

Preserving New York's military facilities and assets focus of group

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, **U.S. Representatives Richard Hanna** (R-NY) and **Tim Bishop** (D-NY) announced the formation of a Congressional Working Group aimed at promoting and protecting military facilities and assets throughout New York state.

From Upstate to Long Island, New York is home to many units that provide exemplary service to the security of not only our state but the nation. With possible impending defense cuts, through the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction process and others, Hanna and Bishop are spearheading a bipartisan alliance to highlight the value of New York defense assets.

It is anticipated that in 2015 there could be a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) processes.

Hanna, who represents the 24th Congressional District in upstate New York, and Bishop, who represents New York's 1st Congressional District on Long Island, joined together to ensure New York's defense community is adequately represented and protected in Washington. The New York Defense Working Group will hold periodic staff briefings as well as Member meetings and other services to help achieve this goal.

“Through education, communication, and collaboration we can work to make sure that New York's military assets are not unduly and negatively impacted,” **Congressman Hanna said**. “All our military assets in Rome at the former Griffiss Air Force Base benefit our community and the security of the nation; we must ensure our operations in Rome are strengthened and built upon. I am pleased to join with Rep. Bishop to make certain that we do everything we can to bolster and strengthen New York's defense efforts.”

“Serving as representative for the 106th Air Rescue Wing at Gabreski Air National Guard Base has taught me the importance of New York’s military bases to America’s national defense and our local communities,” **Congressman Bishop said.** “I am proud to join Rep. Hanna in this bipartisan effort to educate my colleagues on the critical role these installations play in protecting our nation.”

Hanna and Bishop will invite all New York Members of Congress to join the bipartisan effort.

Among the military facilities and assets in New York state:

Air Force Research Lab, Rome Institute, Eastern Air Defense Sector

Gabreski Air National Guard Base

Stratton Air National Guard Base

Watervliet Arsenal

Stewart Air National Guard Base

Fort Drum Army Base

Hancock Air National Guard Base

Niagara Air National Guard Base