

The Liaison



Volume 3, Issue 2

June 2004



ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total economic impact of a military installation on a geographic area is difficult to calculate.

The total direct expenditure in the tri-county area for **FY 2003**

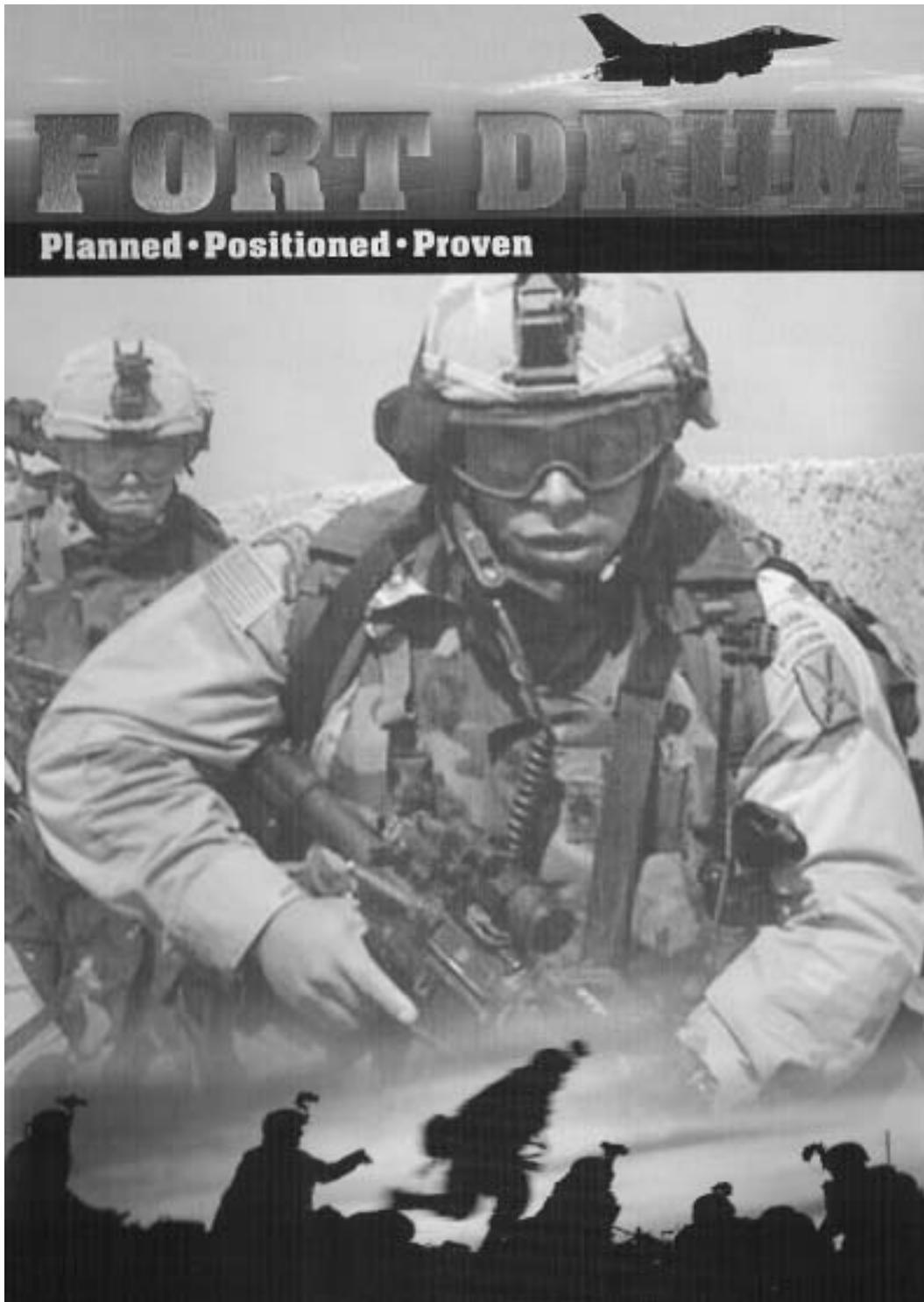
\$529,736,252

This figure includes military, civilian and MCA contractor payrolls, costs for medical/dental and veterinary services, Army Community Housing, Federal and state school aid, tuition and contracts for educational services, PX/Commissary service and maintenance and contracts with North Country businesses.

Source:
Fort Drum EIS FY 2003

This is the brochure cover photo from the recently released **FORT DRUM: 3ps Information Package**.

For more information, see pages 4 –5.





"... FDRLO has been able to assist in addressing other issues of critical importance to the future of Fort Drum and the North Country."

