

Now You Know!

FAST FACTS ABOUT FORT DRUM AND THE NORTH COUNTRY



ADVOCATEDRUM

FORT DRUM REGIONAL LIAISON ORGANIZATION

Quality of Life

Fort Drum and the North Country provide quality housing choices for Soldiers and Civilians, both on and off the installation.

An estimated 5,858 jobs existed in our local economy during 2022 because of Fort Drum related activity; these are civilian jobs not on Fort Drum.

The origins of Arbor Day (J. Sterling Morton), the Dewey Decimal System (Melville Dewey), the Five and Dime Store (F.W.Woolworth), the safety pin, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Lifesavers and Thousand Islands Dressing, can all be traced to the North Country.

With a median age of 30.6 years, the city of Watertown is ranked #9 among the “Youngest Cities in Upstate New York State”.

Local transportation infrastructure has improved through Federal, State and Local investment. Significant improvements include Interstate 781-Fort Drum connector and Watertown International Airport. In 2018, NYS funded and built the \$7.6M Bompoto Bridge over NYS Route 26 connecting Fort Drum’s main post to Wheeler Sack Army Airfield.

The Watertown International Airport (ART) features two runways, with full parallel taxiways, weather reporting and navigation aids including numerous instrument approach procedures. A terminal expansion project currently underway will add gate room capacity, a jet bridge, restaurant, automated baggage claim, and more circulation space to improve the customer experience. Completion is expected by March 2025.

The Airport serves the General Aviation and Commercial aviation needs of NNY, Southern Ontario & the Fort Drum region. Commercial Air Service is conducted by American Airlines with two flights daily to and from Philadelphia International Airport, PA with connecting opportunities with 22 airlines and 130 destinations worldwide.

The Town of Clayton appeared on USA Today’s 2023 list of Best Small Town Cultural Scene.



There are fifteen NYS Parks in Jefferson County, many which offer scenic views of Lake Ontario or the Thousand Islands. In fact, two are only accessible by boat.

Operation Yellow Ribbon works with local community groups to highlight family focused events that support our Military Families through special recognition and/or admission discounts.

No matter what the season, outdoor recreation abounds in the North Country from fishing to boating, skiing hiking, hunting, and chasing beautiful sunsets.

Education Impact

Military families enrolled 4,412 children in Jefferson County schools, or 24.9% of all students enrolled during the 2022-23 school year.

The three largest school districts in Jefferson County have military student populations of 50%, 41% and 20%.

Approximately \$30M in Federal Impact Aid was received by local school districts to support education of students during the year ending September 30, 2022. Over the past three years, approximately \$105M in Federal Impact Aid has been received by local schools.



NYS is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, whose goal is to replace the widely varying States’ policies affecting transitioning military students providing consistent policy and standards.

Nearly 30% of Jefferson Community College (JCC) enrollment was Soldiers, Family Members and Veterans during the 2022 Fall Semester.

Educational offerings in the Fort Drum region include associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees, along with micro-credentials and career training. In addition, Jefferson offers credit-bearing classes on Fort Drum.

JCC, Lewis County and Jefferson-Lewis BOCES are partners in an Education Center in Lowville, NY. The facility includes 5 classrooms, a fabrication lab, mechatronics classroom, and a lab for BOCES instruction. The Center offers a mix of college credit classes, professional certifications, career training, leisure learning, and BOCES classes.

JCC is one of 250 schools selected for “gold” award status for its leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs, in the 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School designation by Viqtory.

2022 Military Times, Best for Vets: College rankings – JCC is the third highest ranked SUNY two-year college in the Northeast region.



Economic Impact

Fort Drum is the largest ‘Single Site’ employer in New York State.

Fort Drum is the largest employer in Northern New York. As of September 2022, there were 15,079 Soldiers assigned to Fort Drum and about 3,540 civilians employed.

Fort Drum’s total economic impact for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022 was \$2,216,200,000 or \$252,991 per hour, every hour of every day.

