

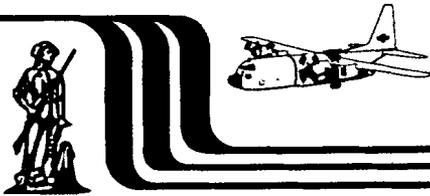
NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK



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GROWING TODAY FOR A SECURE TOMORROW

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Niagara Military Affairs Council

Supporting the military of Niagara

Welcome to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

This informational brochure has been made possible through the efforts of the Niagara Military Affairs Council (NIMAC), the Niagara County Legislature, Erie County, and the leaders and residents of the cities, towns and villages in Niagara County.

Its contents highlight the factors that make the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station an invaluable asset and why the "Military and Community in Niagara Make a Powerful Team."

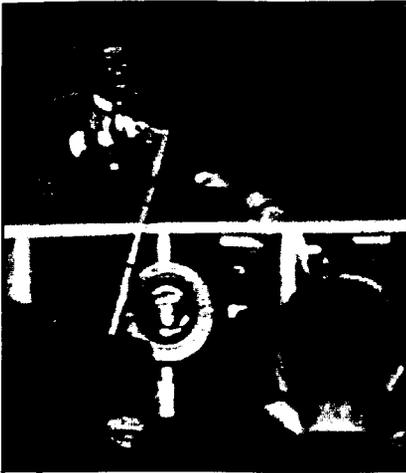
The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and military units in Western New York play a critical role in the economic health of our region. With its workforce and annual payroll, plus the significant numbers of local contractors that perform services at the NFARS, the overall economic impact of the base exceeds \$133 million.

NIMAC, recognizes the contribution of the NFARS to the area. NIMAC joins the military with area residents and business in a team approach.

Niagara has a rich history and significant contributions to the nation's defense and aviation. Niagara was the home of Bell Aerospace when it teamed with the U.S. Air Force in producing the X-series aircraft, the first commercial helicopter, the Bell Rocket Belt, and even support of the moon landing.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is a military base with an ongoing vital role in securing the defense of the United States of America.

We are most proud to be its host community.



*President John F. Kennedy speaking
at the Niagara Falls International
Airport, 1962*

*"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well
or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden,
meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe
to assure the survival and the success of liberty."*

— John F. Kennedy

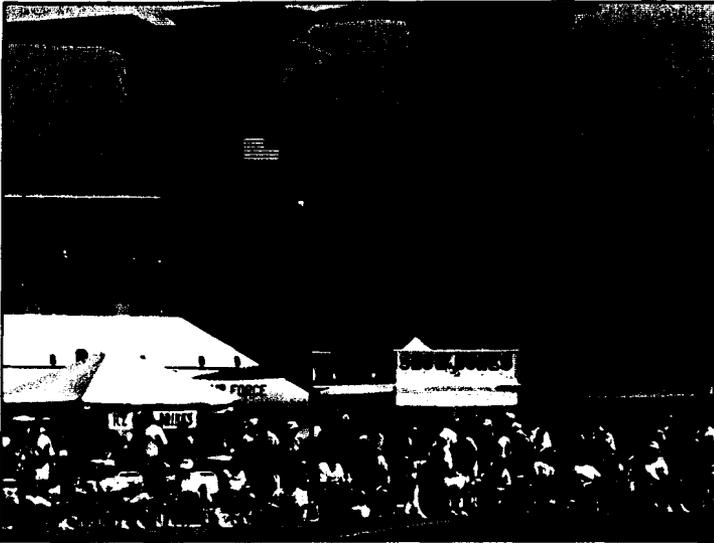
"Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom."

— John Philpot Curran



Their aircraft fly above us daily, seemingly as common and ordinary as the very birds that soar among them. There is a natural tendency for us to take the flights of these Air Force planes for granted. All of this activity in the skies above Niagara County is second nature to us because we have always been, or so it would seem, home to the "air base." But, while these aircraft and all personnel on the ground represent an integral part of our national and global security, there is much more to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station story and its relationship to Niagara County and Western New York.





