

The Liaison



Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2002

RCI from the Garrison Side

A message from COL Ray Helton, Garrison Commander, Fort Drum

It is my honor to serve as the Fort Drum Garrison Commander, the home of our 10th Mountain Division, the most frequently deployed Division in the United States Army. The Division impresses me daily as it trains and performs a variety of missions.

The very strong community relationship that our Fort Drum soldiers and their families have with our North Country neighbors has also impressed me. It is the best civil-military relationship that I have ever observed. We consider this strong relationship as we plan and coordinate for the ongoing Residential Community Initiative (RCI). As you may know, RCI is one of the most significant family support initiatives that the Department of Defense has ever undertaken.

RCI is the Army's program to privatize family housing facilities and related operations. We will create world class, quality residential communities by leveraging Army assets with private sector expertise, capital, creativity and innovation. Today's soldiers and their families deserve nothing less.

The Army and our selected RCI developer will form a partnership entity to renovate existing on post housing, construct additional units and provide community amenities. All on post housing units will be legally transferred to this new entity. The Army will lease land to this entity for the 50-year duration of the RCI project. It is anticipated the RCI project will result in an initial \$200M private capital investment with 70% of the work accomplished through local small business subcontracting.

The project schedule is aggressive. Key milestones include obtaining Department of Defense concept approval and a

Congressional notification in January 2003; the formal solicitation process thereafter; an award selecting our RCI development partner in November 2003; negotiating the Community Development Management Plan (CDMP) into 2004; final Congressional approval in June 2004; with actual real estate asset transfer and start up operations in November 2004.

Fort Drum's Army Community Housing (ACH) leases for 2,000 housing units all expire between December 2007 and October 2010. Clearly, the future utilization of these properties and a continuing residency of military families in the community are concerns for many local stakeholders - schools, realtors, municipalities, political leadership and the current ACH property owners.

Fort Drum's unique RCI program seeks to integrate off post community housing into the RCI project. The Army will ask the RCI partner to assess the viability of incorporating leased ACH units, other privately owned rental properties as well as constructing new family housing communities off post. The assessment will address property desirability by military families, community quality of life, property purchase cost, operating expenses, ability to meet the portfolio bedroom requirements (1 bedroom per child), facility condition and location.

The RCI project entails a complex process and truly is a legacy project, valued at nearly \$2B over the 50 years. Fort Drum's unique challenges are the possible off post property integration into RCI and the large construction requirement in the project's early years to eliminate the

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Happy Holidays

from the Officers,
Directors and Staff
of the FDRLO

Peace on Earth
Good will to all!

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Comments from the Chair *Taking Stock ... Moving Forward*

"... no greater error ... than to become complacent."



As the 2002 year draws to a close, there is indeed much the FDRLO and our North Country can feel good about. For one, Fort Drum - which contributes so mightily to this nation's security and to the economic and social well-being of the area our military and civilian

communities call home - grows steadily more valuable.

Thanks to the leadership efforts of Congressman McHugh and the support of the Bush Administration and Senators Clinton and Schumer, additional Federal funding will further enhance the strategic value of one of the premier power projection platforms in the U.S. military. Approved budget dollars will provide \$1.5 million for a live-fire shooting range to further support the Army's urban warfare training initiative, \$8.8 million for a parallel taxi-way at Wheeler-Sack Airfield along with \$8 million for the expansion of the DIVARTY barracks and \$15 million for a Blackhawk flight simulator. These most recent enhancements will further Fort Drum's already demonstrated value as the only maneuver installation in the northeast supporting the total Army (Active, Guard and Reserve) and other services including the Air Force and Marines as well as militaries of U.S. allies.

It is no wonder, therefore, that Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's recent memorandum proclaiming that the upcoming 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round will also measure the ability of military

..... **Dr. John W. Deans**

installations to strengthen U.S. war-fighting capability through joint use operations seems like even more good news for Fort Drum. This emphasis, when combined with the prominence the 10th Mountain Division (LI) has brought to Fort Drum as a result of its widely recognized prowess in diverse war-fighting and peace-keeping environments around the world, should bode well for our future.

There could, however, be no greater error for our North Country and friends of Fort Drum everywhere, than to become complacent. History demonstrates that BRAC is always a dynamic process which literally won't be over until it's over in 2005! Therefore, our community's efforts to ensure Fort Drum is strongly positioned for the upcoming round and beyond will only intensify in the months ahead.

