

**Rep. Slaughter speaks at Rally at the Niagara Falls Airport**

*August 29, 2005*

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First I want to thank each and every one of you. Your hard work and dedication to our community and homeland security is the very reason we can claim victory here today in the fight to save this base.

Don't let any of us politicians up here take credit for your victory.

Because of your perseverance and tireless determination, the BRAC Commission saw first hand the vital role you play in protecting our homeland security and as events unfolded late last week it became clear that the work you've done was in fact the defining reason they gave for keeping this base open and fully operational for years to come.

Just an hour ago, I stood outside this base with many of your families and hundreds of your neighbors. I know if they were here with us right now they would all join me in saying that your dedication is inspiring and that without you our victory would not have been possible.

As you embark on another trip to Iraq I want to make one thing crystal clear... You are our sons and our daughters; you are our brother and sisters, nieces and nephews, husbands and wives. More than anything we are proud of you. We appreciate your commitment, we honor your service and each night we will pray that you remain safe and count the days until you return home.

I hope you can all find some comfort in knowing that you have a home right here in Niagara to return to.