Niagara Military Airshow is a summer highlight for Niagara's residents and visitors.

This is a story of success. It's a story that continues to be written and developed every day. Fact: the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is the number two employer in Niagara County, generating more than 3000 military and civilian jobs. Fact: the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station generates fully 10% of Niagara County's overall net income. There is no need for this military facility to be a mystery. There is no reason for it to remain a hidden treasure. There is no secret in the hard numbers that point up tremendous economic impact. And, there is nothing difficult to understand in the hard-working people behind those numbers as they strive every day to ensure that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station functions at



A hometown hero gets a big hug from his daughter after serving in operation Iraqi Freedom.



The movie, "Fly Away Home", was filmed in part at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The units of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station have served with dedication while expertly performing their missions around the world. They have distinguished themselves and have made Niagara County proud to be home to this strategic military installation.

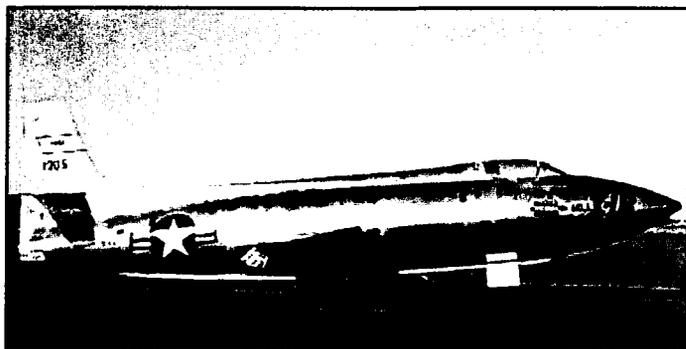


An integral element of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station; its civilian work force.

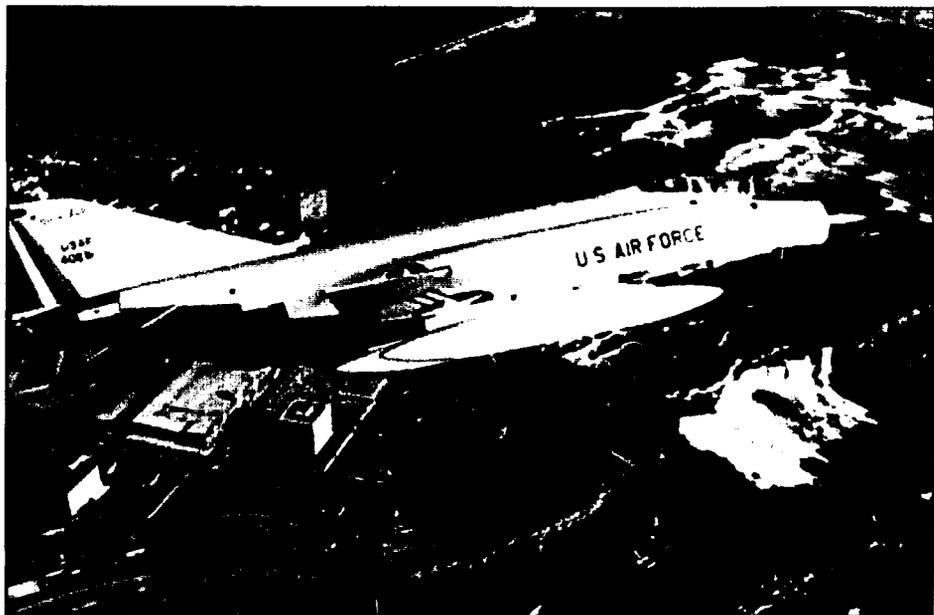
AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Historical lineage of the base and its varied units dates back to 1943, when initial structures for the Bell Aircraft Corporation were erected at Niagara Falls Municipal Airport. The installation was redesignated as a U.S. Naval Air Station in 1946, when further expansion and construction took place. In that same year, the active duty 339th Bomb Group, equipped with P-47 Thunderbolts, was redesignated the 107th Fighter Interceptor Group, assigned to the New York Air National Guard and located at Niagara Falls.

