

**U.S. Representative Richard Hanna released the following statement in regard to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's preview of the Department's forthcoming Fiscal Year 2013 defense budget request:**□

"While I believe that some defense cuts are necessary to promote fiscal responsibility, any proposals must be fair and reflect the reality of our changing defense priorities, without jeopardizing our national security.

"Secretary Panetta's outline provided a clear look at the Obama Administration's plans and priorities. One component was a call for Congress to authorize a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Congress would have to vote to give its permission in order for such a request to be authorized. Therefore, I will have the opportunity to weigh in on this process on behalf of Upstate New York, and will continue to be a vigilant advocate to protect and advance the defense operations and missions in Rome.

"These facilities work to strengthen and develop the products that Secretary Panetta described as especially vital – cyber operations, science and technology. My commitment to all our defense-related entities is unwavering and I will continue to do all I can to promote and protect them and their good work.

"As founder and co-chairman of the Congressional New York Defense Working Group, which includes 14 Members of Congress, I will continue to make our military establishments and service members a top priority and provide a unified voice in Washington. I will be an active participant throughout this process, and am looking forward to seeing the details of the Administration's proposals next month."