**FDRLO
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"We're not just
about BRAC anymore!"

Comments from the Chair

John W. Deans

For much of its history, most of FDRLO's energies have focused on Base Realignment and Closure. Specifically, this has meant preparing for, and successfully combating, what communities across this nation with military installations have come to know as BRAC. As a fourth BRAC round approaches, you can bet the farm that FDRLO has once again been carefully preparing to insure that the Fort Drum story is known and appreciated far and wide.

Our "Drum 2020" team has developed a comprehensive BRAC strategy. Data continues to be gathered and analyzed and the criteria to be employed in determining the military value of installations have been carefully assessed. Most recently, a communications package that tells the story of Fort Drum as an installation "planned from the ground up, positioned for expansion and the home of proven war fighters" has been completed and will soon be in the hands of decision-makers at all levels. BRAC is, and will remain, on FDRLO's radar screen whether the 2005 round stays on schedule or is delayed - the stakes we all know are far too high to do otherwise!

As central as BRAC is to FDRLO's mission, a glimpse at the agenda of our recently held 13th Annual Meeting makes it very clear that we are not only about BRAC anymore. Thanks to the expertise and incredible support of volunteers and elected officials from across the tri-county region and at the state and national levels, FDRLO has been able to assist in addressing other issues of critical importance to the future of Fort Drum and the North Country.

To help insure a successful solution to Fort Drum's housing needs, FDRLO's Housing Task Force was formed over two years ago. Task force members were actively involved alongside Fort Drum representatives at a Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) conference in San Antonio where we helped tell the story of the truly special Fort Drum/North Country relationship to prospective housing developers. That effort has been publicly credited with attracting the interest of Actus, Fort Drum's nationally recognized, premier housing partner. Recently, with FDRLO's assistance, a "win-win" community development agreement that's good for soldiers and families and North Country communities, and which will help insure the success of this vital housing initiative, was concluded.

With the announcement of a third UA or unit of action for Fort Drum, our Housing Task Force remains engaged, helping to address the immediate "housing challenge" posed by the opportunity to bring over 2800 new soldiers and families to the North Country. And by working closely with Fort Drum, our elected officials and representatives of both State and Federal agencies, FDRLO's efforts are actively supporting other base enhancement initiatives designed to further strengthen the military value of this invaluable asset to our nation and the area we all call home.

Surely, there is much before us still to be done. But, when we reflect on the impact of Fort Drum, its soldiers and their families on the North Country and our quality of life, and that of our children and grandchildren, is there really any more important work to be done? Eight of every ten respondents to the Center for Community Studies Fifth Annual Survey of the Community affirmed that Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division have improved our overall quality of life; an equal number recognized it would be "detrimental" were it to close.

So, with the continued support of our local community, volunteers who freely lend their expertise and commitment and an excellent working relationship with those at all levels of our government, FDRLO will do its part to not only retain but expand the role Fort Drum plays here at home and in our nation's defense. Sincere thanks to all currently involved and welcome to those who will join us in the months ahead.

13th Annual Meeting Held at Hays Hall Officers and Directors Elected

More than one hundred people including Congressman John M. McHugh, MG Lloyd Austin III and members of the Fort Drum Command Group were on hand in the Summit Room at Ft Drum's Hays Hall on Friday, June 4th for the FDRLO's 13th Annual Meeting.

The FDRLO with Charles Bohlen as its first chair held its organizational meeting in the Fall of 1990. At just about that same time, the Fort Drum Steering Council closed its doors. Leaders in the tri-county region and at Fort Drum recognized the need for a

continuing organization. The names and faces may change in local communities and in the command group at Ft Drum, but the need for an on-going, open two-way communication network remains.

This mission of communication, mutual support and coordination for resolution of issues that affect all continues to direct our energies.

Thanks to Charlie Bohlen and Tony Keating, and now to John Deans, for fourteen years of exemplary leadership. *The editor!*

Election of Officers

for two year terms (2004-2006)

Chair	John W. Deans
Vice Chair	Keith B. Caughlin
Secretary	Elizabeth C. Fipps
Treasurer	Terrence L. Roche

*Directors elected
for 3-year term (2004-2007)*

Donald Brining
Robert Hagemann
Robert Juravich
Daniel Stern
Suzanne Tingley
Barbara Webber (1st term)



John Rothermel served as a director of the FDRLO for eight years, June 1996 through this June. In recognition of his dedication to the mission and goals of the organization and his service to the entire Fort Drum—North Country Community, a certificate of appreciation was presented by John W. Deans, Chair of FDRLO, at the annual meeting.

Thanks, John, for your support and service!