In March, 1951 the 107th was called to active duty to serve in the Korean Conflict. In February of 1952, the Air Force branch of the base was established with the activation of the 76th Air Base Squadron, whose primary mission was to perform host support duties. Upon their return from Korea, the 107th converted to F-51 Mustangs, assuming an Air Defense interceptor mission. In January 1954, the 107th received its first jet aircraft, the F-94 Starfire. It was replaced, in turn, by the F-86 Saberjet in October, 1957, and the F-100C Super Sabre in August, 1960. In October, 1961, the 107th was again called to active duty, serving for eleven months during the Berlin Crisis.



Bell X-1B produced by Bell Aerospace Co., Niagara Falls NY.



F-4 Phantom "rainbow tail", echoing the famed rainbows of Niagara Falls



Air Force Reserve C-119 Flying Boxcar

On February 11, 1963, the active forces 512th Troop Carrier Group, equipped with C-119 Flying Boxcars, was redesignated the 914th Troop Carrier Group. Concurrently, it was assigned to the Air Force Reserve and located at Niagara Falls.



Hundreds of thousands have enjoyed the traditional Niagara Airshow.

The 107th responded to their third activation in 17 years in January of 1968 to support national policy during the Pueblo Crisis. Six months later, approximately 400 members were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, performing combat duty for almost a year. Additionally, numerous members were deployed to the Republic of Korea and various stateside locations in the same time frame.

1971 brought significant change to the Niagara Air Base. The Air Force Reserve Command assumed command of the installation from active duty units, changing the status to an Air Reserve Base. The 914th also underwent a major conversion from C-119 to C-130A Hercules aircraft. At the same time, the 107th underwent conversion to the F-101B/F Voodoo. Both units have continued to



F-16 Fighting Falcon above Buffalo, New York

receive frontline aircraft. The 914th received C-130E aircraft in 1986, and was the first to convert to the Air Force's more advanced C-130, the H-3, in late 1992.

The 107th received F-4C Phantoms, followed soon after by F-4Ds, and in 1990 by ADF-16 Fighting Falcons.



Air Force C-47 Skytrain.



A Niagara pilot on a mission during operation Iraqi Freedom.

In October 1990, the 914th Airlift Group was called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. More than 300 members spent seven months at the "Mirage" Air Base in the United Arab Emirates flying resupply and other mission support sorties. Members of the 107th were also called to support active duty.

The Operations Tempo for the Reserve Component has become even more critical. All units at the base have "answered the call" on numerous times supporting global contingencies such as Operation Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and most recently several hundred were deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DEPLOYMENT OPERATIONS AND AWARDS

914th Airlift Wing

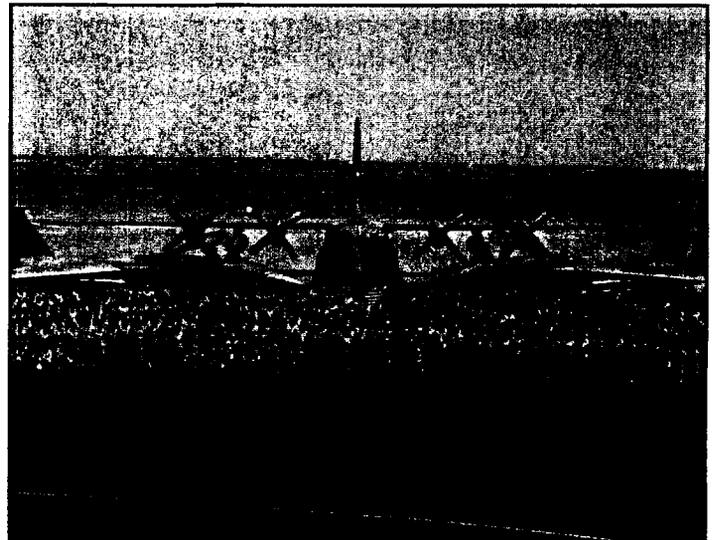
Contingency/Evaluation	Year
Operation Desert Shield/Storm	1990-91
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1992
Hurricane Andrew Relief	1992
Humanitarian Relief Missions: Somalia	1992
Humanitarian Relief Missions: Bosnia	1992-93
Superior Rating Operational Readiness Inspection	1994
Operation "Restore Democracy" in Haiti	1994
Validated Essential Contribution to Nation's Defense Under BRACC Process	1995
AFRES Nominee for Air Force Installation Excellence Award	1996
Superior Rating Operations Standardization Evaluation	1996
Exceeded 130,000 Accident Free Flying Hours Over 35 Years	1966-99
Humanitarian Aid: Honduras	Jan. 1997
Hurricane Mitch (Central America)	1998
Joint Forge (Bosnia)	1998
Shining Hope (Kosovo)	1999
Humanitarian/DEA/Diplomatic Missions	1990-99
Operations "Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom"	2001
Operation Iraqi Freedom	2003
Redeployment Operation Iraqi Freedom	2003

