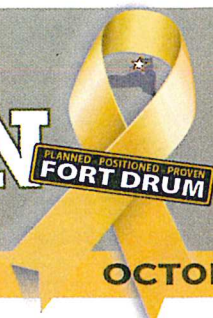




# THE LIAISON



FORT DRUM REGIONAL LIAISON ORGANIZATION

OCTOBER 2016

## MISSILE DEFENSE

### The North Country Supports Drum as Interceptor Site

Kevin Jordan, Chair, FDRLO Missile Defense Task Force



The FDRLO took no chances in helping show community support for the proposed Missile Defense Project. In an effort to ensure that the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and any other decision makers responsible for site selection know how strong the support is for this project at Fort Drum, the FDRLO helped energize the community into responding. After the scoping meeting held on June 28 at the Carthage High School, and in working with Congresswoman Stefanik's office, it became apparent to the FDRLO that part of what the MDA was assessing for site selection during the Environmental Impact Statement public comment period was the degree of public support for the project at each of the 3 proposed locations, Fort Custer Michigan, Camp Ravenna Ohio and Fort Drum New York.

Like the FDRLO has done so many times in the past, it once again organized its many volunteers and put a plan in place to respond to a defense related issue needing the communities' attention. Not unlike the March 20, 2015 SPEA Rally and Listening

Session, the FDRLO organized, implemented and continually assessed progress. Unlike the SPEA process, however, which allowed for almost 6 months to plan and respond, the MDA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process only allowed for 45 days for public comment. While that time was later extended by 30 days, it was still a fraction of the time allowed compared to the SPEA process. A key part of getting the word out this time included quickly educating the public about the significant benefits the project would have on the economy if it was built. After all, when would this community have another chance at creating 600-800 new well-paying permanent jobs, \$3 billion in upfront investment and an additional \$27 million into the local economy annually?

The process started with the various media outlets assisting by running repeated public service announcements. The FDRLO developed and provided an online petition on its website for individuals to sign. In addition, the FDRLO staff and volunteers attended numerous events during this 45 day period to garner signatures with hard copy

petitions. A letter writing campaign was also implemented to get a strong response from the business community. This was accomplished with the help of the various Chambers of Commerce and direct contact with businesses. Another important component of the community response included letters from various community experts correcting and clarifying information and assumptions outlined in the draft EIS that the FDRLO considered incorrect or incomplete. These included letters about infrastructure, available labor force, housing, transportation, education, and health care. It even included letters from local and State leaders explaining the communities' general readiness

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**Executive Director****Chair's Corner****By: Mary M. Corriveau**

**W**hat an amazing summer we had here in the North Country! From county fairs, farmers' markets, French Festival parade, Antique Boat Museum's boat show, Carthage community picnic, DPAO concerts, to National Night Out, FDRLO's staff and volunteers got to meet and talk with people from across the United States and Canada. This was a great opportunity to share our beliefs about the strategic importance of Fort Drum and collect signatures of support. This summer's initiative was in response to the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) review of Fort Drum and two other locations for the possible siting of an east coast continental ballistic missile interceptor installation. This work, combined with a letter writing campaign from local businesses, governments, and elected officials, made for an impressive community submission to MDA.



Carl was presented with an American Flag that flew over the Capitol and 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Headquarters. Pictured from left past and current Chairs Keith Caughlin, Mary Corriveau, Dr. John Deans, Carl McLaughlin, and F. Anthony Keating.

Before I knew it, our Executive Director's retirement was upon us. On August 31st, Carl McLaughlin served his last official day with FDRLO. Carl's passion and drive was always palpable, he spent the past 12+ years of his life advocating for and safeguarding Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division's future. Carl did not take this responsibility lightly, it became his life's work and he will always be a strong believer and advocate of the North Country and Fort Drum. Over Carl's tenure with FDRLO he represented FDRLO on a number of boards to include the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce and the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. His work with these two organizations clearly enhanced our region's economic viability. In the day's leading up to Carl's retirement a number of individuals shared their thoughts with him. Garry Douglas, co-chair of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council reinforced my belief of Carl's impact when he shared with Carl, "You've done extraordinary work securing the future of Fort Drum, and more recently as a regional leader in economic development." A job well done, Carl!

FDRLO's Executive Committee is actively searching for a new Executive Director, and at the same time looking toward the organization's future. During this time of transition, we all must stay vigilant, and keep our focus where it has always been, on protecting and enhancing Fort Drum's military value and sustaining its economic and cultural significance to the Fort Drum region and New York State. My challenge to our membership - once our new Executive Director is on board, reach out, invite the new Director to your business. Share your story; help our new Director come to understand how you and your business interface with Fort Drum, the Soldiers and Families of the 10th Mountain Division. This kind of understanding will help us foster more effective communication with the installation, the local community, and our State and Federal elected officials.

*Mary*



## Missile Defense continued . . .

and past experience in assisting with large scale projects supporting the Army and Fort Drum. Although this would seem obvious to the Army, the MDA has had no experience with our community and as a result outlining the communities' abilities in assisting with projects of this size was considered an important component. In the end, the FDRLO's plan got the results we needed. The North Country community rallied and responded within the required time providing over 7,000 signatures, as well as 193 letters and resolutions from businesses,

organizations and municipalities in support of a Fort Drum Missile Defense project.

Now we are in that waiting period that the community has so often experienced in the past with important defense projects effecting our community. We should all hear later this fall what preferred site the MDA has recommended. While we are awaiting that decision, we can rest assured that the community has once again shown its dedication as a strong military partner here at Fort Drum!

### Why Support **FORT DRUM** as the Preferred East Coast Missile Defense Site?

- \$3 Billion Construction Project
- 300-800 Short-Term Construction Jobs
- 650-850 Permanent Jobs upon Completion
- Increase Sales Tax Revenue by \$1.65 Million
- \$27 Million in Economic Gain for our Region

Sign the Support Petition @ [FDRLO.org](http://FDRLO.org)



*A Special Thank You . . . . to the following media sponsors who donated air time and print space for the Missile Defense Petition Effort. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*







**FORT DRUM  
REGIONAL LIAISON**

PO BOX 775  
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601

PHONE: 315-836-1531  
FAX: 315-836-1532  
EMAIL: [office@fdrlo.org](mailto:office@fdrlo.org)



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**Mission:**

To protect and enhance Fort Drum's military value, sustain and leverage its economic and cultural significance to the Fort Drum region and New York State, and foster effective communication between the installation and its civilian neighbors to promote mutual support and understanding.

**Vision:**

Through the leadership efforts and activities of the FDRLO, the Department of Defense, the Army and our federal, state and local leaders recognize FDRLO as a key partner and community liaison with the knowledge, experience, understanding and ability to resolve issues of significance to Fort Drum and to sustain its notable presence for the betterment of the region.

**Goals:**

- Enhance the Sustainability of Fort Drum and the Fort Drum Region
- Enhance Coordination with Fort Drum, Army, and Civilian Leadership

- Enrich Marketing, Communication and Outreach
- Ensure FDRLO has the Resources and Financial Stability to Sustain its Mission
- Examine Organizational Structure and Development