



FORT DRUM REGIONAL LIAISON ORGANIZATION

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FDRLO Applauds Army's *Grow the Force* Announcement

In September, the FDRLO endorsed our efforts as a defense community to advocate for an expanded mission at Fort Drum as the Army planned its Grow the Force initiative to increase total army end strength by 74,000 by 2013. We made it clear, the "Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization unanimously encourages all efforts to expand Fort Drum, most importantly, the assignment of another Brigade Combat Team, Support Brigade or supporting organization."

Our work has paid off with news of a Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and combat service units being stationed at Fort Drum by 2013. Our Community will be prepared to help the Installation welcome these new soldiers and families. It is excellent for the 10th Mountain Division, since it will enhance its military capacity, and wonderful for the North Country, as we continue to grow with these 1479 new soldiers.

The Governor and New York State have been extremely supportive of our efforts to grow with the Army and the FDRLO appreciates all that he has done. Because of the State and community coordinated effort, the Army Leadership in the Pentagon know we are committed to this installation and the expansion of its mission.

We will have to study the size, personnel-make up and the typical family status of the personnel in a Maneuver Enhancement Brigade to properly plan for how the FDRLO can help. It could turn out that these units will have as much of a positive impact on our area as the stationing of a Brigade Combat Team. Sometimes Santa brings exactly what you ask for, sometimes he brings you something else – either way you are happy; the size of this unit and its planned stationing through 2013 is compatible with our current growth and looks brilliant for the future.

Keith B. Caughlin Chairman, FDRLO

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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.