Thanks to leadership-level support provided by Jefferson County, on-going financial assistance provided by Governor Pataki, Senator Wright and elected officials from across New York State and the North Country, resources required to generate a first-class case for our Fort will be there. This support and the energy, creativity and commitment of citizen volunteers throughout our region will help the FDRLO and Fort Drum move further forward in 2003.

Thanks to all for a great team effort and here's to continued success in the new year ahead.

- John W. Deans, Chair

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COL Helton Message

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projected 1,244 unit family housing deficit. This unique project will provide a market driven housing portfolio providing high quality, affordable and secure family housing communities for our military families.

The North Country community and Fort Drum confront a mutual challenge to encourage the potential RCI developers to aggressively compete and ultimately invest in our RCI

project. A shared vision must highlight the long-term regional interest towards providing the very best military family housing communities and thereby securing Fort Drum's viability long into the future.

I look forward to serving our soldiers and working with our community as I continue this command tour.

Board Approves Creation of Housing Task Force

Representatives from Fort Drum, public education, local, state and federal governments and other stakeholders will comprise the initial working group of the FDRLO Housing Task Force. The FDRLO Board of Directors approved the formation of the Task Force at its November board meeting.

Dr. John Deans, chair of the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, announced in mid-November that the following individuals have accepted the invitation to serve on the Task Force:

Mr. Charles H. Bohlen, Jr., Superintendent of Jefferson-Lewis BOCES;
 Mr. Donald Brining, St. Lawrence County Administrator;
 Ms. Mary Corriveau, Assistant to the City Manager, Watertown; chair, 801 Task Force;
 Ms. Sharon DeVoe Cihocki, Lewis County Manager;
 Mr. Lance Evans, Executive Officer, Jefferson-Lewis Board of REALTORS
 and St. Lawrence County Board of REALTORS;
 Mr. Robert Hagemann, Jefferson County Administrator;
 Ms. Anne LeMay, Congressional Aide, Office of Congressman John McHugh;
 Mr. Graham Wise, Office of NYS Senator James Wright; and
 Mr. Douglas Schelleng, Empire State Development.

Mr. Robert Juravich, Executive Director, Development Authority of the North Country, will chair the Task Force. Dr. Deans serves as an ex officio member as chair of FDRLO. A representative of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal is expected to be announced some time later this month.

The Army's

Residential Communities Initiatives (RCI)

Quality Communities for Army Families

Fort Drum will be represented by COL Emory R. Helton, Garrison Commander; COL John L. Ramey, Director, Public Works; Mr. James Corriveau, RCI Project Manager; and Ms. Randa Ortlieb, Chief, Housing Division.

The Housing Task Force is charged with facilitating communication and understanding among the potential stakeholders in the Residential Communities Initiative. The Task Force is authorized to undertake education, research and coordination functions as determined by the FDRLO's executive committee.

Currently, Fort Drum's military housing mix is unique. Soldiers and their families are housed in army housing both within and outside the fence line. Whether or not this mix will continue once Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) is fully implemented is yet to be determined.

Developers interested in partnering with Ft. Drum to supply the needed housing units will begin to study the area within the next few months. The RFQ (Requests for Qualifications) for the fifty year partnership will be due in 2003.

Timeline for RCI



Drum 2020 Update

Pentagon Announces Two BRAC Working Groups

One year from now, on December 31, 2003, the Pentagon must announce the criteria for the BRAC 2005 closure round. Fifteen months later, by March 15, 2005, the President will appoint a BRAC Commission. Two months after that, the Secretary of Defense will send a recommended closure list to the BRAC Commission.

Obviously, our goal is to stay off the May 16, 2005, recommended closure list. In past BRAC rounds, each service graded its installations on efficiency, necessity and other criteria and came up with the service's recommended closure list. These three lists of excess installations were sent to the Pentagon and eventually to the BRAC Commission. Recently, the Secretary of Defense added a new

theme to the "excess capacity" standard.. It is his goal for BRAC 2005 to accomplish "TRANSFORMATION" in addition to increasing efficiency. The Secretary intends the BRAC 2005 round rationalize our infrastructure with defense strategy.

Two newly created working groups within the Pentagon will create the criteria for next December's publication, apply the criteria through 2004, and influence the recommended closure list for May 16, 2005. These two groups, the Infrastructure Executive Council (IEC) and the Infrastructure Steering Group (ISG) will be responsible to oversee the BRAC process. The IEC will be headed by Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and will have policy-making and oversight responsibility. The ISG will be headed by Undersecretary Edward "Pete" Aldrich, the Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and will oversee joint cross-service analysis. Secretary Rumsfeld described as a "primary objective of BRAC 2005" the examination and implementation of opportunities for greater joint activity.