**Special
Thanks to
Retiring
Board
Member**

Newest Board Member among NYS Senate Women of Distinction

Congratulations to Barbara Webber honored at the 2004 "Women of Distinction" ceremony in Albany earlier this month.



A former Jefferson County Legislator, Mrs. Webber taught for 24 years in the Carthage School District. She has served on numerous boards of local organizations and has just become a member of the FDRLO Board of Directors.

Senator Wright describes Barbara: "She has gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving her community.... Her outstanding character helped her raise four daughters..." In fact Mrs. Webber's daughter, Gwendolyn Webber McLeod of Cayuga County was also recognized by her senator at the same ceremony.

Watertown City Assessor Marlene Norfolk was also honored at this year's event.

DRUM 2020 UPDATE

Drum 2020

co-chairs:
Keith Caughlin
Beth Fipps

Communications
Committee
Ruth Ellen
Blodgett

Information
Committee
Richard Babbitt

Membership
Committee
Donald Alexander
Gary Derioun II

Perhaps I read the paper more closely than others, watching for references to Fort Drum, but as we begin our communications campaign for Drum 2020, several recent news stories underscore why this fight to retain and expand Fort Drum is so critical.

First, three articles in as many weeks, announcing substantial contract awards for locally owned, locally operated businesses employing hardworking local tax payers were announced. Congratulations to Purcell Construction, Tug Hill Construction and Guilfoyle Ambulance on their awards of contracts totaling 38 million dollars.

Secondly, a Letter to the Editor in which a departing Fort Drum family lets our community know how much they appreciated this place during their assignment. Often we hear the military/civilian relationship in Northern New York is special, maybe we take it for granted, but the Scanlin family reminded us that in ten years of service, they "have never enjoyed being a part of a community as we have here."

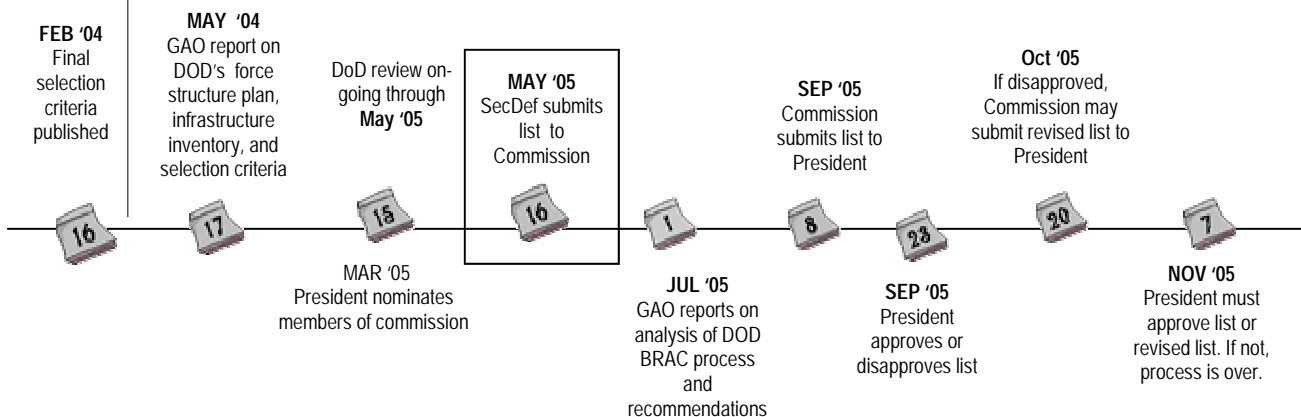
Thirdly, the coverage on the Back Page of the President of Afghanistan's visit to Fort Drum as his first stop in the United States. President Karzai eloquently thanked the Division and two soldiers, in particular, for its service and their sacrifices.

The common theme in these articles is recognition of and appreciation for what we have. The mission of the Drum 2020 communications campaign is to spread that message to others, especially those having influence in this 2005 BRAC round. If the players in the process, some unfamiliar with the attributes of Fort Drum, watch our DVD, read our brochure, or drill down into the data provided on our CD-ROM, they will recognize and appreciate the value of Fort Drum.

Two things as we go into the summer. As often as others promote a delay of the BRAC round or attempt to avoid it, DRUM 2020 expects the Closure List is being worked on and will be issued on May 16, 2005. We can not sit back but must prepare as if 530 million dollars a

(Continued on page 5)

Key Dates in Base Realignment and Closure Process



FORT DRUM

Planned • Positioned • Proven

*Fort Drum
was built to support
joint training initiatives.*

All branches of the U.S. military train here for maximum interoperability.

