



# THE LIAISON



FORT DRUM REGIONAL LIAISON ORGANIZATION

JUNE 2016

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John W. Deans and Carole A. McCoy

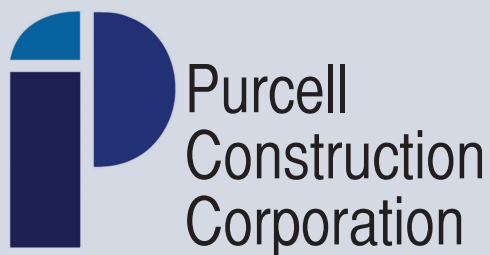
## JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER Dedicated to John W. Deans

On April 8, Jefferson's brand new, state of the art Collaborative Learning Center was dedicated to former College president and long-time member of the FDRLO board of directors, John W. Deans. The building serves as a student hub for essential academic support services and library resources with two classrooms and break-out rooms for team projects or group study in a thoroughly modern and technology-rich learning environment.

Deans' career at Jefferson spanned 35 years including service as the College's 3rd president from 1992 through 2002. Deans is credited for his vision in creating the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson and his understanding and advancement of the College as a community partner central to the continued growth of the North Country. Under his leadership, the College expanded workforce training opportunities, established the Small Business Development Center at the College and solidified the College's strong partnership with Fort Drum as a founding member of the SUNY Colleges of the North Country Consortium.

In honor of Dr. Deans' legacy to the College and community, individuals and business have the opportunity to contribute to John W. Deans Endowed Scholarship Fund which will provide financial assistance to students as well as support the Center for Community Studies.

### Did You Know, FDRLO Four Star Leader:



Purcell Construction is a commercial general contractor and construction manager focusing on a variety of housing, military, manufacturing, and healthcare projects. They have constructed many of the buildings in recent years on Fort Drum. Purcell's current projects include renovations and additions at Samaritan Medical Center, including a new Cancer Center, restoration of the historic Black River Valley Club building on Public Square in downtown Watertown, and new buildings at Jefferson Community College including the Collaborative Learning Center, Dewey Renovation, and the new student residence, East Hall...FDRLO salutes Purcell Construction. *We are proud to have you on our team!*



**FORT DRUM REGIONAL LIAISON ORGANIZATION**

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**Chair's Corner**

**By: Mary M. Corriveau**

The beginning of spring in the North Country is never determined by a fixed calendar date. For the past month, I've been driving by this home at the corner of Holcomb and Paddock watching its transformation. To me this kind of remodeling project is a sure sign that spring has arrived. This specific project has piqued my interest more than most as the vapor barrier material used by this contractor

displays the 10th Mountain Division patch and underneath it says 'WE THANK YOU.' What a great way to appreciate and honor our 10th Mountain Soldiers!

Spring is also the time for making plans, looking toward the future. In mid-February FDRLO began working on an update to our Strategic Plan. It's amazing how much has changed since 2011, when the last Plan was developed. We've reviewed the Mission and Vision statements, along with the Planning Assumptions. With the help of the Board of Directors we completed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis; we've identified the Critical Issues facing us and are in the process of developing our Strategic Goals. We should have a completed Plan to share at our September 1st membership meeting.

This spring Patrick J. Murphy, the Acting Secretary of the Army, and General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff, United States Army, testified to the US Senate Committee on Armed Services to discuss the Posture and Readiness of the US Army. They described the worldwide threats and challenges facing the US Army, as well as the Army's operations and structure.

None of you will be surprised to hear that the Army's number one priority continues to be Readiness. They shared that it is readiness that "ensures the Joint Force has the capability to deter, and when required, fight and win wars in defense of the United States and its national interests."

Acting Secretary Murphy and General Milley emphasized that they are determined to provide Soldiers, Families and Civilians with relevant training, the right equipment and quality leadership. The challenge is determining the right resource balance among the "four components of readiness – manning, training, equipping, and leader development."

The Bipartisan Budget Act has provided the Army with predictable funding, but only for the short term. Looking at what's ahead for the Army? Absent any changes to the Budget Control Act the Army's funding levels will dramatically decrease in FY 2018. Murphy and Milly characterized this fiscal unpredictability as "one of the Army's single greatest challenges and inhibits our ability to generate readiness." They went on to share that "this will force the Army to continue to reduce end strength and delay modernization, decreasing Army capability and capacity..."

