

# ADVOCATE DRUM



Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization

FEBRUARY 2018

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## JOIN THE TEAM

By: Lance Evans, Chair, Membership Committee

As 2018 begins, your Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization is launching a new initiative - **ADVOCATE DRUM**. As the link between the North Country and Fort Drum, FDRLO demonstrates the value of a close military - civilian partnership. By being a member of FDRLO, you are critical to maintaining and strengthening the bond and ensuring the future of Fort Drum and our community.

As part of our efforts to Advocate Drum, the FDRLO is launching a membership drive. Besides knowing you are providing indispensable support to the mission of the FDRLO, your membership entitles you to benefits, updates and important informational briefings not always available to the general public.

To support this, FDRLO has renamed and enhanced its membership categories.

**INDIVIDUAL** - Available for \$35/year (or \$500 lifetime), this category is designed for the community members that want to assist the FDRLO. *Individual* members are recognized as a Drum Advocate, are invited to the annual and quarterly membership meetings, receive the weekly electronic news feed and the quarterly newsletter, and will be also receive an ADVOCATE DRUM window cling.

**CORPORATE** - Our *Corporate* Members are recognized as Drum Advocates, receive an FDRLO window cling, and are invited to the annual and quarterly membership meetings. In addition, up to three (3) designees receive the weekly electronic news feed and are sent the quarterly newsletter. This level is available at \$250/year or \$700 for three years.

**SUPPORTING** - A *Supporting* Member receives same benefits a Corporate member does, and up to five (5) designees are sent the weekly news feed and periodic newsletters. In addition, our Supporting Members are acknowledged on the weekly news feed and invited to an annual Leadership Event.

**We have added three new categories also** - *Leadership* (\$2500/year or \$7000 for 3 years), *Sustaining* (\$5,000), and *Enduring* (\$10,000).

**LEADERSHIP** members have the same benefits as the Supporting Category, but allows up to ten (10) designees to receive information.

**SUSTAINING** member enjoys the same perks as a Leadership member with the following additions - a link to the member's website from FDRLO.com and the newsletter, a chance to be featured periodically in the quarterly newsletter, and a plaque.

**ENDURING** members receive the same benefits plus recognition on the FDRLO's banner which is displayed at FDRLO events.

Go to [AdvocateDrum.org](http://AdvocateDrum.org) and choose the level of support that's right for you.

The Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization is your voice to Advocate Drum.



**FORT DRUM REGIONAL  
LIAISON ORGANIZATION**

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Representatives**

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**Chair's Corner**

By: Mary M. Corriveau

What does **ADVOCATE DRUM** really mean for FDRLO and you? It means that we publicly recommend, support, speak for, promote, and champion issues that are important to Fort Drum as well as our local communities. It is Active not Passive support on an issue.

It means being willing to take a public stand. That's what we've done as an organization since our inception and what we will continue to do.

FDRLO exists to foster the relationship between Fort Drum and North Country communities; mediate where conflicting interests materialize; and continually advocate, at all levels, for Fort Drum and the Soldiers and Civilians who serve there. Each of us has a responsibility to Advocate for Fort Drum on a daily basis in all facets of our lives. Where you work, where you recreate and where you worship.

The North Country was blessed that in 1984 our Army made the decision to reactivate the 10th Mountain Division and station this unique division at Fort Drum. The Army alone couldn't make Fort Drum home to the 10th Mountain Division, it took the residents of the north country to make Fort Drum the 10th Mountain Division's new home. We did it with open arms, welcoming hearts, military dependents attending local schools, medical services enhanced within our local hospitals, and Soldier Families living within our communities from Gouverneur to Copenhagen to Clayton to Carthage and Watertown. Many of our members were here and played a major role in that advocacy effort.

A former Garrison Commander told me that the three things that define quality of life for Army families at their dinner table discussions were having safe, quality, affordable housing options; a public education system that effectively prepares their children for future success; and quality health care for everyone. These priorities haven't changed nor has this community lost sight of their importance to building military readiness.

Ensuring Fort Drum remains the home of the 10th Mountain Division continues to call for community advocacy. From time to time, the individual issues may differ, but the charge remains the same.

