



# The Liaison

## BRAC Round for 2005—A Reality

by Congressman John M. McHugh

There is good news and bad news to report about future base closures. First, the bad news. It's official -- another base closure law has been enacted. The good news is that this round will be distinctly different from previous rounds. While I continue to believe that there is no such thing as a good base closure round, my colleagues and I on the House Armed Services Committee fought successfully to ensure that the fine print in the new base closure law would address many of the problems with past rounds.

Although President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld pushed hard for a BRAC round in 2003, we were successful in delaying the next BRAC until 2005. In addition, we put strict criteria in place to curtail the BRAC Commission's authority. Specifically, we spelled out factors to be considered when determining a facility's "military value." The delay is important because it basically buys us two more years to further refine the law in order to help guard against the kind of runaway Commissions that, in my judgment, have existed in the past.

Previously, BRAC law left it up to the Secretary of Defense to define how to assess an installation's military value. In addition to establishing military value as the principal factor in

installation evaluation, the new law defines a set of specific requirements the Commission must consider in its determination. The criteria we crafted emphasize the importance of maneuver installations such as Fort Drum. As the sole major training installation in the Northeast with no significant encroachment issues, the first three standards will be particularly helpful to Fort Drum. Those criteria are described below.

- \* Preservation of training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces to guarantee future availability to such areas for Armed Forces readiness;
- \* Preservation of bases around the United States as staging areas for engagement in homeland defense missions;
- \* Preservation of a sufficient diversity of climate and terrain around the nation for training purposes;
- \* Impact on joint warfare, training and readiness; and
- \* Contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations.

The law also requires that the following factors be considered by the Secretary of Defense:

- \* The extent and timing of potential costs and sav-

ings, including manpower implications, beginning with the date of the completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs;

- \* The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations;
- \* The ability of both existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel; and

The impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities.

My colleagues and I also negotiated important changes to limit the Commission's power. We also established specific requirements the Commission must employ when adding a base to the list of possible closures. We established a process to prevent a situation in which BRAC Commissioners, who each have different backgrounds with varying degrees of military expertise, would be in a position to overrule military judgment and choose a base for closure based on a simple majority vote. The law now requires that before the Commission may add a base to the list of possible closures, the Secretary of Defense is provided a 15-day period to rebut the proposal. After consideration of the Secretary's feedback, the final decision to add a base would require the approval of at least seven of the

nine commissioners. A decision to remove a base from the closure list would continue to require a simple majority of the nine commissioners.

Another important requirement in the new law directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress detailed force structure and infrastructure plans that support the identified force structure.

A base closure round in 2005 is a reality. Just as our soldiers train for war, FDRLO must utilize this time to ensure our "readiness" and "combat effectiveness" are up to standard. Fort Drum's future viability will depend on how well we are prepared for the battle ahead. We know our strengths and our weaknesses. I believe FDRLO's approach in dealing with these issues is right on track.

Keep up the good work!

*Congressman John M. McHugh (R-Pierrepont Manor) is the sole New Yorker serving on the Armed Services Committee in Congress. He serves as the Chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee and is Co-Chairman of the Army Caucus.*

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2002

**Note:**  
**Next FDRLO**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**May 3rd**  
**1:30 pm**  
**@ JCC**  
**Amphitheater**  
**Room 6-002**

**Fort Drum**  
**Economic Impact**  
**FY 2001**

• Total  
**\$470,834,691**

- This figure includes civilian & military payroll, Army Community Housing costs, construction and supply contracts, medical/dental services, veterinary services, tuition assistance, impact aid to schools.

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**"I can think of no single initiative more important for our community between now and 2005."**

## Comments from the Chair ..... Dr. John W. Deans

Yes, a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round is indeed in our future. And, as in previous rounds, the FDRLO will make the "defense of Fort Drum" our number one priority.

Preparation for the impending BRAC process is already well underway. A plan of work has been developed, led by a Drum 2020 task force co-chaired by Keith Caughlin and Beth Fipps. Expertise to help build the case for Fort Drum and its vital role in ensuring this nation's security at home and abroad is being assembled. Dialogue with military and civilian leaders at all levels has intensified. In short, the FDRLO, like so many individuals and organizations across the North Country, recognizes the imperative of a strong Fort Drum to this community's and this nation's future.