Reserve, National Guard and Active Duty units benefit from access to integrated network of live fire training ranges and simulation sites

Joint war games are developed and tested at Fort Drum producing battle-tested, combat ready warfighters.

New digitized air gunnery range is utilized for regular bombing and training for Air Force, marine and Navy close air support fighter jets.

New state of the art digitized Battle Command Training Center is now on-line for training Joint Task Force components at Division or Brigade HQs level.

Ranges provide crucial integrated training for joint forces including light and heavy armor, Stryker, tanks, close air support, mountain and MOUT.

Army 10th Mountain Division, Air Force, National Guard, Reserves, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, INS, FBI, Secret Service and others train at Fort Drum.

Strategically-located,
master-planned,
state-of-the-art installation
that excels at
training, mobilizing and deploying
superior warfighters.

*Fort Drum
provides a diversity of training
All-Season, All-Weather, All Terrain*

A diversity of terrain and weather means troops train 365 days a year to be ready for any condition faced during combat worldwide.

Aviation training in extreme environments results in mission ready forces.

Diversity of terrain prepares troops for conditions faced in the mountains, rocky, forested, urban or other unforgiving landscapes.

Winter weather and sometimes bitter cold ensure that Fort Drum soldiers are well-prepared for cold weather and icy mountain challenges.

Hot summer training provides troops with the confidence to face hot weather conditions worldwide.

(Continued from page 4)

year depended on our work. To those who not only want to sit back, but relax completely, confident in their minds: "They'll never close Fort Drum", we say: "Why gamble? Do not take

the installation for granted. Too much is at stake for our community and New York State if you are wrong."

Keith B. Caughlin, co-chair, Drum 2020

A New Perspective

It seems a lot of people have a lot of opinions about the Base Realignment and Closure process (BRAC). In my first few weeks on the job, I received a great deal of unsolicited opinion, from a variety of sources, on the future of Fort Drum and the whole BRAC procedure. Almost everyone has a view or idea of what's likely to happen and most of these opinions were based on common "street wisdom." A few of the themes heard repeatedly:

"With the huge investment the Army's made in Fort Drum, they won't walk away!"

"Obviously, the most deployed Division in the Army isn't going to get the "boot" is it?"

"Look at all the housing they're going to build. Isn't that proof the Army intends to keep using Fort Drum?"

And my personal favorite, told with a number of different twists in the logic:

"Wal-Mart wouldn't be looking to put a super center outside the main gate if the Army were planning to close the place, would they? Wal-Mart knows everything."

Being the new guy, I just listened and nodded agreement that suggests their idea was somewhat self evident if you just stop and thought about it. But as I've listened, and learned from many who take a deeper and longer view of BRAC, I came to the conclusion that when thinking about Fort Drum, we need to think about more than the possibility of "closure" but also "realignment."

Before the arrival of the 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum was an outstanding facility for the training of National Guard and Reserve units from all over the north east. Each year Fort Drum continues to be the focus of training efforts for 40,000 plus Guard, Reserve, and special operations

units. Air Wings use Fort Drum to fly countless numbers of sorties as part of their training schedule. It may be the only facility that can continue to provide this kind of training in the northeast. The improvements made to support the 10th Mountain Division have made it an even better place to train these other units. Training is the Fort's historical mission. It puts us on the military map, but it isn't necessarily a reason for continued growth and expansion. It is a role we can all be very proud of and we might even come to the reasonable conclusion that this mission will continue.

However, the newer and additional mission that Fort Drum serves is as home to the 10th Mountain Division (LI). This job brings with it even more prestige, potential, and economic benefits to our north country community. The division's 12,000 soldiers, soon to be more than 14,000, and the related civilian support population are the basis for that economic engine that brings hundreds of millions of dollars annually into the North Country. How do we insure that the economic engine continues to grow and thrive?

As the Army crunches the numbers and establishes the metrics that drive the BRAC process, each military facility will be evaluated as to its appropriateness as part of the military inventory and the mission(s) assigned. The Department of Defense has succinctly labeled this "military value" and that is the first priority in the BRAC process.

Even as we are a nation at war, it must be assumed that the BRAC process will continue as planned. Our first priority should be to support the Army's already inspired conclusion, that Fort Drum is a great place to call home for the 10th Mountain Division. We in the North Country and the State of New York interpret "realignment" to be our opportunity. We are ready, willing, and able to take on more. Whatever the challenge may be, additional training area, housing, or access, these are issues and opportunities that we are prepared to tackle.

Fort Drum is
planned, positioned, proven,
and ready for more.