The global environment has become increasingly uncertain, complex and dangerous. Our 10th Mountain Soldiers continue to deploy and operate within this environment. Let us remain steadfast in providing the very best hometown support to our heroes and their Families serving at Fort Drum NY.

*Mary*



**AUSA Mary G. Roebling Distinguished Service Award  
COL. MICHAEL T. PLUMMER (USA-RET.)**

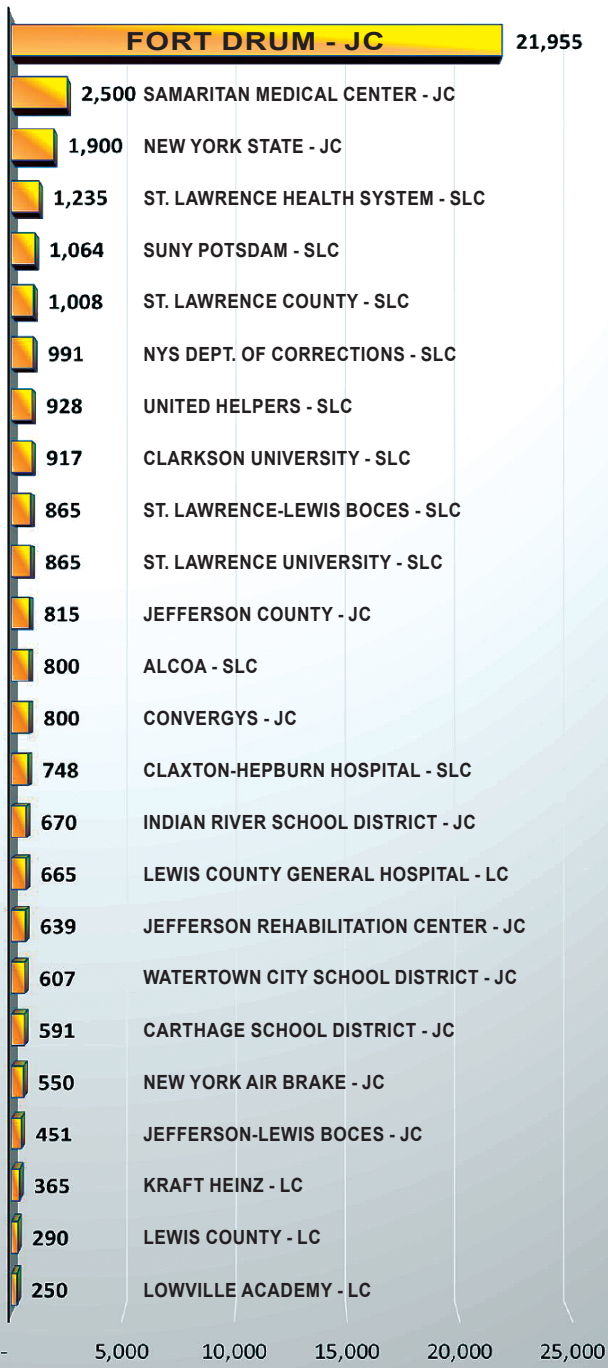
Congratulations to Col. Michael T. Plummer (USA-Ret), recipient of the AUSA Mary G. Roebling Distinguished Service Award. The principles behind the Roebling Award are lived every day by patriots, like Col. Plummer, who keep our country strong and make an impact by simply doing their duty. The award was presented at the AUSA First Region Roebling Award Dinner on May 13th at the Thousand Island Harbor Hotel, Clayton.

# From Carl's Perspective

By: Carl A. McLaughlin, Executive Director



## Top 25 Employers in the Tri-County Region (Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County)



Source: Jefferson County Economic Development Agency: JD - 2015  
Watertown Daily Times - SLC (2014), and Lewis County Economic Development/IDA (Lewis County Numbers are approximate) 2015

In Albany as part of Fort Drum Day on March 22nd and again at the 3-day Builders Home Show in April, part of the FDRLO exhibit was a poster that included a bar graph showing Fort Drum employment and the next 25 largest employers from the Tri-county region. The Jefferson County Planning department collected the information and put the final graph together.

