



**NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
 5467 Upper Mountain Road, Suite 100  
 Lockport, New York 14094-1894

**PAULETTE M. KLINE, R.N., M.P.H.**  
*Public Health Director*

*(716) 439-7435*  
*(716) 439-7440 Fax*

June 8, 2005

**BRAC Commission**

**JUL 19 2005**

**Received**

Chairman Anthony Principi  
 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
 2521 South Clark Street  
 Suite 100  
 Arlington, Virginia, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

The recommendation of the Defense Department to close the Niagara Falls Air and Guard Base is not in the best interest of either our Niagara region or of the nation. In the interest of preserving Homeland Security, we ask the US Department of Defense and the BRAC to reverse this decision.

Since President Bush issued Presidential Decision Directive 8: National Preparedness (HSPD-8) on December 17, 2003, we have accelerated our local efforts in Niagara County to assess our risks, vulnerabilities and capacities to prepare and respond to large-scale emergencies and threats to the health and security of our local and regional communities. The airbase has been an integral planning partner in our local and regional efforts as we have incorporated the DHS prescribed capabilities-based planning process to build up our critical capacity for homeland security. Airbase partner representatives sit on these committees and more: Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Health Emergency Alert and Response Team (HEART) and Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). Moreover, the Niagara Falls Air Base and Guard partners are written into our local, municipal, county, regional, public health and cross-border emergency plans.

As you know, inter-agency coordination is absolutely essential to build response capacities and to mitigate large-scale emergencies. A recent gap analysis of our county demonstrates the need for continued partnership with the Niagara Falls Air and Guard Base. The following illustrates how the air base contributes to strategic security and serves to augment readiness and critical response capacities:

- Aviation support for domestic and cross-border security incidents
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- Support for mass prophylaxis and vaccination
- Fire and HAZMAT support
- Emergency Medical and Public Health System support
- Technology and Communications infrastructure support
- Emergency Preparedness Training and exercises

- Disaster Recovery
- Ordnance coordination support
- Resource coordination and support
- Civil support
- Environmental agent detection
- Environmental Health and support
- Support for maintaining continuity of government operations
- **Focal point for any federal response staging**

Closure of the Niagara Falls Air and Guard Base would have a wide- ranging deleterious effect on the homeland security and economic stability of Niagara County and the surrounding region. Therefore, we ask of you, in serious consideration of our citizenry, to reverse your decision.

Respectfully yours,

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Steven Lewis, D.V.M., President,  
Niagara County Board of Health

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Paulette M. Kline, R.N., M.Ed., M.P.H.  
Public Health Director

*Elizabeth M. Cardwell*  
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Niagara County Health Department Employee



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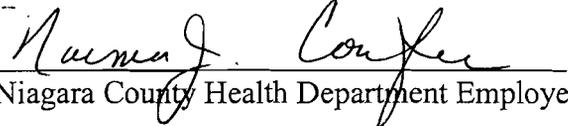
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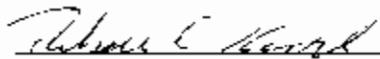
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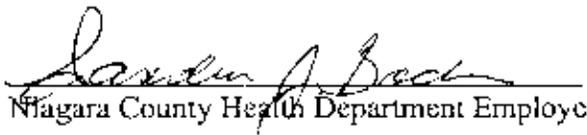
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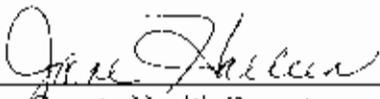
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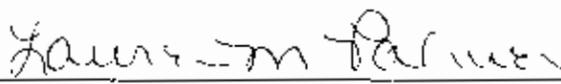
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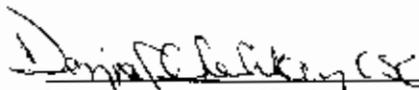
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Niagara County Board of Health

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Paulette M. Kline, R.N., M.Ed., M.P.H.  
Public Health Director

*Karren A. Salimbene*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Niagara County Health Department Employee



**NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
5467 Upper Mountain Road, Suite 100  
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**PAULETTE M. KLINE, R.N., M.P.H.**  
*Public Health Director*  
*(716) 439-7435*  
*(716) 439-7440 Fax*

