



North Country Named 2019 'Great American Defense Community'

Washington, D.C. – The North Country region of New York, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties, is one of five communities across the country named to the 2019 Class of Great American Defense Communities, the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) announced in conjunction with USAA, the program's official sponsor.

The Great American Defense Communities, now in its fourth year, recognizes military communities and regions that help improve the quality of life for service members and military families.

The 2019 class also includes Bay County, Florida, the home to Tyndall AFB; Clovis, New Mexico, the community near Cannon AFB; The Columbia-Greater Midlands, South Carolina, the region surrounding Fort Jackson; and Middle Georgia region which is home to Robins AFB.

"Defined by a mission of force and family, readiness and resilience, America's defense communities are the foundation of our military's strength," ADC President Bill Parry said. "The communities we recognize through the Great American Defense Communities program represent the best examples of what communities can do to create great places for our military families to live and work. We congratulate North Country region and look forward with sharing your story with the nation."

The Great American Defense Communities program is designed to recognize the overall support that communities and regions in the U.S. provide to service members and military families. Communities are chosen through a competitive nomination process based on community building and integration, support and collaboration, educational and employment opportunities, and family support.

"We are humbled and honored to be selected as a Great American Defense Community for 2019. The North Country, Fort Drum, and the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division have enjoyed an indivisible relationship for more than 30 years, and we look forward to sharing our story," said Edward W. "Fritz" Keel, Executive Director for Advocate Drum, the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization.

Defense communities and regions that are home to active military installations are eligible to apply each year. This year's selected communities will be honored throughout the year, including at the Defense Communities National Summit in Washington, D.C., in June 2019.

About Great American Defense Communities

The Great American Defense Communities initiative was launched in 2015 in association with the Defense Communities Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

The inaugural class, honored in 2016, included Colorado Springs, Colo.; the Dayton, Ohio, region; the Eglin-Hurlburt, Fla., community; the Flint Hills, Kan., region; the Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., region; Grand Forks, N.D.; Lawton, Okla.; Monterey, Calif.; and South Puget Sound, Wash.

The 2017 class included the Alamo – San Antonio, Texas, region; the Charleston, S.C., region; Christian Co., Ky.; the Fort Hood – Central Texas region; Goldsboro, N.C.; the Hampton Roads, Va., region; Sierra Vista, Ariz.; the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments; and West Valley Partners in Arizona.

The 2018 class included Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor, Md.; the Greater Fort Knox region, Ky.; the San Diego, Calif. region; the South Georgia region; and Tampa Bay, Fla.

About ADC

ADC builds resilient communities that support America's military. It is the connection point for leaders from communities, states, the military and industry on community-military issues and installation management to enhance knowledge, information sharing and best practices. With nearly 300 communities, states, regions, and affiliated industry organizations, ADC represents every major defense community/state in the nation. For more information about ADC, visit us as defensecommunities.org, or follow @defensecomm on Twitter.

About USAA

The USAA family of companies provides insurance, banking, investments, retirement products and advice to 12.3 million current and former members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving our nation in the U.S. military or have received a discharge type of Honorable – and their eligible family members. Founded in 1922, USAA is headquartered in San Antonio. For more information about USAA, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/USAA) or Twitter ([@USAA](https://twitter.com/USAA)), or visit usaa.com.

###

Contact: Grace Marvin (202) 822-5256, gmarvin@defensecommunities.org