

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the U.S. Air Force
4E878 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Dear Secretary Donley:

We write to extend an invitation for you to visit the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS). NFARS is comprised of the 914th and 107th Airlift Wings, and is one of only two associate wings between the Air Reserve and Air National Guard in the U.S. Western New York has a proud history of defending our nation, and we are confident that when you visit NFARS you will witness firsthand the value that it provides to the military, the country and the state. With the Air Force's recent decision to make reductions at NFARS, we feel that a visit to the reserve station would demonstrate the immense capabilities of the installation and prove their ability to take on a new mission.

As you know, in 2011 NFARS conducted over 1,500 missions in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, in recent years they have provided critical aeromedevac and resupply missions in response to Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010. The base also continues to serve vital day-to-day roles in the Continental United States for Air Mobility Command in addition to supporting Air Expeditionary Forces requirements overseas, contingency operations and other missions associated with the projection of U.S. presence overseas.

We strongly urge you to join us in visiting NFARS. As Members of the Western New York delegation, we are certain that your visit would build on your appreciation for the installation, its people and its mission. Thank you for your consideration into this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Kathleen C. Hochul

Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress