

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he was able to secure \$6.6 million in congressionally-directed funding to complete construction of a new NEADS facility on the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome, NY.

“This funding will allow to us to complete the NEADS project and strengthen our national defenses,” **said Arcuri**. “Griffiss Park and the national security operations that take place there are critical components our economy in the Mohawk Valley. I plan to continue leveraging the necessary federal resources that will allow for additional growth of our federal defense facilities in Rome.”

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Conference Report, which is expected to be considered by the House later today. As a federal military construction project, funds could not be appropriated to complete construction of the NEADS facility without prior authorization. Language secured by Arcuri authorizing \$6.6 million to complete NEADS construction was included within the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Authorization bill passed by the House in May.

In 2005, the United States Air Force announced the consolidation of the Northeast Air Defense Sector with the Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS) to form the East Air Defense Sector (EADS), which remained in Rome, NY, and provides military air surveillance for the entire east coast, east of the Mississippi River. The existing NEADS headquarters building is a 1940's vintage facility that is improperly configured and inconveniently located. The facility is supported by aging HVAC and utility systems requiring constant attention and maintenance from a limited building maintenance staff.

Since September 11, 2001, NEADS and its support component have grown exponentially to provide homeland defense. Located in a non-secure public business park, this facility does not meet Department of Defense force protection standards. Due to lack of space, the security forces augmentation team is located in a rented government warehouse several blocks away. Both the headquarters facility and the security forces are geographically separated from the Sector Operations Control Center making adequate force protection challenging. Current location of this facility inhibits rapid response for controller and security forces augmentation of the control center. The \$6.6 million included in the bill today relocates and consolidates NEADS operations and personnel into one facility.

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