Drum 2020 and the FDRLO intend to make the case that Ft. Drum is an ideal location for the Army and, given the expansion of Wheeler-Sack and the room for additional units, is a perfect location for permanent expanded joint use.

WHY HIRE A FORT DRUM MILITARY FAMILY MEMBER?

- * They adapt readily to new environments. Because of the recurrent changes in their lifestyles, military spouses have learned to invest their energies quickly in their new communities.
- * As members of the Department of Defense family, they know what commitment means. Wouldn't you like to have that same commitment?
- * They have proven knowledge, skills, and abilities to make a contribution to your organization.
- * Their variety of life and work experiences enables them to quickly determine the most efficient way to perform many tasks.
- * The excellent school system in Northern New York tends to keep families in the local area for years longer than most installations.
- * Many develop careers in the community and become permanent residents.
- * Many will accept temporary work.

This list was taken from a brochure prepared by Amy Rossi, Employment Readiness Program

Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County.

ERP offers the following free services to area employers:

1. Access to a variety of qualified motivated persons whose skills & abilities match your needs;
2. Screened referral of applicants to potential employers according to your directions;
3. Employers are under no obligation to select the referred candidate.

For more information, contact Amy Rossi at 772-9611.



Stream International Recognizes Unique HR Resource

Stream International's decision to locate a 700-job customer contact center in downtown Watertown is welcome news for all of the North Country. While the local press has been filled with information regarding the importance of the financial aspects of luring a multi-national company to Watertown, it was the area's workforce that really was the reason for Stream's decision. Moreover, the presence of Fort Drum in the community, and the fact that it represents a very unique human resource to area employers pushed Watertown to the top of Stream's list.

Stream's employees are among the most highly trained customer service representatives in the world. Not only do these individuals require expertise in customer service and relationship management, but they also need to be well versed in cutting edge technology. There was a time in the industrial economy when all an individual needed to be successful in the world of work was a strong back and an understanding of which end of a screwdriver to hold onto. In today's world, it is a person's intelligence, problem solving skills and communication skills that make them a great employee.

Stream could have located its customer contact center in any community of Watertown's size, in any state or country in the world. What they found in Watertown was a workforce that is available and diverse, as well as one that possessed the baseline skills in customer service and technology aptitude that the company required. It is important to note that the populations associated with Fort Drum, especially the local military spouse population,

are major contributors to this local pool of human resources. Individuals associated with Fort Drum come from a wide variety of cultural, social, economic and educational backgrounds that provide a company like Stream International with a diverse pool of individuals from which to fill the 700 jobs that they plan to create.

In January of 2002, the company held an informational Job Fair. Fort Drum, through its system of Army Community Housing mayors and various employment assistance programs on post, was able to help the Fort Drum population understand the importance of the job fair, and the opportunities presented by Stream International. Transportation was provided between the Job Fair and various locations on post and at Army community housing facilities. Ultimately, over 6500 people turned out for the job fair; many of these were Fort Drum spouses or dependents.

Fort Drum is an economic resource beyond compare in Jefferson County and the three-county region. Stream's decision to locate in Watertown is only the most recent manifestation of that fact. Once again, the Fort has demonstrated its integral role in the local economy and its importance to the North Country community.

An email from Home—Operation Dear Abby

In 1967, Sgt. Billy Thompson wrote Abigail Van Buren asking for a Christmas present for our servicemembers – "Just a letter from home." American citizens have been sending their best wishes to the troops every holiday season. "Operation Dear Abby," has brought joy to hundreds of thousands of U.S. military personnel deployed away from home and around the world.

Concerns about regular mail delivery have prompted the military to suspend the annual any service member letter-writing campaign.

However, Dear Abby, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of the Navy's [LifeLines2000 Services Network](#) in association with [SPAWAR SCC \(National Capital Region\)](#) provides a [private and secure](#) online resource that will allow you to send a Sailor, Marine, Soldier, Airman, or Coast Guardsman a holiday greeting or message of support.

Go to <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/> for more information.



Send a special message to our men and women in the military defending American freedom worldwide.



**Fort Drum
Regional Liaison Organization**

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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.

Mark
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The first FDRLO Board meeting
of the year is set for
Friday, January 24, 2003
at 1:30 pm
at the recently opened
Clark Building on Fort Drum.

Watch your mailbox
in January for
specific directions.

Members are welcome to attend.

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2002 NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS OF FDRLO

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