

ADVOCATE **DRUM**



Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization

FEBRUARY 2020

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Army's 2019 Community Partnership Award Recognizes the Value of Strong Partnerships

By: Kevin Jordan, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

On December 5, 2019 a group of representatives from local agencies accompanied Fort Drum officials to Washington DC to receive the 2019 Army Community Partnership Award. The award recognizes unique partnerships between installations and local community organizations that support the installation's mission. In a press release announcing the award Hon. Alex Beehler, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment stated, "Our partners help us enhance readiness, create efficiencies and modernize our Army". Col. Jefferey Lucas, Fort Drum garrison commander stated "We are very honored to be recognized for something that, here in the North Country, we have known for a long time. And that is the value of having a shared mission and creating lasting friendships with our community partners".

The recipients of this award included Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, the Development Authority of the North Country, the NY State Police, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the City of Watertown Police Department and City of Watertown Fire Department. Army leadership have been emphasizing and encouraging their installations to look creatively at ways to partner with local municipalities and public agencies already providing similar services. The focus is to look for partnerships that

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U.S. Army Community Partnership Award recipients from Fort Drum and the North Country are honored during the recognition ceremony Dec. 5 at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9, Lt. Gen. Jason T. Evans hosted this event. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Leroy Council)

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Chair's Corner

By: Tom Carman

As we start a new year, it is nice to reflect on our accomplishments for the prior year. 2019 was a very successful year, and Fort Drum and Northern New York were honored as a Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities. This was celebrated in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties at a variety of public events, from county fairs to fishing derbies to Chamber events. The North Country should be proud of its support of our soldiers and the Fort Drum installation. Mid-year we said goodbye to Edward "Fritz" Keel, our Executive Director, and wished him well as he relocated to Texas. Membership has remained consistent over the past year; however, several of our members have stepped-up to enhance their level of membership. We hope you will follow in their footsteps. I am also pleased to note we held a membership meeting in each of the three counties in 2019, which will continue in 2020. We welcomed new leadership at Fort Drum with our new Commanding General, MG Brian Mennes, and Deputies BG Funck and BG Schmidt. We also welcomed a new Garrison Commander, COL Jeffrey Lucas. We spent much of the year sharing the good news of the education survey, which can be found on our website. We remain extremely grateful for the support of our local, State, and National elected officials, and give a big "shout out" to Congresswoman Stefanik for her efforts to get Fort Drum named as the site for the East Coast Missile Defense Program. We will continue to work with her to secure funding, a process that could take a few years.

As we begin 2020, our plate is full as we continue to advocate for our soldiers, families and the needs of Fort Drum. Our Education Committee has been busy addressing the Teacher Licensure Reciprocity issue. We are working with the NYS Education Department and our elected officials in Albany on both Regulatory and Legislative fixes to this issue. I am optimistic we will have resolution during this Legislative session. We also welcomed Mr. Joseph Butler as the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), and wish him well in his new role. We are very grateful for the 24 years of service provided by CASA Emeritus F. Anthony Keating. He is a humble servant leader whose wisdom and insight will be missed. A brick paver will be donated in his name and placed near the monument in Thompson Park.

Fort Drum will certainly live up to its name as the most deployed Division in the Army as approximately 5,000 soldiers will be deployed during the year. I also want to acknowledge the Army Partnership Award given to Fort Drum at a ceremony at the Pentagon recognizing the significant partnerships they have with the community.

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FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Thank you to Congresswoman Elise Stefanik for her diligence in successfully securing numerous critical wins for the North Country in the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Markup. Fort Drum, military families, veterans, small businesses, and the North Country economy as a whole will benefit significantly from the FY20

NDAA. We also want to thank Congresswoman Stefanik for her diligence and hard work earlier this year in ensuring the DoD designation Fort Drum as the preferred site for an East Coast Missile Defense Site.

June 13, 2019: "This year's NDAA includes numerous crucial initiatives for the North Country that I was proud to fight for and secure for our community," said Congresswoman Stefanik. "Several of my initiatives for Fort Drum, military readiness, and East Coast Missile Defense were included that are absolutely critical to our national security and our community, and I'm proud to have continued my track record of delivering results for my district. While this bill is not perfect, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues toward a \$750 billion top line budget to ensure a prudent balance of readiness and modernization to fulfill the national defense strategy."

Stefanik Secures Wins for Fort Drum and Community

- Authorizes appropriated funds for Fort Drum rail head and unmanned aerial vehicle hangar.
- Supports the President's Budget request and funds all major end-items and programs at Fort Drum, to include the CH47F Block II.
- Refers to Fort Drum as a model system for integrated military-civilian health care.
- Highlights installation energy resiliency and requires a report on the feasibility for all military installations to be 100% energy resiliency, like Fort Drum, by 2030.

East Coast Missile Defense

- Requires the Secretary of Defense to designate an interceptor site for potential future deployment in the contiguous United States.
- Requires the site designation to be based on the environmental impact statement, strategic and operational effectiveness, and construction remediation efforts.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to submit the designation report to Congress no later than January 31, 2020.





