‘CLIMB TO GLORY’

A look at 30 years of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum

VIEW FROM THE TOP: Fort Drum’s commander, Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, addresses the future of the post, his connection to the area, and even a little football. PAGE M4

AROUND THE GLOBE: With the motto ‘Climb to Glory’ as its backdrop, the 10th Mountain Division defines its history in this two-page photo gallery. PAGES M8-9

MUSICAL MISSION: Whether in a war zone or a local park, the 39-member 10th Mountain Division Band stands ready to inspire soldiers and civilians. PAGE M10
Drum powers three decades of growth

In December 2012, the state opened 785 acres of land, a highway spurred by the growth of Fort Drum.

By T.B. ROOKER

FORT DRUM — It’s the heartbeat of the north country.

As the largest employer in Northeast New York, Fort Drum has accounted for an economic impact of $1.23 billion on the region over the past quarter-century.

The impact of the installation has more than quadrupled since the post began collecting data in 1988, when the figure was about $287 million. Since then, it has added about $320 million in economic activity every year since 2006, peaking about $310 million in 2009.

In the early 1980s, Fort Drum was the area’s greatest employer, with a peak of 39,000 soldiers on post in the mid-1990s. Drum grew to an estimated 35,542 military personnel and 3,895 civilians at the end of fiscal 2013.

The community enjoyed an influx of soldiers midway through the first decade of the new millennium when it was demanded of the installation that it provide places for an additional 7,000 people — and it did.

The installation has more than quadrupled its economic impact since the post passed through Watertown in 1988, the year before the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization was established.

“Fort Drum has grown in leaps and bounds,” said Michael J. Seymour, manager of the Fort Drum Common Interest Community, which handles all military and civilian payroll. “It has been above $1 billion every year since 2006, peaking at $310 million last year.”

Requests for additional support continued, with a request to encroach on the town of Watertown led to a $1.3 billion expansion of the installation last year. The new housing, known as Fort Drum’s 10th Mountain Division, has been above $1 billion every year since 2006, peaking at $310 million last year.

“The broader picture is that the need for military housing enabled the building of the village in general, because we can sell our homes and link the neighborhood to the housing stock,” Mr. Seymour said. “This will continue to be a feature of the community at large.”

A sign on New York State Route 11 North welcomes people to the main entrance of Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division.

SCHOOLS

Last year, local and county school districts surrounding the post reported $21.2 million in federal impact for accommodating military children. That is almost twice as much as the 10th Mountain Division, which has the highest such enrollment outside the District of Columbia.

Military students account for about 16 percent of the student body in the districts which surround Watertown in 2013, up from 8 percent in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Military students account for about 16 percent of the student body in the districts which surround Watertown in 2013, up from 8 percent in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

At Watertown Free Academy, about 9 percent of the school’s enrollment is military-affiliated. That is almost twice as much as the 10th Mountain Division, which has the highest such enrollment outside the District of Columbia.

Military students account for about 16 percent of the student body in the districts which surround Watertown in 2013, up from 8 percent in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

At Watertown Free Academy, about 9 percent of the school’s enrollment is military-affiliated. That is almost twice as much as the 10th Mountain Division, which has the highest such enrollment outside the District of Columbia.

Military students account for about 16 percent of the student body in the districts which surround Watertown in 2013, up from 8 percent in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Education.
In 1984, preparation, then celebration

By GORDON BLOCK

It was a day of celebration in the north country on Sept. 11, 1984, 30 years ago this week, as the region learned the Army would activate the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

The news - the decision of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to activate a division on the eastern edge of the Adirondacks - came through on the evening of Sept. 10, 1984, when Mr. Weinberger called Watertown Mayor Frank Martin and told him the state’s congressional delegation had performed its job and been rewarded.

It was a day of celebration in the north country on Sept. 11, 1984, 30 years ago this week, as the region learned the Army would activate the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

The news - the decision of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to activate a division on the eastern edge of the Adirondacks - came through on the evening of Sept. 10, 1984, when Mr. Weinberger called Watertown Mayor Frank Martin and told him the state’s congressional delegation had performed its job and been rewarded.

“It was like getting a Christmas present,” Mr. Martin said in an interview Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014. “It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off.

The decision meant the Army would activate the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

“It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off,” Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congressional delegation had paid off, Mr. Martin said.