107th Air Refueling Wing

Contingency/Evaluation	Year
Operation Desert Shield/Storm	1990-91
Coronet Buccaneer Phoenix Air Moat-Bosnia Air Bridge Support	1992
Coronet Nighthawk	1992
Air Combat Command Flight Safety Award	1994
Operation "Restore Democracy" in Haiti	1994
South West Asia Contingency	Oct. 1994
Bulwark Bronze SIOP Exercise	1995
Patriot Medstar	1995
Humanitarian Aid: Honduras	Aug. 1995
NATO Support -Germany, Iceland & Norway Deny Flight & Decisive Endeavor	
Pisa, Italy	Dec. 1995
Deny Flight-Istres, France	May-June, 1995
Logistics Group-NYANG Commanders Trophy	1995
136th Air Refueling Squadron NYANG Commander's Trophy	1995
Superior Rating-Quality Air Force Assessment	1996
Joint Guard	1998
Northern Watch	1999
Deliberate Forge	1999
Noble Eagle /Enduring Freedom	2001
Operation Iraqi Freedom	2003



Family and friends cheer the troops coming home from Operation Iraqi Freedom.



914th members stationed in Saudi Arabia during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In February of 1994, the 107th was redesignated an Air Refueling Group, receiving its first KC-135R Stratotanker in the next month. As part of the realignment of refueling aircraft from the Strategic Air Command (SAC) to the Air Mobility Command (AMC), the 107th was expanded to an Air Refueling Wing in October 1995.

The 865th General Hospital was organized in September 1995, a configuration resulting from the deactivation of three other units. Its heritage derives primarily from the 365th Evacuation Hospital. Today, the 865th continues to undergo reorganization and downsizing and has been redesignated a Combat Support Hospital.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

914th Airlift Wing USAFR	107th Air Refueling Wing NYANG	865th Combat Support Hospital (USAR)
Full-time 414 Part-time1160	Full-time272 Part-time539	Full-time31 Part-time520
Subtotal.....1574	Subtotal.....811	Sub total.....551
Total Employed.....2,936		

TOP TEN COUNTY EMPLOYERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Delphi-Harrison Thermal Systems . . . 4,300 | 8. City of Niagara Falls 750 |
| 2. Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station . . 2,936 | 9. Lockport City School District 745 |
| 3. Seneca Niagara Casino 2,225 | 10. Mount St. Mary's Hospital 700 |
| 4. Niagara County 1,789 | |
| 5. Niagara Falls City School District. . . 1,307 | |
| 6. Prime Outlets of Niagara Falls 1,000 | |
| 7. Niagara County Community College. . . 750 | |

Note:
Studies show that 100 existing jobs spin-off 136 additional jobs.
This economic "ripple" is realized in a community as workers
spend their dollars and create a need for goods and services.