Hon. Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army and Joseph M. Butler Jr.

New Civilian Aide to Secretary of Army (CASA) Appointed

Hon. Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army, swore in Joseph M. Butler Jr. as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) at the Pentagon on January 14, 2020. Congratulations to Mr. Butler on his appointment as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for New York (North)

He succeeds F. Anthony "Tony" Keating who was appointed as the CASA for New York (North) in March 1995. In a 2014 interview with NNYBiz Mr. Keating was asked, Who has been most inspiring to you and what have you learned from the people you've encountered in terms of leadership?

He responded, "The soldier; the dog-faced soldier who goes out every day and stands in formation and does everything we expect soldiers to do. They're still doing it. I can't think of anyone more inspirational to me than that. They're magnificent people. The job doesn't have any quantitative compensation but the qualitative compensation is priceless. I couldn't think of anything that would be more enlightening or inspiring than interacting with soldiers and their families every day."

We look forward to working with Joe and thank Tony for his years of service, dedication and leadership. Tony will continue to serve the community as CASA Emeritus for New York.

F. Anthony Keating



2019 Community Partnership Award

Continued from page 1

improve or enhance readiness, modernize services, systems or processes, provide cost or other efficiencies; expand capabilities; improve the lives of Soldiers and their families; and improve community relations. While each of the awardees provide very different types of support to Fort Drum, each of these partnerships is meeting one or more of the criteria outlined above.

No doubt, receiving this award is a significant honor for any of these organizations. Working for Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, I am proud of my own staff and the impact they have on the soldiers and their family members each and every day in providing family life skills training. Clearly the other organizations listed are providing valuable services to the Fort Drum community. But I think it is important to point out, we are a community that has grown accustomed to collaborating among organizations. We are a community that takes a team approach to solving issues. We are a community that very much recognizes that no single organization has all the resources needed to fully meet the needs in our community. Many of us have grown-up, so to speak, in our professional careers knowing that several of the success stories in addressing challenges across the North Country have been accomplished through strong partnerships and collaborations. This is the norm and not the exception in the greater Fort Drum community. It's encouraging to know that even in his short time with us at Fort Drum, Col. Lucas recognizes that particular quality in the North Country and its value to Fort Drum. Certainly, our community did not invent the idea of partnering to address issues or achieve better results. But there is a clear desire within the Army to see more of this approach taken in communities where it is not commonly done. It should be gratifying to all of us to know that back in 1984 with the reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division and the expansion of Fort Drum we were well ahead of the learning curve in establishing strong partnerships to support Fort Drum's growth. Thirty-six years later we have all become experts at accomplishing success through partnerships, a practice that has served the community and Fort Drum well.



Welcome to **Command Sergeant Major Mario O. Terenas** who has been selected as Command Sergeant Major, 10th Mountain Division (Light), Fort Drum. He will replace CSM Samuel J. Roark. A special Thank you to CSM Roark for his dedication and leadership to the Soldiers and Families of the 10th Mountain Division.



Command Sergeant Major Charles W. Albertson, 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC, has been selected as the Executive Officer for the Sergeant Major of the Army, Pentagon, Washington D.C. CSM Albertson served as the Division CSM at Fort Drum. Congratulations!



More veterans eligible to shop, recreate at Fort Drum

When Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act in December, it expanded AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service), Commissary and FMWR (Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation) privileges to a larger number of veterans.

At Fort Drum, this means eligible veterans can shop at the Main Post Exchange or any of the other Exchange shops on post. They also have access to the Commissary and FMWR facilities, to include the Pine Plains Bowling Center, Outdoor Recreation and Auto Skills Center.

The patronage change that went into effect January 1st is for veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war or who have service-connected disabilities, as well as primary caregivers for veterans enrolled in the Department of Veteran Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, previous eligibility was limited to retirees and veterans with 100 percent disability.

Veterans visiting Fort Drum to shop or recreate must visit the Visitor Control Center at the Lt. Gen. Paul Cerjan Gate (main post gate) for initial vetting. For more about gate access at Fort Drum, visit <https://home.army.mil/drum/index.php/about/visitor-information> or call the Visitor Control Center at (315) 772-8585 (open 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week).

Chair's Corner

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As we look ahead, we will continue our advocacy and will now work with Army leaders on Post and at the Pentagon, as well as our elected officials, to encourage the citing of the fourth Corps Headquarters at Fort Drum. A fourth Corps Headquarters, of approximately 630 Soldiers, will be based in the continental United States (CONUS) and maintain a rotational Operational Command Post (OCP) of approximately 200 Soldiers, forward in Europe. The OCP will conduct operational planning, oversee rotational and permanently stationed tactical units, and provide mission command of initial combat operations in the event of conflict. CONUS-basing the headquarters increases flexibility to support other theater combatant commands as needed.

I look forward to another successful year, continuing to strengthen our support of Fort Drum and the great soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division. As has been said in the past and this year is no exception, "The sun never sets on the 10th Mountain Division Patch". What an honor to live in a community with these brave warriors who are fighting the fight to protect our freedom.