Carl A. McLaughlin, Executive Director, FDRLO

"... support the Army's already inspired conclusion, that Fort Drum is a great place to call home for the 10th Mountain Division."

Supporting Employers Who Support New York's Citizen Soldiers

Charles A. Gargano, Chairman, Empire State Development



The war on terror is being fought on many fronts both at home and abroad. It is also a war that has necessitated involvement from the ranks of New York's citizen soldiers. To support the brave men and women of New York State who face potential added expenses and disruptions when called to active duty, Governor George E. Pataki has established the *Patriot Plan*, a comprehensive package of new benefits and enhanced protections for the state's military personnel and their families. The *Patriot Plan* is both an expression of gratitude and a manifestation of New York's commitment to supporting its defenders during this particular period in American history. It is the first program of its kind in the nation and is expected to serve as a model for other states wishing to provide additional benefits for their service men and women.

Two of the *Patriot Plans'* programs publicly recognize the extraordinary efforts of employers and businesses that support all military personnel, including reservists and National Guard members: (1) The *NY-USA Proud Employer of Distinction Award*, and (2) the *Patriot Support and Discount Program*. Both programs are administered by Empire State Development (ESD), New York State's economic development agency.

The *NY-USA Proud Employer of Distinction Award* is presented to employers who go over and above the call of duty to accommodate the needs of their military employees. The *Patriot Support & Discount Program* recognizes merchants and businesses that provide reduced price discounts for merchandise and services for military personnel. Businesses may nominate themselves or be nominated by an employee, a member of the military or any other source. *NY-USA Proud* nominations must describe how the business has provided support to their military employees beyond what is required by law. *Patriot Support and Discount Program* nominations must describe the discount or reduced pricing offered to military personnel. Awardees receive a certificate for display in their place of business and the business name will be posted on the Patriot Plan web site.

Some additional *Patriot Plan* benefits and protections include the following:

- Expands the protections of the Human Rights Law to military personnel to ensure that they are not discriminated against in housing, employment, public accommodations or credit applications
- Permits military personnel to terminate a car lease if called to or enters active

- duty after the lease is executed
- Caps rates of interest on installment loans at six percent while the individual is on state active duty
- Directs the Insurance Department to protect the rights of military personnel to continue, suspend or convert health insurance benefits during periods of active duty
- Prohibits evictions of a member of a soldier's family during a period of active duty military service
- Extends mortgage foreclosure exemption for those called to active duty from three to six months following deployment
- Life insurance policies cannot lapse during period of active deployment or 45 days following return
- The Governor expanded the supplemental military leave program established after 9/11 to ensure that all state employees called to active duty in the war against terror suffer no reduction of income as a result of their service.

For further information about the *NY-USA Proud Award* and the *Patriot Support Discount Program* visit

www.nyspatriotplan.com.

To learn more about other *Patriot Plan* benefits, visit the Division of Military and Naval Affairs web site at

www.dmna.state.ny.us.

For a list of Empire State Development's business development programs, visit www.nylovesbiz.com or call 1-800-STATE-NY.

"... Businesses may nominate themselves or be nominated by an employee, a member of the military or any other source.

NY-USA Proud nominations must describe how the business has provided support to their military employees beyond what is required by law.

Patriot Support and Discount Program nominations must describe the discount or reduced pricing offered to military personnel. "

Visit us online at
www.fdrlo.org

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Warm welcome to
FDRLO's
newest members

Corporate

Actus Lend Lease LLC
Carthage Central School District
IBEW Local 910
Redwood Bank
Taylor Concrete Products
Tug Hill Construction

Individuals and retirees

Local 545 IUOE Rep
Carl McLaughlin
Rande Richardson

Check our website
www.fdrlo.org
for a complete list of members.
Be an Ambassador!
Recruit a new member today!

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.*

Afghanistan President Karzai Makes Historic Visit to Drum

Tuesday, June 8, 2004 was indeed an historic day for the North Country, the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum.

Afghanistan President, Hamid Karzai visited Fort Drum as the first stop on his visit to the United States. He was on his way to the G⁸ summit in Georgia and a planned visit with President George W. Bush at the White House.

In his remarks to soldiers and friends of the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum assembled on the McGrath Gym Track President Karzai said, "I am pleased to begin my visit to the United States by meeting the men and women who are at the forefront of the war on terrorism. On behalf of the Afghan people, I thank those of you who have served in Afghanistan. With your help, we have reclaimed our country from terror and oppression."

President Karzai is reportedly the first foreign head of state to visit Fort Drum since the division was reactivated here in 1985.



Afghanistan President Hamd Karzai addresses soldiers and others during his Fort Drum visit earlier this month.
(photo: Ron Spooner)