

# The Liaison



## DRUM 2020 Launches Speaking Engagements

by Keith Caughlin

Beth Fipps and I are the co-chairs of Drum 2020, our North Country BRAC response effort. We have kept the FDRLO advised of our work to advocate for Fort Drum, regionally and nationally, and to educate about Fort Drum, locally. One effective means to educate our neighbors about Fort Drum (and avoid taking the installation for granted) is the Drum 2020 Speakers Bureau.

Our first unrehearsed effort was the Watertown Noon Rotary Club on May 8, 2002. John Deans, Peter Clough and I presented a 20 minute program followed by questions and answers,

about our installation, the impact on our quality of life, the economic impact and a primer on BRAC 2005.

We were warmly received and are now improving our speech. If your group or organization would like a similar presentation, please call or e-mail the FDRLO Office. This is a great way to start to get the word out about the threat our region faces if we remain complacent or fail to prepare.

### Key Dates in BRAC Process

- Dec 31, 2003 SecDef publishes criteria for 2005 Round
- Jan 31, 2004 Public Comment Period on criteria expires
- Feb 16, 2004 Final selection criteria published by SecDef
- Feb 28, 2004 SecDef provides a Force Structure Plan and Installation Inventory (excess v. necessary) to Congress with FY 2005 Budget documents to certify need for Closure Round
- Apr 28, 2004 Comptroller General submits evaluation of need for closure
- Mar 15, 2005 President nominates 9 members of Commission
- May 16, 2005 SecDef submits list of recommendations to Commission for review
- Sept 8, 2005 Commission submits list to President
- Sept 23, 2005 President approves or disapproves Commission's List
- Oct 20, 2005 If disapproved, Commission may submit revised list to President
- Nov 7, 2005 President must approve of List or Revised List. If not, process is over.

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2002

**FDRLO  
Annual Meeting  
June 10  
3:00 pm  
Summit Room  
Hays Hall,  
HQ Bldg  
Fort Drum**

**Fort Drum  
Economic Impact**

**FY 2001  
Wages totaled**

**\$371,313,802**

- That's 11%
- of wages earned
- In tri-county region!

### Inside this issue:

- Comments from Chair **2**
- County pledges \$\$\$ **2**
- Senator Clinton **3**
- Corporate members **4**

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

“10<sup>th</sup> Mountain forces were well prepared for combat in the cold, high-altitude regions of eastern Afghanistan.”

Can an FDRLO meeting be informative, historic and downright exhilarating? Certainly that was a widely shared observation by those in attendance at the May meeting of FDRLO's Board of Directors and membership.

There on the big screen of the Sturtz Theater at Jefferson Community College was MG Franklin L. Hagenbeck, speaking live from Bagram Air Base near Kabul, Afghanistan. In a video conference, which for the first time allowed civilian members of the North Country community to speak directly with him, General Hagenbeck, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Commanding General and leader of coalition forces in Central Asia, overviewed the situation in Afghanistan and detailed the role of 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldiers in Operation Anaconda.

In his analysis of battles with Taliban and al-Qaida forces at Shah-e-kot, General Hagenbeck underscored the importance of Fort Drum's training capabilities in ensuring 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain forces were well prepared for combat in the cold, high-altitude regions of eastern Afghanistan.

### Additionally, MG Hagenbeck commended the **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR FDRLO BRAC ACTIVITIES**

On Tuesday, May 7th, members of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators confirmed their support for ensuring Fort Drum's Future in the North Country,

Responding to a formal request from FDRLO, the legislators stepped forward to “lead a tri-county effort for local financial support by committing \$500,000 over a three year period toward the FDRLO's mission to insure the retention of Fort Drum.”