Through this newsletter, quarterly meetings of the FDRLO Board of Directors and membership, presentations to groups both near and far, and media coverage, the FDRLO will tell the Fort Drum story. We will continue to work hand-in-hand with elected

officials at all levels thereby building a powerful and unified case for the home of the U.S. Army's most deployed division and the northeast's Guard and Reserve training center.

Teamwork and partnership will enhance our FDRLO's success. If you have not already done so, I would urge you to consider membership in the FDRLO for yourself or your organization. What lies ahead is a task filled with both challenge and opportunity. In fact, I can think of no single initiative more important for our community between now and 2005.

Let us know if you would like to help us achieve one or more of our goals. I am convinced you will find the FDRLO has a vision and mission worthy of our collective best.

- John W. Deans, Chair

## FDRLO GEARS UP .... Staff now on board

### FDRLO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lori Ward

Peter Clough now serves as the FDRLO Research Analyst. For the last four years he was a Legislative Assistant to Senator James Wright. Initially working out of the Senator's Albany office, he returned to the North Country after finishing his education to work in the Senator's Watertown office.

Peter graduated from Siena College with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and later received a master's degree in Public Administration from the Nelson Rockefeller School of Public Administration in Albany. He has been active in the community as a member of the North Side Improvement League, Italian-American Civic Association, Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Church.

LTG Lawson W. Magruder III, US Army (Retired), joined FDRLO as a consultant upon retirement from the Army. He spent over 32 years of distinguished service to our Nation. His career included combat tours in Vietnam and Somalia; battalion command in Alaska; brigade command in Hawaii; and command as a general officer of JRTC and Ft Polk, US Army South (Panama), and the 10th Mountain and Ft Drum from 1997-1998.

According to Lawson: "Gloria and I truly enjoyed our two tours with the 10th and found the people of the North Country the most supportive of our soldiers and their families anywhere in the country. We love Ft Drum and our beloved 10th Mountain. I pledge my total support to FDRLO and it's efforts to ensure Ft Drum remains open, active, and the best installation in our Army. I look forward to working to improve the infrastructure, training facilities and quality of life for our soldiers and families, and to enhance

communications between FDRLO, the North Country communities and the military as we tell the truly amazing Ft Drum story."

Kathleen Mastellon will provide part-time administrative staffing for the FDRLO. Mrs. Mastellon brings more than fifteen years of institutional memory to the position.

Kathy worked for the Ft. Drum Steering Council from 1986 until its dissolution in 1990 and at the Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce until 1998. At the Chamber, she and former Garrison Commander and Steering Council Executive Director COL Terrence L. Roche, US Army, (Retired) provided staffing for the FDRLO. Kathy staffed the FDRLO office with COL Bill Smith as the North Country and Drum 2000 responded to BRAC '95. From June, 2000 to December 2001, she served as Treasurer of the FDRLO.

"I'm happy to be back working for the FDRLO. Kevin and I moved to the North Country from Long Island in 1970. We recognized the excellent quality of life and chose to stay and to raise our daughter here. I suppose we're like the Ft. Drum retirees who have stayed here or those active military who have opted to return for multiple duty tours. I can sum it up in a phrase: *'I'm from away, but I like it here!'* -that's why I continue working to secure the economic well-being and the quality of life of this community."

# KOSOVO IMPRESSIONS

by Dr. John Deans

In early February, I was privileged to join with Fort Drum and 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division leaders, Congressional staff members, local media representatives, and some North Country citizens in a visit to Kosovo. Approximately 3,000 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division soldiers are currently deployed to this troubled region of the Balkans as part of a multi-national peacekeeping and "nation-building" effort.



Our visit provided us with the unique opportunity to see first hand the challenges our soldiers, other U. S. military personnel, and soldiers and civilians from around the world are addressing. The soldiers of the 10<sup>th</sup> are leading the mission to reduce violence and establish a safe environment for the residents of this conflict-ridden piece of the former Yugoslavian puzzle. Amidst deep-seated ethnic and religious tensions, massive unemployment, and a general lack of familiarity with democratic institutions, an initiative to build the region's civil and physical infrastructure moves forward.