It was a moment when I realized that the hard work of the congress...
Some of our nation’s most prominent political leaders and military leaders have been aligned with the 10th Mountain Division, which was activated in 1985 after the announcement of the division’s activation was made the previous year. Before theiralignments, along with some of the politicians who work in support of Fort Drum and the surrounding community and the post. The questions were submitted by email.

**VIPS weigh in**

**VIPS**

- **Charles and I have many fond memories of our time as the county assigned to the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum. The 10th Mountain has been a place where soldiers want to serve and where families want to raise their children. The strong support of the community has helped to make Fort Drum one of the most deployed division in the Army.**

- **Gen. Paul Funk II, Commanding General, U.S. Army Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa**

- **Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division are a part of the north country for the fort is a job creator, a significant part of the north county’s economy and an anchor to the Adirondacks.**

- **BY GORDON BLAIR**

- **Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend is Fort Drum’s commanding general. He has served as the commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum since August 2012.**

- **I think the division also depends on us. About $4.1 billion in economic impact, the largest employer in Northern New York. I think the division depends on us, and we depend on them.**

- **We will continue to fight in Congress to support of the community has become like family to our civilian and military community.**

- **Sisterhood has proven to be a symbiotic relationship.**

- **We've liked a lot of the duty around the north country area. We've liked a lot of the duty around the north country area.**

- **When do you see Fort Drum heading?**

- **GEN. TOWNSEND: THESIGHTSEER**

- **Q: Last book you read that wasn't related to the military?**

- **Q: What are your political goals?**

- **A: Classic mock book title: The Fighting Mac, Leyland Loyalty.**

- **A: Who's in your best seat in the back row?**

- **Gen. Mark A. Milley, pictured in 2012, thanks the community for supporting soldiers and their families.**

- **We're going to continue to be here in support of our Army.**

- **The division has been the most deployed in the Army for the past five years.**

- **We're still the most deployed, and I think, that we are going to continue to be well-supported by our Army.**

- **If we're a light infantry division, we have a rapid deployment force.**

- **We have superb ranges, superb infrastructure, superb facilities.**

- **We're a very tight-knit division, and we're relatively insensitive to maintain and train, comparing our division to other divisions. I think that the Army is going to rely on us as well as, even more, as Afghanistan stand-down. It's over now, and it won't be over for a few years at least, but I think our division will be involved here and other places around the world.**

- **Although I think Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division has a strong, good future ahead of us, I'm looking at sequestration. It's hurting our readiness, it's going to hurt our Army's readiness and end strength. If sequestration is not overturned by Congress, I believe our Army will get smaller, and I think that inevitably, our division is going to come to Fort Drum.**

- **I think that the 10th Mountain Division and their Fort Drum, the state of New York, and the nation having their 10th Mountain Division and their Fort Drum, and they're going to do this.**

- **I'm concerned about the effect of sequestration on the Army, but setting aside that, there’s a lot of work to do here at the fort and around the north country area.**

- **Where do you see Fort Drum heading?**

- **JORDAN BLAIR**

- **30 YEARS AT FORT DRUM**
Uncertainty part of military marriages

By TED BOOKER

FORT DRUM — Soldiers on post talk like millions of modern Americans when they get off duty: about their jobs. Compared to barracks housing offered here two decades ago, living in barracks today provides more private space and amenities, according to Sgt. Patrick Olvecky, who allowed the Times to tour the new barracks that opened last month.

“I was a kid in a day room near the entrance and it was fun,” Olvecky said. “We had a fire place, a TV and we could decorate our walls with posters.”

The 22-year-old from Fulton said he and his barracks mates, who are called “barrackers,” build a “full nest” of soldiers on post, and they are the first in the area to have two private rooms for soldiers, including space to walk in closets with their own hangers and hooks. “You don’t have to worry about your uniform being mangled up,” Olvecky said.

Other rules also are enforced by the Army. For example, soldiers are permitted to have electronics such as computers and televisions in their rooms, they also are allowed to decorate their walls with posters, Sgt. Olvecky said.

Soldiers also have access to “day room” near the entrance of the first floor, which includes tables for billiards, foosball and ping pong, along with a lounge area with big-screen televisions.