FDRLO Vice-Chair Keith Caughlin, co-chair of the Drum 2020 effort, thanked the legislators for their foresight and enthusiastic support and assured them that the funds will be used wisely. “These funds will be used to support an infrastructure to advocate and educate locally and in Washington, DC. We'll answer the question of why Fort Drum is important to the Army, the Department of Defense and the nation,” says Caughlin. “We've all heard it said somewhere—‘they wouldn't close Fort Drum—what a ridiculous idea.’ Our mission is to make sure the irrational doesn't happen.”



Photo courtesy of Kevin Mastellon

North Country community for its support of the troops in Afghanistan as well as soldiers and family members at home. The video conference provided an excellent insight into the War on Terrorism and reinforced, yet one more time, the critical role Fort Drum and the 10<sup>th</sup> are playing in this nation's defense.

Again, thank you General Hagenbeck. As the FDRLO continues its preparations for the BRAC 2005 round, your presentation has provided all the more inspiration!



### Jefferson County Chambers of Commerce Pledge Financial Support

At the May 3rd FDRLO meeting, James Brett, President of the Jefferson County Chambers of Commerce Board of Directors presented Dr. Deans with a check for \$2650.00 This represented the organization's 2002 dues and a contribution to support the FDRLO's efforts to ensure the viability of Ft. Drum.

Mr. Brett pledged additional funds over the next few years as the FDRLO continues its work in anticipation of the 2005 BRAC Round.

#### FDRLO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### OFFICERS

###### Chair

John Deans

###### Vice-Chair

Keith Caughlin

###### Treasurer

Terrence Roche

###### Secretary

Elizabeth Fipps

###### Past Chair

F. Anthony Keating

##### Directors

Ruth Ellen Blodgett

Charles Bohlen

Donald Brining

Dickenson Fowler

Robert Hagemann

Louis Hervey

Jerry Hiller

George Intschert

John B. Johnson, Jr.

Robert Juravich

Kevin Mastellon

Ron McDougall

John Morgia

John Rothermel

Daniel Stern

##### Fort Drum Reps

COL John Kelly

Lori Ward

## Senator Clinton Speaks Out For Fort Drum

Last month, I had the special honor of joining in the welcome-home celebration of the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. From fighting in Afghanistan to peacekeeping in Kosovo, our troops help make the world safe for people who cherish freedom. These soldiers were prepared for whatever obstacles came their way in Afghanistan precisely because of the training they received at Fort Drum. In April, I had the privilege of visiting the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where other soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division were recuperating from wounds suffered in battle in Afghanistan. I know that all New Yorkers feel the same pride for these distinguished service men and women that I carry with me.

In early February, my North Country Office Director Sue Merrell joined other civilian supporters of Fort Drum in a visit to 10th Mountain Division troops stationed in Kosovo. Sue had the opportunity to observe first-hand the difficult work that the 10th Mountain Division did as part of the Kosovo Peace Keeping Mission and brought back a deep appreciation for their contributions to peace and security. They truly represent the very best of America.

Despite the extraordinary work of members of the Armed Services overseas, the threat of base closures here at home still looms. Last year, the Congress passed legislation instituting one round of base closings in 2005. I strongly opposed the current round of base closures in the Department of Defense authorization bill last year and spoke on the Senate floor against base realignments and closings because I believe that the Administration has not yet made a convincing case for further closings, particularly during this time of war.

Fortunately, the base closing language that came out of House-Senate conference was favorable for Fort Drum thanks to several important pieces

inserted into the House bill that prevailed. As my colleague Congressman McHugh outlined in this newsletter recently, the compromise that was struck established criteria that must be taken into consideration when evaluating the "military value" of a base rather than leaving this solely in the hands of the Secretary of Defense. The standards that were created will ensure that the value of maneuver installations, like Fort Drum, which boasts the most realistic infantry and armor training in the U.S. Army, is thoughtfully weighed.

We also succeeded in making sure that before the Commission can tack on a base to the closure list, the Secretary of Defense has a 15-day window to reject the proposal. My staff will be working with Congressman McHugh's staff to keep his language on the House side intact in this year's bill.

