

# The Liaison



## President George W. Bush Visits Ft. Drum

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“...thank you all for such a warm welcome. I'm honored to be here. I've been looking forward to coming to Fort Drum. It gives me a chance to come to one of our nation's finest military bases...

This great base, the 10th Mountain Division, has a special place in American military history. Under different names, Fort Drum has given continuous service to the defense of our country since the beginning of the last century. The ranks of the 10th Mountain Division have given distinguished and at times heroic service for six decades. This unit has produced some of the finest soldiers ever to wear the uniform...”

*President George W. Bush, 7-19-02*



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**July 19, 2002 – A Day to Remember**

**“... Fort Drum is not only a North Country asset. Fort Drum is a state, North East, national and, yes, truly global asset.”**



## Comments from the Chair

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

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As the FDRLO looks ahead, particularly with an eye on the upcoming 2005 BRAC round, it is important, I think, that we recognize that both opportunities and challenges lay before us. We know we will face both; some we can anticipate and plan for, others on both the opportunity and challenge side will need to be addressed more spontaneously.

Our efforts to successfully address both challenges and opportunities will be enhanced if we continue to approach the future within a broad and more global context. Continually striving to see the big picture and a future with Fort Drum as an integral, indeed increasingly important part of that future, will help create the perspective and sense of proportion wherein we can more effectively address both challenges and opportunities. In the process, we will be able to most effectively prepare for the BRAC round.

In the broadest sense, the huge opportunity we have before us as a community is to remain the primary beneficiary of the single-most positive and constructive development that has occurred in the North Country within memory - namely, the development and on-going expansion of Fort Drum and its capabilities. Every one of us sees daily the impact of Fort Drum and its people on our community. It is an impact that is both qualitative and quantitative. Fort Drum's impact is readily measured in dollars and cents, but is equally profound in the effect that all of those associated with Fort Drum have on our community's daily life. It is seen in our schools, our religious organizations, and in both the participation and leadership of the Fort Drum community in our North Country's activities and organizations.

The perspective so important for each of us to keep in mind is that Fort Drum is not only a North Country asset. Fort Drum is a state, North East, national and, yes, truly global asset. And the value of that asset will be largely measured by those beyond our midst using calculations of Fort Drum's military value - its utility as a maneuver base and training center, not only for the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division but for the Guard and Reserves as well as other branches of this nation's military.

It may not be overstatement to say that with the ongoing upgrades since the building of the new Fort Drum in the mid-1980's, Fort Drum presents the best training opportunities within the Army. Beyond its military value, including sophisticated training ranges and power projection capabilities and its demonstrated ability to prepare light forces through heavy-armed elements in a diversity of climatic conditions, the Fort Drum region presents those who serve and their families with an exceptional quality of life.

Where, then, is this commentary taking us? I hope it contributes to an evermore widespread understanding of the value of this asset and our need as a broader community to maintain a sense of perspective and proportion as we address the occasional challenges its very success and value to this nation will bring to our communities. Our FDRLO's vision statement proclaims our commitment to help make Fort Drum the "Army's, soldier's and family's first choice." To attain that will require all of us to be more cognizant of Fort Drum and every installation's needs for enhanced security, training unimpeded by significant encroachment and the continual requirement to maintain and improve the quality of life of soldiers and family members over time.

Importantly, our organization's vision statement also recognizes our commitment to helping build a region which fulfills the needs and dreams of all who call the North Country home. That commitment will help ensure the FDRLO continues to seek to make good on its 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."

In a word, I hope together we can paint the big picture, help our community to put challenges in perspective, and contribute to ensuring that as the most recent AUSA News headlines- "Drum, Community: A Special Bond;" "a relationship unlike any other in the Army."

(Comments made at June 10, 2002 Annual Meeting)

## Garrison Commander Briefs FDRLO on Army Housing & Residential Communities Initiative Process

At the September 4th FDRLO meeting, Col. Emory R. Helton, Fort Drum's Garrison Commander, updated members on the continuing process of the RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIVES INITIATIVE (RCI).

