

1. Since 1995 Rome Labs has transformed from a facility focused on sensors to one focusing on Information Assurance and Information Dominance technology, key tenets in transformational technology that directly supports the Global War on Terror. The Laboratory’s new consolidated research space allows for collaboration between the technical staff and includes advanced, secure facilities for classified research.
2. Rome Lab is the premiere C4ISR laboratory. C4ISR stands for Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.
3. AFRL-Rome is the leader in the hottest and most critical field in military research, exploiting and protecting information.
4. Rome is DOD leader in C4ISR, with a full spectrum of research to development capabilities: in 2004, the Air force Scientific Advisory Board rated AFRL-Rome’s military value “world class” or “outstanding” in six of seven categories, the highest rankings that can be conferred on a laboratory facility.
5. Rome has a diverse customer base: its top 5 customers include DARPA, the defense Intelligence Agency, NSA, AFRL, AFRL itself, and the Air Force C2 Center; Rome also has an active role in homeland security efforts, with a MOU with the Department of Homeland Security and a co-located NIJ facility.

6. Rome is recruiting the nation's top young talent, over 50 extraordinary new tech graduates have been hired in the past three years, many from a rich NYS information technology corridor.

Expandability / Costs to Close

The cost to re-locate has a return of investment of greater than 80 years per consultant studies. In addition, the two scenarios moving AFRL and other labs to Hanscom or Wright Patterson have a total construction costs cost of greater than \$700 million.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION TALKING POINTS

Current Situation

The USAF package of proposed BRAC closures and realignments which was forwarded recently to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (with the approval of Air Force Chief of Staff, General John Jumper) includes Scenario #318 which recommends closure of Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The recommendation inactivates the 914th Airlift Wing and transfers the 8 C-130H aircraft to the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Base in Arkansas. It also deactivates the 107th Air Refueling Wing and transfers the aircraft to an Air National Guard wing in Bangor Maine.

The Office, Secretary of Defense will evaluate the Military Services BRAC proposals this month and will make final decisions leading to a public announcement on May 13, 2005.

Key Points

	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Economic Impact Millions
<u>Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station</u>				
107 th Airlift Wing (ANG)	284	799	1083	\$52.7
914 th Airlift Wing (AFRC)	506	1262	1768	80.5
865 th Combat Support Hosp (USAR)	31	520	551	20.0
Niagara Falls Totals	821	2581	3402	\$152.

Second largest employer in Niagara County

(Military Value – Units’ Mission Capabilities and relationship to the Base)

1. The 107th ARW at Niagara was recently designated as a permanent member of the Northeast Tanker Task Force (TTF) in addition to the sites in Bangor, ME and Pease, NH. The Task Force supports every aircraft going to Europe and Southwest Asia (Iraq). The 107th was selected due to:

- Their modern tankers (which would now move to Bangor).
- Niagara’s hardened and extended runway enabling them to take off with combat fuel loads.
- Niagara’s strategic geographic location which provides a risk reduction measure for the USAF since it places them outside the winter weather patterns which affect the other TTF bases (Bangor, ME and Pease, NH), yet close in proximity to the TTF Air Bridge which refuels aircraft destined for Europe and Southwest Asia.

2. The 914th is the lead Air Reserve airlift wing whose night vision goggle capability led to a number of special ops missions in Iraq like the PFC Lynch extraction. They were the first Reserve unit sent back to Iraq for a second time, and during the early stages of the war, they were the first Air Force unit based 24-7 inside Iraq. At Niagara Falls, the 914th can conduct night vision training on dedicated military air space over Lake Erie on a 15,000 square mile Low Altitude Training and Navigation Area (LATN) controlled by the Base. Niagara is the only Air Force Reserve C-130 base that has an assault strip and 2 drop zones on base.

(Expandability / Costs to Close)

3. Niagara Falls existing infrastructure can accommodate 8 additional C-130H model aircraft without any military construction (resulting in a total of 16 aircraft). However, the movement of the 914th’s aircraft to Little Rock will require a \$20 million military construction project in order to support the additional planes that would arrive there as a result of the transfer of Niagara’s planes. In summary Niagara can accommodate 16 C-130’s at no additional cost, while Little Rock requires \$20 M in additional spending to have the same number of planes.

(Facilities modernization / low Base Operations Support Costs)

4. 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.

(Air Guard leaving only because the C-130's move / C-130's move because "New York has too many bases")

5. The Air Guard only proposed the movement of the tankers and disestablishment of the 107th Air Refueling Wing after it was clear that the Air Force Reserve (which owns the base) would be moving the 914th's C-130's to Arkansas. Our Pentagon sources indicate that Niagara Falls was added for closure in late January because of an Air Force view that a New York base needed to be closed. If the C-130's remain, the Air National Guard would also likely remain at Niagara.

(Military Presence in Western NY / Recruitment & Retention)

6. 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. The base is the 2nd largest employer in Niagara County. 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. It will debilitate recruitment when, at the Administration's request, we were placing a Military Entrance Processing Site at the Base.