Sgt. Olvecky said his current living arrangement differs greatly from the older barracks he was stationed in while he was on post four years ago. Back then, two soldiers were assigned to each room, and the common area was shared by four soldiers. “In the old barracks, soldiers had to worry about their belongings,” he said.

“Beds, desk and wall locker were the only amenities,” he said. “You had nickels and dimes to put in the lockers.”

The old barracks, built in the mid-1980s, the three unrenovated ones provide over-flow housing when there is a full nest of soldiers on post, Mrs. Wildhaber said. The 26 that were renovated were refurbished to feature the private room configuration.

Command Sgt. Maj. Roy A. Holmes, 41, from Malone said, “living in barracks housing on post, you are also a part of the NCO education.” The 26 barracks, built in 2005, the three unrenovated ones provide over-flow housing when there is a full nest of soldiers on post, Mrs. Olvecky said. The 26 that were renovated were refurbished to feature the private room configuration.

State and local officials press the need for military families to stay strong for their spouses while they’re on duty. “It’s going to be a change, but I know what I’m getting into because I have friends and family also,” Mrs. Smolen said. “I know you just have to be somewhere on such a day.”

Despite the challenges of military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Getting and keeping a job is a challenge for many military spouses. Keeping a job can be especially hard when a soldier is deployed and the spouse is left alone to take care of children.

In military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Getting and keeping a job is a challenge for many military spouses. Keeping a job can be especially hard when a soldier is deployed and the spouse is left alone to take care of children.

In military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Getting and keeping a job is a challenge for many military spouses. Keeping a job can be especially hard when a soldier is deployed and the spouse is left alone to take care of children.

In military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Getting and keeping a job is a challenge for many military spouses. Keeping a job can be especially hard when a soldier is deployed and the spouse is left alone to take care of children.

In military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Getting and keeping a job is a challenge for many military spouses. Keeping a job can be especially hard when a soldier is deployed and the spouse is left alone to take care of children.

In military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

Getting and keeping a job is a challenge for many military spouses. Keeping a job can be especially hard when a soldier is deployed and the spouse is left alone to take care of children.

In military life, spouses say dealing with long deployments and other hardships have helped them find an inner strength they didn’t know they had. “That strengthened me,” she said. “You had to trust in the military and in God.”

The family got separated more than a long, drawn-out phone call, said the called. “They just want you to hear their voice. That was the most important phone call.”
A Fort Drum soldier patrols the streets in Homestead, Fla., where Hurricane Andrew devastated the area in August 1992.

A girl watches a U.S. patrol drive by in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, while American and Haitian police operate in the streets to aid in the recovery from Hurricane Matthew.

A Fort Drum soldier walks through a market near Baghdad in 2005.

Military police conduct searches at the Bagram Airfield post entrance gate in Afghanistan in 2002 as a local civilian works outside.

A soldier from the 10th Mountain Division waits for an open phone to call home on Christmas Eve, 2004, at Camp Liberty in Baghdad.

Drones offer ground troops support, safety from above
Brodier skills seen as key to training

BY DAVID SYLVESTER

Fort Drum — Before chaos descends on wooden huts in an intensively trained area, Lt. Col. Aaron A. Huber and Capt. Curt J. Beikohoven, both guards from a July rain, sat for a moment to talk about how their unit’s most recent training evolution will turn a grainy dough and hundreds of pounds of hot water into a hearty, filling dish for the base’s troops and civilians alike. It’s much different for the base’s troops and civilians — including contractors, who make them all happy regardless of how they are served or how they are paid. Meals have changed from “You get what you get,” to “You get what you choose,” and that’s why the Army and the civilian contractors who work alongside military personnel have noticed differences in the base’s food. It just tastes better,” she said, sitting down that the enemy’s ennui, and an area where those few have X-ray vision, to see exactly what the enemy is up to, and for what it might be in the enemy’s mind, and to see through them in order to see what might be in the enemy’s mind. But the enemy’s mind is not always where it is thought to be. It’s not close to the enemy, but rather incorporated into the training cycle of the enemy. This begins with preparing, cooking and serving meals with fresh, real vegetables being steamed in the pesto’s kitchens rather than canned. Such concepts, Mr. Sprague said, are an excellent start to what he’s calling Healthy Initiative. He said a similar initiative was started on Fort Bragg, N.C., and other installations. Despite healthier options, “comfort foods” are still consumed by soldiers. “Breakfasts and lunches are still served every morning along with big scoops of home-style potatoes,” Mr. Sprague said. “Hamburgers and hot dogs are still offered from the Army’s standard menu all the time.”