In addition to the 18,619 military and civilian jobs on post, Fort Drum spending also supported 5,858 jobs in the local community.

The top five indirect and induced job sectors are: Health and Social Services; Construction; Educational Services; Agriculture & Natural Resources; and Wholesale Trade.

Total military, civilian, retirees, and contractor payroll for FY22 was \$1,274,546,370 or \$3,491,908 per day.

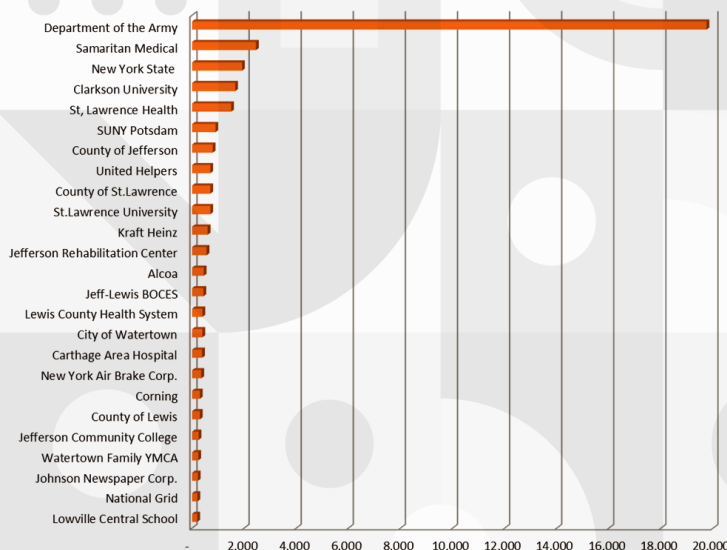
In 2022, the Fort Drum community was comprised of 15,079 Soldiers and 16,269 Family members. The 31,348 members of the Fort Drum community represent 26.9% of Jefferson County’s Population.

- Overall, 66% of Soldiers live on-post and 34% live off-post,
- 5,453 single, junior enlisted Soldiers live in the barracks on Fort Drum, and 190 Soldiers live in unaccompanied housing on-post,
- 3,719 Families live with Mountain Community Homes on Fort Drum,
- Of the 16,269 family members, 8,235 live on post (51%) and 8,034 live off post (49%).

Over the past 10 years (2013-2022), the median price for a home and the number of homes sold in the tri-county area surrounding Fort Drum has steadily increased while the time a home spends on the market has plummeted. The median price over the period has increased 24% in Jefferson County, the number sold is up 59%, and time on the market is down 70%. In Lewis County, the price is up 39% with a 49% increase in single family homes sold and a 59% reduction in the time it takes to sell a home. The price is up 53% in St. Lawrence County, the number sold up 30%, and marketing time is down 54%.

Fort Drum is the largest defense community in the Northeast.

Top 25 Tri-County Employers



FY22 Fort Drum contracting totaled approximately \$125M and was predominately spent in New York State. Over \$108M was identified specific to the tri-county area.

For the year ending March 31, 2022, Taxable Sales in the tri-county region was:

Jefferson County	Lewis County	St. Lawrence County
\$287,705 per hour	\$47,100 per hour	\$218,028 per hour

During FY22 the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program secured nine parcels totaling 601.26 acres to the land buffer around Fort Drum.

Through a Public/Public/Public partnership, the Development Authority of the North Country and the City of Watertown provide water and sewage transmission and treatment services to Fort Drum and surrounding communities.

Since the reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division, the direct financial impact of Fort Drum in the North Country is \$32.1 billion dollars.

Healthcare

Since 1985, Fort Drum has relied on the local community for hospital services. The Army and local hospitals work collaboratively to provide inpatient capabilities as there are no hospitals on Fort Drum.



As reported in the Fort Drum Economic Impact Study for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 the Fort Drum healthcare model has contributed more than \$63M to the economic stability of the region.

In FY22 more than \$850,000 in dental care was provided to Soldiers through the local civilian dental provider network.

