

Feb 7 2006 - Efforts of New York Delegation Secure \$7.8 Million in Federal Budget for Niagara...

Efforts of New York Delegation Secure \$7.8 Million in Federal Budget for Niagara Reservists

New Quarters Will Be Constructed, Housing 147 Reservists

Washington, DC - The Western New York Congressional Delegation, including Representatives Louise M. Slaughter, Tom Reynolds, and Jim Walsh, in addition to Senators Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton, are pleased to announce that the 2007 federal budget issued yesterday by President Bush is expected to include \$7.8 million for the construction of new quarters at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The funding was secured by the combined efforts of Delegation members, who fought to convince federal officials and members of the Air Force that the project deserved to be supported.

"The members of this delegation have long understood how important the soldiers of the Niagara Air Base are to Western New York and to the security of our country," Rep. Slaughter said. "The least we can do to show our appreciation for their sacrifice is ensure that their quality of life meets all of their needs," she added. "We will never stop fighting for them, because they'll never stop fighting for us."

Rep. Tom Reynolds (R-NY-26) was also pleased. "After the successful fight to save the air base from closure, our next step is to shepherd this funding through to the end," he said.

The quarters to be constructed will house 147 Air Force reservists. They will also meet the standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which the old quarters did not.

BACKGROUND

Two years ago, the Comptroller for the Department of Defense promised the Western New York Delegation that money for new reservist quarters at NFARS would be in the President's 2006 and 2007 budget. \$9.2 million was included in last year's federal budget for Phase I of the project. In November, officials connected with the project suggested that Phase II would not begin due to a lack of support in the 2007 budget.

During an October, 2005 meeting with top Air Force personnel, Rep. Slaughter argued in support of the project's funding, and Rep. Walsh contacted the Department of Defense and called upon it to live up to its previous promise. Shortly after, the funding was reinstated.

Rep. Slaughter and Rep. Reynolds will soon be sending a letter to the Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, which has control over military construction programs, offering further support of the project.