
May 22, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Hails Passage of Bill To Support Niagara Air Base

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Hails Passage of
Bill To Support Niagara Air Base

Washington, DC – Congresswoman
Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today
applauded the passage of H.R. 5658, the FY09 National Defense Authorization
Act, which will provide key funding and support for the Niagara Falls Air
Reserve Station (NFARS). Along with the NFARS provisions, this
legislation authorizes
\$531.4 billion for defense and national security programs in the coming fiscal
year.

In
the legislation, Rep. Slaughter's request secured authorization of \$9.81
million for a state of the art dining facility at NFARS. The bill also supports timely infrastructure improvements by
urging the Secretary of the Air Force to accelerate the design and construction
of a small arms range at the station by placing it in the Future Years Defense
Program. A similar action in 2007 resulted in the planning for the new
dining hall.

"The
service members stationed at the Niagara Air Base are critical to the security
of our region and our country, and the Base is a vital part of our community
and economy in Western New York," said Rep.
Slaughter.
“It is absolutely imperative that we continue to invest in the Base to ensure
that it remains indispensable to the United States Air Force.”

“The funding and support included in this bill is an essential component of our effort to promote the Niagara Air Base and maintain it as an Air Force asset,” Slaughter continued. “I will continue to do all that I can at the federal level to make sure that our brave service members receive the equipment and facilities they deserve.”

BACKGROUND

NFARS is the second largest employer in Niagara County and vital to the regional economy.

In 2005, 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.

Rep. Slaughter has been a strong advocate for NFARS in Congress and has worked hard to ensure that the Federal government devotes resources to the Base. By working to improve and expand the Base, Rep. Slaughter has been instrumental in the effort to ensure that NFARS is not returned to the BRAC list.

In addition to the funding and language Rep. Slaughter secured in FY09 Defense Authorization Act, she has led the charge to bring additional aircraft to NFARS.

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