Fort Drum MEDDAC, which provides outpatient healthcare services on post, maintains 27 facilities and a workforce of 730 personnel. Its economic contribution included \$9.5M in supplies, equipment, and contracts; \$53.6M in Tricare; and \$54.5 million in payroll.

Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization works to strengthen the healthcare system by leveraging resources to address identified gaps. In partnership with the Military Treatment Facility, they focus on emergency medical services, behavioral health/substance use, healthcare workforce recruitment/retention, care coordination, health information technology, telemedicine, and population health.

Hospitals in the Fort Drum region annually support: outpatient visits – 788,000; emergency room visits – 68,000; hospital admission – 13,000; babies delivered – 2,000 approximately.

FDRHPO has coordinated more than \$18.2M in savings (a 76% overall discount) for local healthcare providers to access expansive fiber-optic networks (NCTP and ACTION) since 2010.

Approximately \$4.2M invested for behavioral health initiatives, including increased access to care, opioid use disorder treatment, and suicide and substance abuse prevention since 2013.

More than \$7M for health workforce support, which has yielded several new health education programs and hundreds of new healthcare professionals since 2014.

Health Career Army Pathways Program (HCAPP), was established to provide health career exploration opportunities to active-duty Soldiers transitioning out of the Army, military spouses, and dependents (over 18 years of age), and reservists.

Over \$1.5M to improve coordination of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including air medical services since 2015.

Over \$5.4M in population health investment to conduct community health assessment and improvement activities since 2015.

Directly in line with the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), **this model has established a military-civilian integrated healthcare delivery system.** We are planned, positioned & proven, innovatively working together to ensure a high quality, patient centric system.

Fort Drum Facts

The 10th Mountain Division is the Army's most deployed division since 1992.

The Division has participated in 10 Division Headquarters (HQ) deployments (Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Uzbekistan, and Iraq). The Division has also supported operations with 48 separate unit deployments to Afghanistan and 37 separate unit deployments to Iraq.

Fort Drum is a Department of the Army designated **Regional Collective Training Center** that provides full-spectrum training and base operations support to all service branches to include U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard organizations from 12 states as well as members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Annually, Fort Drum provides training and base operations support to over 28,000 members of the U.S. Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC), as well as Federal, State, and local Law Enforcement agencies.

Fort Drum and Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield lead the Unmanned Aerial Systems operations in support of the warfighter and joint and national initiatives to integrate UAS operations within the National Airspace System. Fort Drum was the second location in the Army selected to field and integrate the Gray Eagle (MQ-1) into operations.

Fort Drum is comprised of 108,733 acres; 75,600 acres of that land is used for ranges and training areas.

Fort Drum has 47 range facilities, 2 active drop zones, plus 18 major training areas and 2 urban terrain training sites; this allows all weapons fielded by the Army to be fired at Fort Drum.

Fort Drum has a Joint Air-Ground Bombing Range which provides training opportunities that integrate Close Air Support with ground maneuver live fires. This facility supports up to 2,000 lb. Aerial delivered bombs and fixed wing strafing scenarios. The installation is equipped with 3 Joint Threat Emitter Sites that are designed to replicate a large-scale integrated air defense system. This capability is unmatched in the Northeast and places **Fort Drum as the premier training site for all aviation platforms along the east coast.**

Fort Drum has numerous virtual training suites to assist Soldiers in the preparation for live training and real-world missions. This includes a Mission Training Complex, Small Arms Weapons Simulators, Rotary Wing Aircraft Simulators, Combat Trauma Medical Simulators, Vehicle Route Clearance Simulator, and Artillery Simulations.

Fort Drum has the longest military runway, 10,000 feet long, by 150 feet wide, in the northeast United States, with maximum on ground space for nine – C-17 Aircraft (174 ft long and has a wingspan of 169 ft, 10 inches). The airfield also has a 1,200 Soldier capacity passenger terminal and is home to 123 rotary-wing aircraft.

Fort Drum is a premier training facility, and the Division is the training partner of choice for New York, Ohio, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine & Massachusetts Reserve & Guard units.