Military Spouse License Reciprocity Efforts

The North Country understands that when military personnel are transferred to Fort Drum from other states and other parts of the world, their spouses sometimes face

challenges transferring their professional licenses and certifications to New York. This issue was partially remedied a few years ago when the New York State Legislature and Governor enacted legislation providing license reciprocity for many professional military spouses moving into New York. The State also added a field to the application process so that Military spouses can be identified, and their applications can receive expedited processing.

There is one group of professionals, teachers, that was inadvertently left out of this initial legislative remedy. Recognizing the importance of this issue, Advocate Drum (the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization) has worked, through its Education Committee, to study this issue and to craft a proposal for a remedy to this problem. The Committee has devised a reasonable and fair teacher license reciprocity proposal that, if enacted by the New York State Legislature and Governor, would significantly expedite the process for license reciprocity in New York, without compromising the quality of the teaching pool. The proposal recommends granting military spouses who already hold comparable teaching certificates from other states, US territories, or DoDEA an "initial certificate" which would be valid for 5 years. During that 5-year period, the individual could teach in New York under that initial certificate, while they work on the requirements for a permanent ("professional") certificate. This is similar to pathways afforded to other non-traditional students entering the teaching profession in New York, such as skilled tradespeople, who can earn specifically defined "transitional" certificates that allow them to teach while they work on the remaining certification requirements.

In addition, FDRLO has developed an advocacy partnership with New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). NYSUT's leaders have joined FDRLO in its advocacy with the State Education Department for the proposed regulatory remedies.

Senator Shelley Mayer, NYS Senate Education Committee Chair, and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, NYS Assembly Education Committee Chair, have pledged to support Advocate Drum's efforts to gain either regulatory or legislative remedies. With this incredible support, we anticipate this process will be complete by the end of the 2020 legislative session.

ADVOCATE **DRUM**

JOIN TODAY

Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization Membership Levels

Individual	Corporate	Supporting
1 year \$35	1 year \$250	1 year \$1,000
Lifetime \$500	3 year \$700	3 year \$2,500

Benefits

Recognition as Drum Advocate	★	★	★
Invitations to Annual & Quarterly Membership Meetings	★	★	★
Weekly Electronic News Feed	★	★	★
Quarterly Newsletter	★	★	★
FDRLO Window Cling	★	★	★
Number of Designees to Receive Information	1	3	5
Listing on Weekly New Feed			★
Invitation to Annual Leadership Event			★

Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization Membership Levels

Leadership	Sustaining	Enduring
1 year \$2,500	1 year \$5,000	1 year \$10,000
3 year \$7,000		

Benefits

Recognition as Drum Advocate	★	★	★
Invitations to Annual & Quarterly Membership Meetings	★	★	★
Weekly Electronic News Feed	★	★	★
Quarterly Newsletter	★	★	★
FDRLO Window Cling	★	★	★
Number of Designees to Receive Information	10	10	10
Listing on Weekly New Feed	★	★	★
Invitation to Annual Leadership Event	★	★	★
Web Link in newsletter and FDRLO.com		★	★
Periodic Feature in Quarterly Newsletter		★	★
Plaque		★	★
Recognition on FDRLO Banner			★

Why Your FDRLO Membership Means So Much ...

Fort Drum has a \$1.9 billion economic impact on the North Country region of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. In addition to the 17,611 Soldiers and civilians employed at Fort Drum in 2018, an additional 6,485 jobs in the larger regional economy exist because of Fort Drum. The Fort Drum related workforce (direct and indirect) represents 23% of the wage earners in the tri-county area. Fort Drum related activity also generates nearly \$45 million in sales tax revenue to the counties of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence which in turn reduces the property tax levy to residents and to businesses such as yours. Should Fort Drum be significantly impacted by troop reductions, or even closed, the impact to the economy would be catastrophic.

Advocate Drum has worked successfully with community and government leaders to protect Fort Drum through several rounds of military budget cuts and troop reductions over the years. We continue to work with leaders at the local, state and federal level to stay on top of issues that may affect Fort Drum so that we are ready at a moment's notice to protect it.

Historically, our funding has come largely from New York State, however with the change in state funding priorities, that is less certain. As a result, today more than ever, we need your support to promote and position Fort Drum and the North Country as the best place for the U.S. Army, our Soldiers and their families. Please consider enhancing your membership to a higher level listed on your invoice to assist us in this mission. When you support Advocate Drum, you Advocate for the North Country.

Join the following members who have already enhanced their memberships:



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REGIONAL LIAISON**

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Senator hosts annual 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day at New York State Capitol



MG Brian Mennes

For the past eight years, Senator Patty Ritchie has hosted the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day held at the State capital in Albany to help introduce elected officials from across the state to the Soldiers who are fighting on the front lines for our freedom, and to learn the important role the installation plays in our nation's defense and how critical the post is to our regional and state economies.

The February 26th 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day will include a special address in the Senate Chamber by MG Mennes, Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division.