The Combined Annual Payroll of these organizations flowing into
the Western New York economy exceeds **\$50,000,000.**

Annual Expenditures for construction, services,
and procurement of materials, equipment and supplies exceeds **\$20,000,000.**

The estimated Payroll of Indirect Jobs Created exceeds **\$25,000,000.**

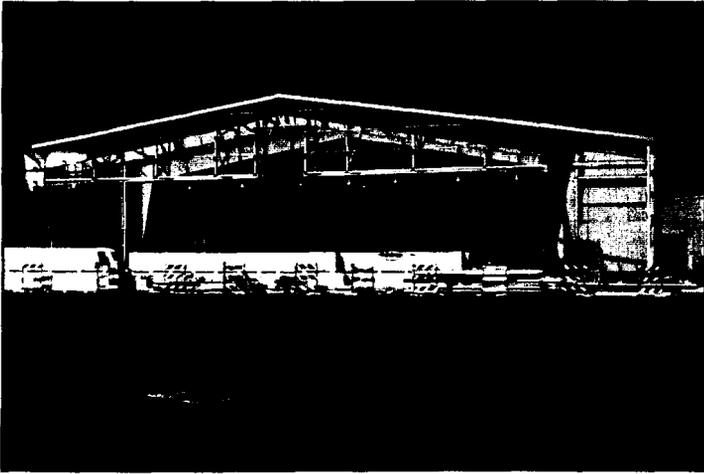
Contracts Awarded to local and out of state contractors
during Fiscal Year 2002 exceeds **\$20,000,000.**

The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station lodging occupancy each year exceeds 35,000
guests reflecting drilling reservists/guardsmen and those guests who attended
the numerous conferences and training sessions hosted by the base.
Estimating daily expenditure of \$15 per individual, per day impact
on local restaurants and businesses exceeded **\$500,000.**

The Total Direct Economic Impact of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station
exceeds **\$133,000,000** annually.

A CHANGE IN MISSION — A REVITALIZED AIR BASE

In 1992 the Pentagon changed the 107th mission from flying fighter jets to flying tankers. That modification in mission has brought with it a host of construction needs for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.



This hangar under construction was a part of the extensive Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station rebuilding program.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE \$75 MILLION REBUILDING PROGRAM

- Two new hangars for KC 135 tankers. \$9.5 million.
- Fuel storage facility, runway improvements. \$10.9 million.
- Renovation and construction of Air National Guard buildings. \$4.4 million.
- Air Reserve hangar. \$5 million
- New communications center. \$2.5 million.
- Renovation of Air Reserve headquarters building. \$2.4 million.
- Expansion of Air Reserve Base fire department and Fire Training Facility \$3 million.
- Consolidated Training Facility \$1.5 million.
- Consolidated Maintenance Facility \$3.1 million.
- Lodging (VOQ) \$7 million
- Major improvements made to main runway \$6 million, modernization of the chapel, fitness center, family readiness center and dining hall.



CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Partnership with NFTA & Community to support joint flight operations at NFIA

The units of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station exercise "corporate leadership" in a multitude of ways that impact the lives of Western New Yorkers. When the Base Realignment and Closure Commission validated the importance of this installation in 1995, they gave high praise for an "unprecedented" level of community good will and support for the base. This stems from decades of the base volunteerism to fulfill the responsibility they feel to the public.

- Through the "Niagara" airshow which has attracted thousands from Western New York, Canada and around the world, through Media Day and Bosses Day, the NFARS says a big "thank you" to the community, to those who help tell our story, and to the many outstanding civilian employers who look beyond profit margin to support their employees' service to the nation.
- The presentation of the Air Force "Tops In Blue" showcasing the spectacular talent of our military personnel.
- The Retiree Affairs Office on base services the needs of thousands of Western New York's retired military people within a 200-mile radius.
- The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station mutual aid system supports emergency and disaster response operation in the Niagara community.
- Representing the Air Reserve Base as private citizens, members are active in the Chamber of Commerce. A

number of members hold leadership positions in local governments, school boards, and civic organizations.

