

News Release

NEW YORK WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

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New York Wing Briefs Congressional Defense Working Group



U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, Richard Hanna, R-NY, and Kathy Hochul, D-NY (center from left) pose for a photo with New York Wing senior members and cadets, following a New York Wing briefing to the Congressional Defense Working Group. CAP members, from left, are: Lt. Col. Gerry Marketos, Col. Jack Ozer, Lt. Col. John Jones, Lt. Col. Tom Carello, Capt. Diana Hyatt, C/SMSgt. Derek O'Sullivan, C/Capt. Meghan Duell, C/Maj. Shau Coburn (partially hidden), C/Lt. Rachel Hyatt, and Lt. Col. Larry Brinker
New York Wing leaders recently got to brief a Congressional Defense Working Group aimed at protecting New York State's military installations.

Wing Commander Col. Jack Ozer (of Selden) and Government Relations Assistant Lt. Col. Larry Brinker (of Binghamton) gave an introductory briefing on the wing's homeland security, search-and-rescue, disaster relief and youth development missions and offered the wing's commitment to the group's efforts.



NY Wing Government Relations Assistant Lt. Col. Larry Brinker addresses the Congressional Defense Working Group in Washington, D.C., with members of New York Wing staff looking on. Seated, from left, are: Wing Government Relations Assistant Lt. Col. Gerry Marketos, Wing Commander Col. Jack Ozer, and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Tom Carello.

Spearheaded by Rep. Richard Hanna, R-NY (24th Congressional District in upstate New York), and Rep. Tim Bishop, D-NY (1st Congressional District on Long Island), the bi-partisan alliance brings together 15 members of Congress intent on highlighting the value of New York's defense assets.



Rep. Richard Hanna, R-NY, (right) introduces a New York Wing delegation at a meeting of the Defense Working Group in Washington, D.C. Col. Jack Ozer (sitting left front) and Lt. Col. Larry Brinker (left) briefed the Group, a bi-partisan alliance involving 15 congressmen and women.

Hanna introduced the wing delegation, which included a dozen senior members and cadets, and said: "The all volunteer Civil Air Patrol works with our New York-based military units and can help this working group better understand the detrimental impact of the loss of those units."

"We know first-hand the extraordinary importance of military installations and units across New York State," Colonel Ozer told the gathering, which included four members of Congress and 10 aides from other Congressional offices. He pointed to the wing's work with active, guard and reserve components, and the Civil Air Patrol assets on military installations. "We have a direct interest in New York military assets not being diminished."



NY Wing Commander Col. Jack Ozer briefs the Congressional Defense Working Group, a bi-partisan alliance aimed at protecting New York State's military facilities.

His briefing covered some 2011 statistics. CAP periodically performed fighter intercept missions with the Air National Guard, conducted 13 search-and-rescue missions with five finds, flew 205 counterdrug sorties with local law enforcement, and took on 13 state-supported missions, including disaster relief and aerial damage assessment in the wake of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Lt. Colonel Brinker, who is also a mission pilot, added: "Working alongside units of the New York National Guard to bring help to stranded residents during the terrible flooding in the Binghamton area this past year, I was reminded of how much we need a strong and active Guard presence in New York."

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, who represents Manhattan (14th District), and Congresswoman Kathy Hochul, D-NY, who represents Western New York near Buffalo (26th District), were at the briefing, along with Hanna and Bishop. They mingled with the wing delegation and posed for photos.

Other members of the Defense Working Group include:

- Congressman Peter King, R-NY (3rd District)
- Congressman William Owens, D-NY (23rd District)
- Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, D-NY (4th District)
- Congressman Michael Grimm, R-NY (13th District)
- Congressman Charles Rangel, D-NY (15th District)
- Congresswoman Nan Hayworth, R-NY (19th District)
- Congressman Chris Gibson, R-NY (20th District)
- Congressman Paul Tonko, D-NY (21st District)
- Congressman Maurice Hinchey, D-NY (22nd District)
- Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle, R-NY (25th District)
- Congressman Brian Higgins, D-NY (27th District)

The Defense Working Group arranged for the briefing when it learned that New York Wing leaders would be in Washington, D.C. on March 1 for CAP's annual legislative day.

In addition to Ozer and Brinker, the wing delegation included:

- Lt. Col. Tom Carello of Syracuse, wing vice commander.
- Lt. Col. Diane Wojtowicz of Walworth, wing director of safety, plans & programs.
- Lt. Col. Gerry Marketos of Rome, wing government relations assistant..
- Lt. Col. John Jones of Utica, Central New York Group vice commander.
- 1st Lt. Deborah Griffin, staff officer with Long Island Group.

Plus leaders and cadets from Batavia Composite Squadron, Batavia, NY:

Capt. Diana Hyatt, 1st Lt. Valerie Duell, C/Maj. Shaun Coburn, C/Capt. Meghan Duell, C/2nd Lt. Rachel Hyatt, and C/Senior Master Sgt. Derek O'Sullivan.

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