

Where Were You on June 24, 1993?

A Sampling of Reactions to the Base Closure Vote



Mayor Clyde Rabideau, center, and Team Plattsburgh members sat in shock after the vote against PAFB. Pictured from left: Garry Douglas, Herb Carpenter, Dan Adams, Retired USAF Colonel James Hockney, Sam Scialabba, Bill Bingel, Retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Donald Whitney, Lieutenant Colonel Terry Ross, and Town of Plattsburgh Supervisor Art LeFevre. Standing: Ray Gillen from Governor Cuomo's staff.

Bill Bingel, former Clinton County Administrator and Team Plattsburgh member

We were down in City Hall in Clyde Rabideau's office and we got the word down there. Most of the team had assembled there. It was kind of a shock. We didn't expect it. We thought in the end common sense would prevail.

Marion Bourdeau, agent for Century 21 Foote-Ryan and PARC board member

I was in the office. Air Force people had already been notified that they were being transferred here, so our agency had sent out informational packets. We were looking forward to PAFB becoming the hub. Everybody was stunned when we didn't get that. It was gloom and doom.

Herb Carpenter, business owner, retired Chief of Police, and Team Plattsburgh member

I've always considered a conspiracy. There is no proof of it. But if it walks like a duck, talks and waddles and has all of those other features of a duck, there is a high probability that it is a duck.

David Dame, real estate investor

I heard it on the radio as I was driving along Route 9 past some property we had just acquired, the Bluff Point golf course. I was totally shocked. I literally had to pull off to the side of the road, because my whole economy that I had worked for over the previous 25 years was on the brink of falling apart.

Garry Douglas, Chamber of Commerce President and Team Plattsburgh member

I was absolutely stunned when the vote was 6-1. It was like: What on earth just happened? The dimensions of the backroom dealings among those BRAC commissioners became clear.

Flying High Again: PARC's Redevelopment of Plattsburgh Air Force Base

"Where Were You on June 24, 1993?" asks the headline. On that day the people of Plattsburgh, New York, learned that their air base was slated for closure. Most can recall exactly where they were upon hearing the news.

In our books and DVDs, we strive to reflect the voices of everyone involved in the story. PARC's book includes a special spread of reactions to the base closure vote from a real estate agent, Chamber of Commerce president, car dealership owner, civilian base workers, and other community members.

Illustrating the spread is a post-vote photo from the *Press-Republican* that captures the initial shock and despair. We were fortunate to have full access to that newspaper's image archive.

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