FDRLO and its members have been Fort Drum's Advocate through it all; Base Realignment and Closure, 3rd Brigade Stationing, Housing Development, Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Downsizing, Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Missile Defense Agency Siting, Regional Renewable Energy Development, Spousal Employment, Professional Licensing Reciprocity, Education Compact for Military Children and more...

Fort Drum must be ready today and relevant in the future to enable the 10th Mountain Division to be the best trained division throughout our Army. Our military is continually transforming how it fights and therefore how it trains. These growing and changing demands on our military require all of us to advocate for an environment where Fort Drum's training capabilities are always the very best. This includes training for the division's aviation, infantry, artillery and also the New York Air National Guard.

*Continued on pg. 3*



## Could Recent Events Change Missile Defense Priorities?

By: Kevin Jordan, FDRLO Board Member and Chair, Missile Defense Taskforce

How quickly things change. For about a year now we have been anticipating a Department of Defense (DOD) announcement on their recommendation for a potential east coast missile site. Over the past three years the Missile Defense Agency has been conducting an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) at three potential locations, including Fort Drum. The process has included public meetings, data collection, and draft reports outlining the impact, advantages and disadvantages of building this project at each location. During that time period, national and world events have influenced and delayed that process. In 2016 the country elected a new President, which ushered in a new federal administration with new priorities in national defense. More importantly, world events have pushed missile defense to the forefront with the growing threat of North Korea developing intercontinental ballistic missiles potentially capable of reaching the United States. When the process of siting a possible east coast missile defense site began, the threats were then considered somewhat hypothetical, but still concerning. Three short years later the threat is a new reality; and one that appears to grow with each new successful test by North Korea.

Earlier last month, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik provided an update on the decision process for an east coast missile site noting that this process had been rolled into a broader review of missile defense for the nation pushing the timeframe for a decision back to sometime in early 2018. She also noted language in the National Defense Authorization Act that requires DOD provide a recommendation for an east coast missile

defense site within 60 days of completing the review. It is important to consider how the potential threats to our nation have changed considerably during this time period and how that might influence priorities moving forward as we wait for a decision. Any decisions now will have to consider both short and long-term solutions to missile defense. The focus of a growing threat now includes more discussion about the west coast given its proximity to North Korea. Fort Greeley, Alaska currently houses 44 missiles and has the ability to add several more. The MDA has made it well known that if additional funding is made available for missile defense, their preference would be to spend new funding on perfecting the current technology as well as add missiles to the Fort Greeley location and not invest in a third site. However, several members of Congress pushing for the east coast site explain that it is a worthwhile and necessary long-term investment in overall defense strategy to build the third site. Our community remains supportive of the project; recognizing the tremendous economic benefits to the region while also continuing its steadfast role as a valued military partner.

We believe Fort Drum is positioned as the best of the three sites under consideration. What has not changed is the North Country's longstanding proven ability to provide community support to our military partner. An east coast missile defense site is still under review and we will now need to wait to see where emerging events puts it in broader and potentially changing set of national defense priorities.

## Chair's Corner *continued*

When I think about the success of our collective Advocacy, I go back to a quote from Army's 2013 PEA: "The regional assets, supporting facilities, infrastructure, air space, and equipment make Fort Drum and Wheeler Sack Army Air Field one of the best training area locations in the Army and possibly the Department of Defense."

We need to CAMPAIGN to keep it that way; we must protect training lands, expand open airspace, and prevent encroachment upon the installation training activities.

What a tremendous privilege and honor it is to have the 10th Mountain Division Soldiers and their Families living within the North Country.

I challenge each of you to reexamine what you are doing within your personal life, your professional endeavors, your business practices and your volunteer activities to incorporate "Advocate Drum". We can all find ways to increase our advocacy and make a real difference in the lives of our Soldiers, their Families and the future of the North Country.

*Mary*



## FDRLO to Conduct Education Survey in 2018

By: Stephen Todd, Superintendent, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES  
and Chair, FDRLO Education Committee

FDRLO will partner with Jefferson Community College's Center for Community Studies to conduct a survey of Fort Drum families to learn about their feelings and experiences regarding K-12 public and parochial education in the region. Respondents will be asked to consider their experiences with various aspects of the local educational system, relative to their experiences at other duty stations around the country and the world.

