



**NIAGARA COUNTY**  
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**BRAC Commission**

August 16, 2005

**SEP 06 2005**

**Received**

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

Re: Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am writing today to urge the BRAC Commission to reverse the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Station (NFARS) and to provide you with the enclosed copy of the Niagara County Strategic Security Plan which was adopted by the County Legislature on July 12, 2005. Niagara County's primary goal for homeland security is to provide emergency response forces throughout the county with the resources they need to respond to all potential emergencies occurring within the county, including those occurring along the U.S.-Canadian border that could have a significant impact on the safety and security of local residents and businesses, as well as the larger surrounding region. The NFARS is a critical component of the county's strategies for the achievement of this goal which are described in detail within the Strategic Security Plan.

Niagara County is committed to work to preserve the NFARS because it is a critical asset for national security and border protection and is one of only two joint Guard Reserve Stations within the eight-state region of the northeast. In addition to the military mission at the base, NFARS serves as host to Coast Guard aviation assets, significantly benefiting the Coast Guard's performance of border and waterway security mission in the Great Lakes Region. NFARS provides emergency response support to the local community including fire protection services for the Niagara Falls International Airport and other support to locations outside of the base. Without NFARS, Niagara County and the eight-state region will suffer a severe reduction in border security and community safety.

For these reasons and others, Niagara County strongly supports the removal of NFARS from the Defense Department's base closure list. As the county works toward the implementation of its goals for community safety and security, it is our sincere hope that we will do so in coordination with the NFARS. I thank you for your consideration of

our request and look forward to the continued operation of the NRARS as a strategic player in national and regional homeland security strategies.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory D. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gregory D. Lewis  
County Manager

Enclosure: (1)