- Several regional highways are beautified by Reserve Base participation in the "Adopt a Highway" program.
- Reserve Base honor guards represent the US military for civic and governmental ceremonies, holiday celebration, and Veterans activities.
- The Niagara Family Readiness Center meets the special needs of both active duty and reserve military families of Western New York when the military member responds to world-wide contingencies.
- Medical personnel of the Reserve Base serve the community through a partnership with two major regional hospitals that involves a year round exchange of public service for valuable training.
- The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station provides recurring support to: Niagara County Festival of Gold, Niagara Beautification Commission, Niagara County Stop D.W.I., Buffalo News Kids Day for Children's Hospital, American Diabetes Tour de Cure, Niagara Falls and Buffalo City Missions, Make-a-Wish Foundation, D.A.R.E., American Red Cross "Swim Across" program, Children's Hospital Variety Club Telethon, March of Dimes, Red Cross blood drives and training activity and United Way Combined Federal Campaign.

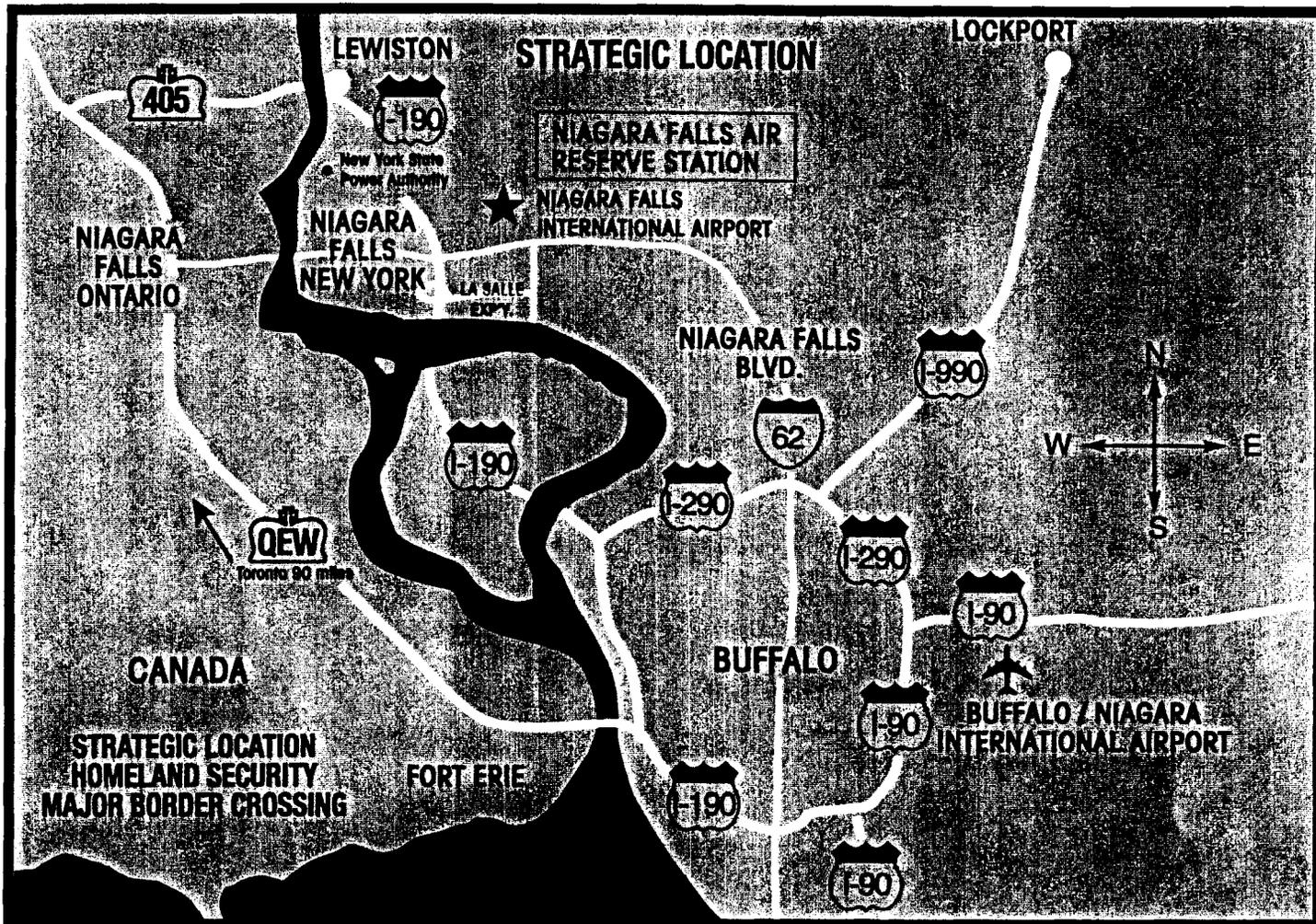
Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station supports joint use of its facilities by all armed services, community organizations and many agencies to the US government including:

