
May 2, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Applauds Addition of Two Planes to Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Participated
In Aircraft Acceptance Ceremony Today

Niagara Falls, NY — Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today participated in an acceptance ceremony at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to welcome two new C-130 planes to the base.

“The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is the second largest employer in Niagara County Western New York, and a vital part of our community and economy in said Rep Slaughter. “It is imperative that we continue to invest in the base and ensure that it remains indispensable to the United States Air Force.”

“Our brave service members on this base have earned the best equipment and facilities available,” Slaughter added. “I will continue to work hard to make sure that our base receives the support from our government that it deserves.”

One aircraft is from the Minneapolis Air Reserve Station and the other is from the Nashville Air National Guard.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS) was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list. Fortunately, the New York State Congressional Delegation, including Rep. Slaughter, along with the Niagara Military Affairs Council successfully pressured the BRAC Commission to take NFARS off of the list.

Leading up to the BRAC round, NFARS housed the 914th Air Reserve Wing who flew C-130 planes and the 107th Air National Guard Unit who flew KC-135 tankers. Instead of closing NFARS, the BRAC Commission made the unprecedented move of making the 107th Air National Guard Unit an associate unit to the 914th Air Reserve Wing. The BRAC Commission decided to remove the KC-135 tankers from NFARS and have the association unit share the C-130 planes.

In November 2005, Rep. Slaughter hosted a New York State Congressional Delegation meeting with the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of the Air Force Reserve to receive a commitment that they would work together to ensure that the association unit functioned properly. The New York Delegation then joined together to petition the United States Air Force (USAF) to commit to finding additional aircraft to send to NFARS.

Although the KC-135 tankers were scheduled to leave NFARS in Fiscal Year 2008, the USAF was slow to identify new planes to send to the station. In response, Rep. Slaughter got language inserted into the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act requiring the USAF to develop a long-term plan to bring assets to NFARS. This language was instrumental in pushing the USAF to locate additional C-130 planes to send to NFARS.

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