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MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
One Mustang Drive
Medina, New York 14103-1845
(585) 798-2700 ♦ Fax (585) 798-5676

Richard M. Galante
Superintendent of Schools

June 3, 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 am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove them from the list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on more costly Active Duty bases. Of all the bases to pick to close, how do you close the base whose unit helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq because they are the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

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

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove Niagara Falls AFB from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures and to stop the continuing retreat of the military from our region of the country.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Galante". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Richard M. Galante
Superintendent of Schools