Following Department of Defense guidance and using data derived from the current and projected housing market in the North Country, Fort Drum completed a Family Housing Market Analysis last fall to support the post's stated objective of ensuring that its troops are appropriately housed when current Army Community Housing (ACH) Section 801 leases expire in 2008.

The briefing demonstrated that Fort Drum is on time and on target with the RCI process and with overall plans for assessing the continued viability of existing Section 801 ACH housing. Fort Drum's housing situation is unique among Army installations. Fort Drum houses 85% of its families either on post or in ACH located in the surrounding communities. Almost half of the housing at Fort Drum is Army Community Housing units leased for twenty years. Between December 2007 and July 2008, leases for 1700 of these 2000 units will expire. The remaining 300

leases will terminate in 2010.

"We are working hard to do what is best for our country, our soldiers and families and for our North Country neighbors," said Col. Helton. "Housing is a readiness issue. Our troops, who are on the front lines around the globe, must be adequately housed with their families and our current family housing does not meet our requirements."

Revised bedroom per child provisions and pledges to require no "out of pocket" costs for soldiers are driving changes army-wide.

"We are still looking at the best way to approach this issue, and we welcome community input," he added. "We understand the community's concerns and will work to mitigate the impact of any shift in Army family housing."

Col. Helton pledged to continue to update municipal, school, and community leaders as the RCI process proceeds.

## NAID CONFERENCE REPORT

In August, I attended the National Association for Installation Developers (NAID) Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. For those unfamiliar with NAID, the Association supports communities with active installations enabling them to realize new economic development as well as assist local communities with conversion and reuse of military real estate.

The conference provided the FDRLO with insight into what other organizations across the United States are doing in preparation of the Base Realignment and Closure Round in 2005. The seminars also provided us with programs that will allow us to present Fort Drum in the best manner possible for BRAC.

The conference confirmed a number of things that have been articulated to date, most importantly that in this closure round nothing can be taken for granted. A number of seminars were directly related to situations we face as the host community for Fort Drum. These seminars were Enhanced Use Leasing, encroachment & land use and also developing a state & local organization.

Enhanced Use Leasing is a collaborative effort between public and private institutions to generate revenue, reduce operating expenses, and supplement

Peter Clough, Research Analyst

capital budgets. A military installation enters into a long-term, ground lease for land or a facility and the lessee either rehabilitates an older structure or constructs a new facility. The revenue generated through the lease then helps the installation offset its normal operating and maintenance costs.

Encroachment and land use are hot topics in today's military. The need for unencumbered training land is crucial to developing the proper skills in our soldiers. Land Use Studies attempt to identify areas of concern and develop methods to resolve land use conflicts that exist and/or could potentially develop.

Lastly, the Military Affairs Directors for the States of Georgia and Kentucky outlined plans for developing a statewide and local organization to successfully combat BRAC. This seminar allowed the FDRLO to compare its structure and activities with other organizations. Given our demonstrated experience and careful planning for 2005, I believe we are well positioned for the upcoming BRAC round.

For more information on NAID, check their website at <http://naid.org/>



For more

Information:

<http://www.rcl.army.mil/>

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**Fort Drum  
Regional Liaison Organization**

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

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**Fort Drum  
Economic Impact  
FY 2001**

- in local health care community
- \$7.1 million



\$4.7 million to local hospitals  
\$2.4 million to local health care providers

**Welcome to Newest Members of  
Fort Drum Command Group**

Summer is always a busy time for folks moving in and out at Fort Drum. This year seemed especially busy with Change of Command Ceremonies scheduled in some cases two in one day! We'll miss our friends who have moved on to new assignments but we trust we'll see them again soon—for in the circle of life, it seems that all roads return to Fort Drum!

Please join us in welcoming to the North Country:  
BG Eric Smith and his wife, Diane  
Assistant Division Commander—Operations

COL (P) Byron S. Bagby and his wife, Monique  
Assistant Division Commander- Support

COL. Emory (Ray) Helton and his wife, Jane  
Garrison Commander

DCSM Dennis E. Carey and his wife, Kim  
Division Command Sergeant Major



**And a warm welcome home to  
MG Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck  
and the rest of the 10th MTN DIV HQ troops  
who have just returned from Afghanistan.**

**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.*