What follows are some of my impressions of Kosovo shaped by the opportunity to accompany patrols throughout the sector for which the U.S. has responsibility, conversations with soldiers, descriptions provided by both ethnic Albanians and Serbians through interpreters, formal briefings, and of course, a concerted effort to "soak in" all that our five day venture would allow.

Above all, my visit left me with a deep appreciation for the role the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and its soldiers are playing in this highly volatile region of our world. They are patrolling city streets and mountainous border areas on foot and by air, confronting smugglers,

escorting Serbian and ethnic Albanian children to school for their own safety, guarding churches and mosques from destruction, and helping provide basic health and sanitation services.

10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division soldiers are also striving to sow seeds of tolerance by encouraging Serbian and Albanian leaders to allow their children to actually attend school at the same time, even if not in the same classroom. They are challenging age old suspicions which preclude a Serb gripped by illness from accepting treatment from an Albanian physician or vice versa. Furthermore, their's is a mission they are performing on behalf of all of us, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

One cannot say with certainty how long the world's direct involvement in this region may be required or even the level of success it may attain. Not being there, however, is an alternative this visitor would not wish to contemplate. As we are graphically reminded by the on-going trial of Slobodan Milosevic in the Hague, events in the Balkans clearly revealed the horrendous level of discord and bitterness among the region's peoples.

Kosovo and much of the Balkans, as history attests,

have long been a "European Tinderbox." Assassination in the region helped trigger World War I. In the aftermath of World War II, Tito created a modern day Yugoslavia and largely succeeded in placing a lid on the cauldron of intense ethnic and religious rivalries. His death in 1980 and the subsequent collapse of Communism appears to have once again lifted that lid, thereby allowing long held rivalries and "nationalistic" aspirations of groups throughout the country to emerge. Kosovo represents the most recent chapter in the decade long disintegration of Tito's nation state.

In the wake of ethnic cleansing, wide spread atrocities, allegations of genocide from virtually all quarters, and a NATO led bombing campaign, the effort to reconstruct Kosovo is under way. Central to that effort, daunting as it must seem at times, is the leadership provided by the soldiers of Fort Drum and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. In them, and in 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division soldiers everywhere, all of us can share a great deal of pride. To them, all of us owe a great debt of gratitude.

**"The soldiers of the 10<sup>th</sup> are leading the mission to reduce violence and establish a safe environment for the residents ..."**





**Fort Drum  
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**FDRLO MISSION**

To foster effective communication,  
understanding and mutual support by  
serving as the primary point of  
coordination for resolution of those  
issues which transcend the specific  
interests of the military and civilian  
communities of the Fort Drum region.

**Five-Year Strategic Plan Adopted**

At its January meeting, the FDRLO Board of Directors officially adopted its Strategic Action Plan. With guidance from Col. Michael Plummer, U.S. Army (Ret.), members of the board and top leaders from Ft. Drum have jointly worked on this plan.

The initial planning process began in February of 2001 with an assessment of the FDRLO's internal and external operating environments. This assessment allowed the group to identify the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to make some assumptions of their impact over time.

Throughout the FDRLO Strategic Action Plan process, the Fort Drum region was and is defined

as *Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.*

After the events of 9-11 the assumptions were reviewed and updated to compensate for the dramatic changes facing the entire nation and the North Country. Finally in early January 2002 the working group gave its final blessing to the results and a final product was presented for Board approval.

Our mission statement (see box at left) defines our reason for existence. It specifies what we do, why we do it and for whom we do it.

The vision statement describes the future the organization and its members are attempting

to shape in order to continue to accomplish the stated mission at that future point in time.

**Vision:** Through the leadership efforts and activities of the FDRLO, the Fort Drum region is recognized as:

- The Army's, Soldiers and Family's first choice.
- An attractive, healthy and vibrant community widely seen as the place to which to move, thrive and stay.
- A region that fulfills the needs and dreams of all who call the North Country home.

*More details of the Strategic Action plan will be included in future editions of THE LIAISON.*