The graph, included to the left, is striking. Whether considering the scale of Fort Drum employment relative to the next 25 largest employers, or if the types of employers; government vs. non-government or service vs. manufacturing, the graph reveals much about the North Country economy. Also given the population of the tri-county area and thinking about those employers not on the list, one will quickly infer that most employment is with small (less than a 100) and very small (less than 25) employers. If you thought about the builders and service providers with booths at the home show, the vast number of them would be part of that very small category.

Given Fort Drum's economic, social, and cultural impacts on the North Country you realize that the work, focus, and mission of FDRLO to advocate and promote the mission of the installation and its tenants has a far more reaching impact than we typically think about. The largest area employers have a very high proportion of membership in FDRLO and are engaged in the activities, advocacy, and promotion of the organization. All in the North Country share the benefits of that advocacy.



## HOUSING OUTLOOK

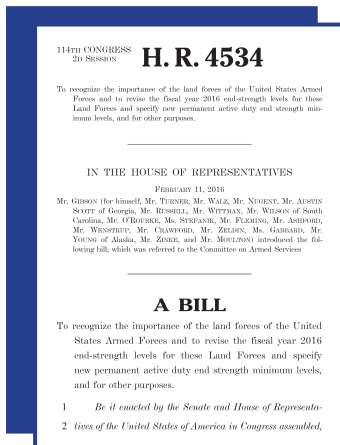
As we look forward, the Soldiers assigned to Fort Drum have stabilized as was predicted earlier in the year.

The number of Soldiers assigned stands at 14,922 with 2,260 deployed. Based on an analysis of the larger apartment rental complexes (40 units or more) in a 30-mile radius of the Fort, that would indicate a vacancy rate of 6.14%. This percentage is down by 4% from the last quarter where the Soldier count was a little lower and deployments almost doubled.

*continued on next page*



## From Carl's Perspective Continued...



**Congresswoman Elise Stefanik** recently co-sponsored the POSTURE Act which would halt the further downsizing of the active and reserve component of the United States land forces. This bill's rationale is based on assumptions that point out that land forces have already down sized and further downsizing greatly increases the Nations vulnerability and ability to respond to external and internal threats. The FDRLO's executive board

has strongly endorsed this bill and has sent a letter of support to the Congresswoman.

Just looking at the period between 2000 and 2011, this nation's defense budget needed to grow by 68% after the events of September 11, 2001 to meet the Nations safety and security requirements. That growth was necessitated because of cut backs following the first Gulf war.

In my opinion, we as a nation have a recognizable pattern of downsizing our land forces much too fast and much too deeply after a period of hostility. Defense is a costly business when just trying to be ready and prepared. Actually putting that defense machinery into use is more costly. Thus we over correct in scaling down our land forces when rendered the opportunity to take a "peace dividend"

The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA ) was intended to "right size" the needs of the Department of Defense and the entitlement portion of the federal budget, and lessen the amount of borrowing by the federal government. A failed objective of the BCA was to provide a rational and reasoned decrease in the Nations overall expenditures. That failure brought Sequestration, a process of across the board cuts that simply does not work for the Department of Defense and its need to provide for a security force that is prepared and sizable enough to meet our external threats.

The Posture Act recognizes that after five years of trying to meet the intent of the BCA through sequestration, it has been amply identified that sequestrations fails to provide for a suitably sized ground force and under cuts the resources that insure those forces are properly equipped, trained, and led.

The Posture Act is a great first step in eliminating the impacts of Sequestration, but who knows how it will end up as the political/ legislative process in Washington moves forward.



## Afghanistan Footprint

With the war in its 15th year, U.S. officials are signaling plans to maintain the number of troops in Afghanistan through 2016 before committing to another reduction.

### End strength in Afghanistan, by fiscal year:

<b>2002:</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>2003:</b>	<b>9,700</b>
<b>2004:</b>	<b>16,600</b>
<b>2005:</b>	<b>19,500</b>
<b>2006:</b>	<b>21,500</b>
<b>2007:</b>	<b>25,240</b>
<b>2008:</b>	<b>32,300</b>
<b>2009:</b>	<b>66,400</b>
<b>2010:</b>	<b>105,900</b>
<b>2011:</b>	<b>109,200</b>
<b>2012:</b>	<b>78,055</b>
<b>2013:</b>	<b>66,732</b>
<b>2014:</b>	<b>44,492</b>
<b>2015:</b>	<b>9,800</b>

*Note: The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan occurred in October 2001, which falls within fiscal year 2002.*

*Source: Defense Manpower Data Center*



## Jefferson Community College – Serving our Fort Drum Community

**Dr. Carole A. McCoy**, *President, Jefferson Community College*

Each April, Jefferson holds an awards ceremony to honor students for their academic achievements. The biographies about each student are relatively brief, and all wonderful testimonies to a student's success. But each year, I am humbled by the increasing number of stories of students who are part of our Fort Drum community. They may be active duty, preparing for a post-military career and taking classes online while stationed in other parts of the world, or a veteran earning that first college degree and retraining for a new career field, or a spouse seeking a portable career, studying and attending classes while at the same time caring for young children. What dedication, commitment, hard work and resilience!