The survey will involve a hybrid sampling design, employing both online surveying of current and past military parents of students in local schools, as well as face-to-face surveying of parents at on-post locations. Survey results will be compiled and analyzed to measure and interpret the perceived strengths and weaknesses, satisfactions and concerns, regarding the local K-12 educational system, specifically from the perspective of military parents.

The Education Committee of FDRLO will work with the Center for Community Studies to craft a series of not more than 30 questions that will provide useful data for future advocacy efforts. In addition to the powerful anecdotal and testimonial information we currently have regarding people's satisfaction with the relationship between area schools and Fort Drum, this data will allow us to quantify that level of satisfaction and better compare the Fort Drum region's educational opportunities with those in other parts of the nation and the world.

The survey will be administered in the fall of 2018. Results will be analyzed and shared in the winter and spring of 2019.



### **With Grateful Appreciation.....**

It has been an honor to serve as the Executive Director of the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization for the past year and I appreciate the support of the many tireless volunteers and community supporters who make this organization a success. I have been more than ably supported by my Administrative Assistant, Nancy Datoush, who keeps the office running and the Executive Director on task. I have met many elected officials at the local, state and federal level who also consider the protection of Fort Drum and its current and future capabilities their number one priority. Finally, it has been a privilege to advocate for the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division who serve to protect our freedoms every day. I know the FDRLO is in good hands moving forward and I wish all of you the greatest success in the new year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

*Brian Ashley*





*The Board of Directors has provided the members of the current class of the Jefferson Leadership Institute memberships in FDRLO. If you know or work with one of these young professionals, please invite them to join you at one of FDRLO's upcoming events. Help them learn about Advocate Drum.*

Robert Aiken  
 Tina Bartlett-Bearup  
 Ethan Brown  
 Jessica Crowley  
 Nicole Davis  
 Neil Dicob  
 Rebecca Fern  
 Melissa Jenkins  
 Michael L'Abbe  
 Patrick Leisure  
 Jan Mccauley  
 Beth Morales

Bryan Olson  
 Michaela Richards  
 Vanessa Siver  
 Gregory Skipton  
 Emily Soderquist  
 Megan Stadler  
 Amber Stevens  
 Hope Van Brocklin  
 Jordan Walker  
 Cameron Young  
 Laurel Zarnosky

**Let's also welcome some New Members to the FDRLO team!**

**Individual Level:**

Robert Aliasso  
 Shawna Cutuli  
 Lance Evans  
 Patricia Fanning  
 Joseph Lightfoot  
 Cathy Pircsuk  
 Joseph Rich  
 Colleen Marie Sheridan



**Corporate Level:**

Cam's Pizzeria  
 Coughlin Printing Co.  
 PCS Homes LLC

**NEW FDRLO DIRECTORS**

FDRLO welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors in September 2017



**Dr. Ty Stone, President**  
 Jefferson Community College

**Our Fort Drum Representatives:**



**COL Kenneth D. Harrison**  
 Garrison Commander



**Sonja Draught**  
 Plans, Integration & Analysis

**FORT DRUM  
REGIONAL LIAISON**

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## *Did You Know, FDRLO Supporting Member:*



2018 marks 90 years of air commerce through the movement of people and goods from the Watertown International Airport. From the start of its existence, the airport supported the armed forces. From the Observatory Squadron Bivouacs, to airlifts, and training missions, to present day. Now operated by Jefferson County, the Airport

welcomes over forty thousand of our soldiers, community members, Canadians, and their families every year. We are a proud supporter of the 10th Mountain Division and all that is Fort Drum and the North Country.

Watertown International Airport offers free parking, convenient and friendly service. Our twice-daily Philadelphia service connects you to the world on the World's largest airline. We also have general aviation services that includes flight training, charter, aircraft maintenance.

Visit [watertownairport.com](http://watertownairport.com) for more information  
or [aa.com](http://aa.com) to book your next airline flight.