As we look to transform our nation's military to fit the needs of 21st century warfare, Fort Drum-trained soldiers are exactly the kind of troops we need. It's no coincidence that when the initial troops were called into the Afghanistan, soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division were among the first ones in. As one of the most frequently deployed missions in the U.S. army, these flexible, mobile forces are a powerful weapon.

As the largest employer in Northern New York, Fort Drum is vital not only to our nation's defenses, but to North Country's economy as well. Given the barriers facing this part of the state, the economic impact of Fort Drum on North Country is not inconsequential and is another important reason to ensure the installation is allowed to continue.



Photo courtesy of Keith Caughlin

Now more than ever, we must remain resolute in our defense of America's values, interests and security. Our safety at home, as well as abroad rests on the strength of our military response, and Fort Drum is an absolutely essential component. As a charter member of the new Senate Army Caucus, I plan to work with my colleagues to ensure that Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division continue to play a large role in defending our nation. You can count on me to continue to make the survival of Fort Drum one of my top priorities in the Senate.

If there are any issues that you wish to bring to my attention, I encourage you to contact either Sue Merrell in my North Country office or Andrew Shapiro in my Washington, DC office to discuss Fort Drum's needs or upcoming base closing rounds. By keeping in touch, and working together, we can help ensure continued support for Fort Drum and the future of the North Country.

**Hillary Rodham Clinton**

Senator Clinton's Washington office address:  
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
U.S. Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-4451

**"You can count on me to continue to make the survival of Fort Drum one of my top priorities in the Senate."**



**Fort Drum  
Regional Liaison Organization**

PO Box 775  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Phone/Fax: 315-779-8411  
Email: office@fdrlo.org

**PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Watertown, NY  
Permit 40**

**Reminder**

**FDRLO Annual Meeting  
Monday, June 10th  
3:00 pm**

**Summit Room  
Hays Hall  
HQ Bldg, Ft. Drum**

**RSVP REQUIRED!  
779-8411  
office@fdrlo.org**

**WE MUST SUPPLY LIST  
OF ATTENDEES  
TO FORT DRUM.**

**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.

**New and Renewed Corporate Memberships  
Jan 1, 2002 through May 24, 2002  
Thanks for your support!**



Louis B. Adams, Jr., CPA PC  
AFGE Local 400  
AmeriCu Credit Union  
Jeff-Lewis BOCES  
Carthage Federal Savings & Loan  
City of Watertown  
Communications Workers Local 1124  
Community Bank, N.A.  
Conboy, McKay, Bachmann & Kendall  
Countryside Veterinary Clinic  
Development Authority of the North Country  
DOHL Development  
Ft. Drum Garrison Commander's Office  
Foy Agency, Inc.  
H.D. Goodale Insurance  
Gray's Flower Shops  
Haylor, Freyor & Coon  
Heary & Jackson, Attorneys-at-Law  
Hrabchek & Gebo, PC  
HSBC  
Indian River Central School District  
Iroquis Gas  
Jefferson-Lewis WIB  
Jefferson Community College  
Jefferson County Board of Legislators  
Jefferson County Chambers of Commerce

Jefferson Rehabilitation Center  
Johnson Newspapers Corporation  
KeyBank, N.A.  
Kinney Drugs  
Lawman Heating & Cooling  
Lewis County Chamber of Commerce  
Meade Opticians  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Pioneer Services  
Pyramid Corporation  
S&L Electric Inc.  
Samaritan Medical Center  
Schwerzmann & Wise, P.C.  
St. Law Valley Bldg & Cnstr Trades Council  
Stateway Plaza  
Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council  
Time Warner Cable  
Town of LeRay  
United Way of Northern New York  
Village of Gouverneur  
Watertown Local Development Corp.  
Watertown Savings Bank  
WDC Associates  
WPBS-TV  
WTOJ, WATN, WOTT, WBDI, WBDR  
WWNY-TV 7

**Don't see your company name here? Call Kathy at 779-8411 to receive an application.**