This past fall semester, approximately 44% of Jefferson's enrollment was military-related with 8% active duty Soldiers and 11% veterans. With our military-related student population at an all-time high, we continue to strive to have the right programs and strongest services in place to support our Fort Drum community.

On the programs side, we offer more than 30 degree programs, and our individual studies degree is most popular with Soldier students as it offers the most flexibility. The allied health degree programs and certification training programs offered through Continuing Education serve a large number of military family members and veterans. We teach 8-week classes on post and have full-time staff members on Fort Drum to help students navigate the registration process and provide academic advisement. Further, JCC awards the maximum American Council on Education recommended credits for formal military training and experience.

We have a variety of academic and personal support services on campus, including a dedicated veteran services office, to assist our students from the first admissions contact, through the advising, career planning and transfer process, straight through until graduation. In addition, we supplement our staff through a partnership with the Watertown Vet Center

which provides counseling to students on campus and training to faculty and staff.

We have two new initiatives that will also assist military students-the Jefferson Community Schools Grant and Transitioning Veterans from Boots and Books and Beyond (VB3) program in partnership with SUNY Canton.

Jefferson was one of three community colleges to be awarded a \$500,000 Community Schools Grant from SUNY. There are many non-academic factors that impose barriers to student success and the ability to persist in earning a college degree. This grant will help us remove those barriers by providing centralized access to enhanced or new services, provided by community partners, right here on campus. Services include mental health counseling, health exams, financial counseling, a food pantry, emergency child care, and assistance with transportation and tax preparation.

One of the biggest obstacles for degree completion among veterans is the transition from the highly structured military culture to a self-driven learning culture. The "VB3" program will allow the veterans services offices at both Jefferson and Canton to develop a strong advising and academic support network for veterans who begin their academic career by earning an associate degree at Jefferson and transfer to Canton to complete a bachelor's degree. Services will include academic coaching, financial literacy training, a free book loan program and specialized workshops.

Recently, I traveled to Washington DC with a Jefferson student who was invited by Congresswoman Stefanik to give testimony about the challenges facing millennial-aged college students. She, herself a Navy veteran and military spouse, described a good number of challenges unique to being a member of the armed services. Reflecting on the testimony, I'm so proud that Jefferson Community College is here to serve our Fort Drum community by providing educational pathways to new opportunities for our veterans, Soldiers, and family members.



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## A Busy Month Of Activities In June Lie Ahead!

**June 2nd FDRLO Annual Membership Meeting 3:30 pm**

We hope to see you there! Room 6-002, Jules Center, Jefferson Community College

**June 21st Annual Remembrance Ceremony**

We urge all who receive an invitation to the attend this very important ceremony that honors the Soldiers who sacrificed all ensuring our security. Many of the Gold Star families of these Soldiers will have traveled from every corner of our Nation to be here for that event.

**June 22nd MOUNTAINFEST Beginning at 1 pm!**

*Presented by Fort Drum Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR)*

This event is free, open to the public and features Military equipment displays, children's games, bounce houses and food & beverage concessions.

**Salute To The Nation 4 pm**

A community favorite The AmeriCU "Salute to the Troops Tribute Concert" which is also free and open to the public, will take place immediately following Salute to the Nation. Country Artist Lee Brice will perform. Top off this amazing day by enjoying a fireworks display!

**July 1 North Country Honors the Mountain**

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the *Honor the Mountain Monument* at Tower Square in Thompson Park. A full day of family activities is planned, followed by the annual Concert in the Park that evening. This monument will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allied victory in the Second World War, in which the original 10th Mountain Division played a significant role, the 30th anniversary of the Division's reactivation in 1985, and the Division's long-standing involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information, visit [www.honorthemountain.com](http://www.honorthemountain.com).