June 8, 2005

BRAC Commission

**JUL 19 2005**

*Received*

Chairman Anthony Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 100  
Arlington, Virginia, VA 22202

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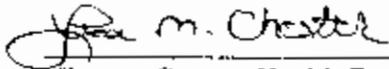
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*Deborah A. Cury S.C.A*  
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Niagara County Health Department Employee



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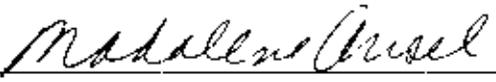
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*Pat Fitzpatrick*  
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Niagara County Health Department Employee



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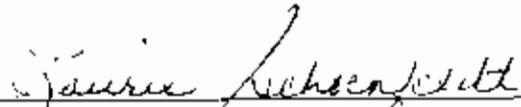
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Niagara County Health Department Employee



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June 8, 2005

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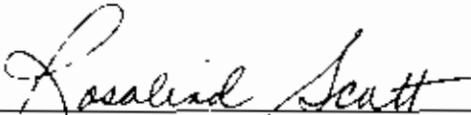
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Rosalind Scott  
Niagara County Health Department Employee



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BRAC Commission

June 8, 2005

JUL 19 2005

Received

Chairman Anthony Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 100  
Arlington, Virginia, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

The recommendation of the Defense Department to close the Niagara Falls Air and Guard Base is not in the best interest of either our Niagara region or of the nation. In the interest of preserving Homeland Security, we ask the US Department of Defense and the BRAC to reverse this decision.

Since President Bush issued Presidential Decision Directive 8: National Preparedness (HSPD-8) on December 17, 2003, we have accelerated our local efforts in Niagara County to assess our risks, vulnerabilities and capacities to prepare and respond to large-scale emergencies and threats to the health and security of our local and regional communities. The airbase has been an integral planning partner in our local and regional efforts as we have incorporated the DHS prescribed capabilities-based planning process to build up our critical capacity for homeland security. Airbase partner representatives sit on these committees and more: Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Health Emergency Alert and Response Team (HEART) and Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). Moreover, the Niagara Falls Air Base and Guard partners are written into our local, municipal, county, regional, public health and cross-border emergency plans.

As you know, inter-agency coordination is absolutely essential to build response capacities and to mitigate large-scale emergencies. A recent gap analysis of our county demonstrates the need for continued partnership with the Niagara Falls Air and Guard Base. The following illustrates how the air base contributes to strategic security and serves to augment readiness and critical response capacities:

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- Technology and Communications infrastructure support
- Emergency Preparedness Training and exercises

- Disaster Recovery
- Ordnance coordination support
- Resource coordination and support
- Civil support
- Environmental agent detection
- Environmental Health and support
- Support for maintaining continuity of government operations
- **Focal point for any federal response staging**

Closure of the Niagara Falls Air and Guard Base would have a wide- ranging deleterious effect on the homeland security and economic stability of Niagara County and the surrounding region. Therefore, we ask of you, in serious consideration of our citizenry, to reverse your decision.

Respectfully yours,

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Niagara County Board of Health

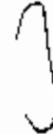


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Niagara County Health Department Employee

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Paulette M. Kline, R.N., M.Ed., M.P.H.  
Public Health Director





NIAGARA COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
1001 - 11<sup>th</sup> STREET  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14301-1201

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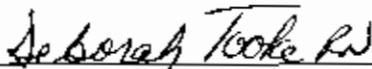
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*Maie M. Thomsen*  
Niagara County Health Department Employee



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*Marcia Lonneville CHA*  
Niagara County Health Department Employee



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**NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
5467 Upper Mountain Road, Suite 100  
Lockport, New York 14094-1894

**PAULETTE M. KLINE, R.N., M.P.H.**  
*Public Health Director*

*(716) 439-7435*  
*(716) 439-7440 Fax*

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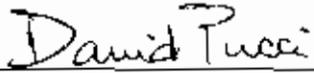
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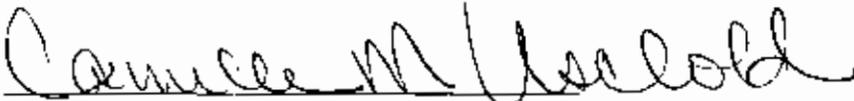
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