- ★ 98th Division (US Army Reserve)
- ★ 277th Quartermaster Company (US ANG)
- ★ 3rd Brigade (US Army Reserve)
- ★ 865th Combat Spt Hospital
- ★ US Coast Guard
- ★ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ★ US Naval Reserve
- ★ Civil Air Patrol
- ★ Internal Revenue Service
- ★ US Drug Enforcement Agency
- ★ Department of Homeland Security Agencies
- ★ Canadian-American Law Enforcement Organizations (CALEO: a federation of almost 200 US and Canadian agencies)
- ★ Federal Bureau of Investigation
- ★ Niagara County Sheriffs Dept. Aviation Unit
- ★ US Military Entry Processing Station
- ★ Junior ROTC



The Employers' Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Program hosts an annual "Bosses Day" on base which includes a local orientation flight for the several hundred civilian employers and supervisors who attend.

- ★ NWS EARLE det. 405 (US Navy Reserve)
- ★ Canadian Armed Forces
- ★ Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- ★ Air Force Association
- ★ Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
- ★ Militia Association of New York
- ★ Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
- ★ Air Force Sergeants Association
- ★ Retiree Affairs Office (RAO)

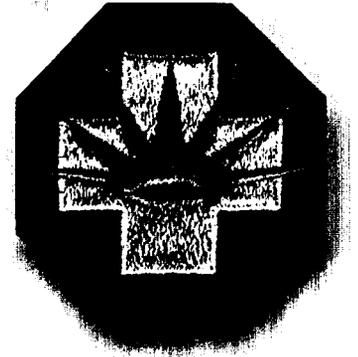


The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station is located in Niagara County, New York, approximately six miles northeast of the City of Niagara Falls. It occupies almost 1,000 acres of land on the north side of Niagara Falls International Airport. The installation's host unit is the 914th Airlift Wing, a component of the Air Force Reserve. Several other units utilize the installation in a tenant capacity. By far the largest of these is the 107th Air Refueling Wing, a component of the New York Air National Guard. Although not officially within the Air Reserve Station, the 865th Combat Support Hospital, U.S. Army Reserve, is a key part of the Western New York's picture of its armed forces. The 865th occupies approximately 100 acres on the southwest corner of the International Airport.

GLOSSARY

- AMC - Air Mobility Command
- AFRC - Air Force Reserve Command
- ANG - Air National Guard
- C-130 Hercules - the workhorse of military cargo planes
- KC-135R Stratotanker - air refueling/airlift aircraft with 12,000 mile flight range
- NFARS - Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station
- NFIA - Niagara Falls International Airport
- 107th - Air National Guard Air Refueling Wing
- 865th - Combat Support Hospital, Army Reserve
- 914th - Air Force Reserve Airlift Wing

*This publication was made possible through the U.S. Air Force, New York State Senator George D. Maziarz, New York State Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte, the Niagara County Legislature, the Niagara County Department of Economic Development, the Niagara USA Chamber, the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency, the Empire State Development Corporation, the Town of Cambria, Town of Harland, Town of Lewiston, Town of Lockport, Town of Newfane, Town of Niagara, Town of Somerset, Town of Wheatfield, Village of Lewiston, and the Air Force Federal Credit Union.
We thank the personnel of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station for their cooperation.*



**NIAGARA FALLS
AIR RESERVE STATION
NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK**



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