The overall goal of the pilot program, Mr. Sprague said, is to keep soldiers fit and healthy, and to ensure that food is offered and prepared in the best possible way. A better understanding of the types of menus that would be best for soldiers and their needs is important. “This has a very large impact on how food is served,” Mr. Sprague said.}

No small order on post when feeding the troops

By CHRISSY BUCKE

Fort Drum — Providing the base’s troops and civilians through mealtime is a task that requires versatility. Fort Drum and the Army have had to keep up with the changing tastes of troops over the years. It’s much different from what’s been done by the base’s food program manager, Jesse Futrell, who served an Army tour in Germany from 1978 to 1981. Mr. Pena, who left the Army in 1999 as a master sergeant, where he served at U.S. Army South in Panama as the installation’s food advisor, has been at Fort Drum for the past two years. He also has had Army food leadership roles as a civilian in Kosovo and South Korea for 10 years. Some things have changed from “You get what you get,” to “You get what you choose,” and that’s why the Army and the civilian contractors who work alongside military personnel have noticed differences in the base’s food. It just tastes better,” she said, sitting down that the enemy’s ennui, and an area where those few have X-ray vision, to see exactly what the enemy is up to, and for what it might be in the enemy’s mind, and to see through them in order to see what might be in the enemy’s mind. But the enemy’s mind is not always where it is thought to be. It’s not close to the enemy, but rather incorporated into the training cycle of the enemy. This begins with preparing, cooking and serving meals with fresh, real vegetables being steamed in the pesto’s kitchens rather than canned. Such concepts, Mr. Sprague said, are an excellent start to what he’s calling Healthy Initiative. He said a similar initiative was started on Fort Bragg, N.C., and other installations. Despite healthier options, “comfort foods” are still consumed by soldiers. “Breakfasts and lunches are still served every morning along with big scoops of home-style potatoes,” Mr. Sprague said. “Hamburgers and hot dogs are still offered from the Army’s standard menu all the time.”

The overall goal of the pilot program, Mr. Sprague said, is to keep soldiers fit and healthy, and to ensure that food is offered and prepared in the best possible way. A better understanding of the types of menus that would be best for soldiers and their needs is important. “This has a very large impact on how food is served,” Mr. Sprague said.
30 Years at Fort Drum

Above and on the right-hand side of Page M9 are film contact sheets from black-and-white negatives taken during dignitaries' visits to the north country in the 1980s and '90s.

NORM JOHNSTON

10th Mountain Division soldiers assemble at Bagram Airfield before leaving by helicopter for a cave-clearing mission in Gardez province, Afghanistan, in 2002.

NORM JOHNSTON

Returning from the Gulf War, soldiers are bused to Fort Drum through a welcoming crowd in 1991.

NORM JOHNSTON

A soldier reunites with his family after returning home during ceremonies at Fort Drum on March 14, 2013.

NORM JOHNSTON

An artillery honor guard fires a 10-gun salute during a change-of-command ceremony at Fort Drum last year.

NORM JOHNSTON

Preparations are made before the 9/11 remembrance ceremony from 2013 at Fort Drum.

JASON HUNTER

Sgt. Tony T. Shelton, Brownville, hugs his wife, Jennifer A. Smith-Shelton, following a deployment ceremony in 2012 for the Delta Company 2-108th Infantry at the Ogdensburg Armory.

WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES FILES

Spc. John R. Allen, left, and Pfc. Brandon M. Gautier, 4th Battalion, 21st Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, give each other a high-five before making a convoy run from Patrol Base Justice to Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2005.

WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES FILES

A 10th Mountain Division soldier talks with a Somalian as relief workers unload a shipment of supplies in January 1993.

AMANDA MORRISON

Soldiers hold roses for their family members as they wait to be dismissed during a homecoming ceremony.

WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES FILES

A soldier reaches to hug his family after returning home during ceremonies at Fort Drum on March 15, 2013.

WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES FILES
The 10th Mountain Band mission: to inspire

BY CHRISS BRIECK

WATERTOWN — With an arsenal ranging from tubas to electric guitars, and whereas it may be in a war zone or a local park, the 10th Mountain Division Band stands ready to inspire soldiers and the civilian community.

The 10-member band, together in or sections, takes on a variety of roles, from playing as a rock band at public events to serving as the ceremonial band for official military functions, such as welcoming units home from overseas.

The mix that is attractive for soldiers such as Staff Sgt. Stephen P. Blain, who plays trumpet for the 10th Mountain Band, three of his offshoots of the 10th Mountain Division Band per form in a brass/rocked ensemble.

No matter where it goes, the 10th Mountain Division Band, which has a mission to inspire, is unfazed by the support it gets from military brass and community members in the north country.

“A lot of the people in charge have had multiple deployments, and a lot of them have seen that the good thing is, when we go to deploy, said Chief Warrant Officer Daniel P. Wood, hand out T-shirts from the 10th Mountain Division Band. “They bring little concerts to you, and we soldiers who are so far from home. It helps the soldiers to hit the pause button on all the negative things that are going on around them. They have live music, not just on an iPod, and people are bringing joy to them.”

He added, “Especially with the 10th Mountain Division, the leadership is really supported, and music is an important part of our unit’s tours.”

Meanwhile, community support for the band in the north country has been outsounding, he said, especially in local performances.

“We take the reception we go! wherever we go is amazing,” Mr. Wood said. “People want to feed us and take care of us. I think we could ask for better audiences than we get around here.”

For example, the band has been a regular at the Concerts on the Waterfront Series in Sackets Harbor and also has performed at local events such as the Independence Day concert at Thompson Park in Watertown and the Norwood Village Green Concert Series in St. Lawrence County.

The roster of the 10th Mountain Division Band dates to 1942, when it was formed for Camp Edwards, Mass. It was deactivated in 1958 but reactivated in 1987 when assigned to Fort Drum.

In addition to the brass band, the 10th Mountain Division Band is divided into units of the rock band, percussion, the funk jam band Cold Fusion, and brass quintet Vertigo Brass.

All of the smaller units from the 10-member 10th Mountain Division marching band, concert band and ceremonial band.

The variety of musical styles keep Chief Warrant Officer Steven J. Coplan, who has been thinking of taking the lead band for a while, to be on the cutting edge.

“With the added theater music, which is pretty cool,” he said, “it’s to keep up to date on a variety of popular songs for the full band, and the smaller units, too.”

Music performed by the band has a positive, upbeat message.

“That’s something that’s really important to us,” Mr. Wood said.

That positive message is something he enjoys about his job.

“I really love the opportunity to go out and represent the thousands of soldiers who are out there doing really hard work and facing the enemy in the eye,” Mr. Wood said. “Those are the people we need to go out and represent and to remind the public.”

Mr. Wood, who was raised as an “Air Force brat” but now lives in the Syracuse area, said that each time the band performs, it represents every member of the 10th Mountain Division Band, from infantry to intelligence to engineering.

“I like to think that what infan tryman is thinking, or that what the numbers guy is thinking or what the engineer is thinking, or that even the soldier… it’s his job to take care of us,” Mr. Wood said. “If a soldier comes up here and possibly gives back, it’s their players spending some time with the soldiers up here.”

SU football, Fort Drum share unique bond

SU assistant athletic director for football Jim Huey is thinking, or that what infantryman is thinking, or that what the numbers guy is thinking or what the engineer is thinking, or that even the soldier… it’s his job to take care of us,” Mr. Wood said. “If a soldier comes up here and possibly gives back, it’s their players spending some time with the soldiers up here.”

SU football, Fort Drum share unique bond

BY JOHN ST. CROIX

Syracuse University football coach Scott Shafer was presented with a flag by Lt. Col. Brian Beckno, his boss, during training camp last month at Fort Drum.

For the second straight year, members of the SU men’s basketball and football teams have participated in the football camp (was a way to integrate sports to the Fort Drum Family and community) and the Syracuse football players try their hand at the team-building task, Spiders Web.

The bond between SU athletics and Fort Drum has been recognized by Syracuse University’s 123rd chancellor and Kent Syverud, during his inauguration ceremony in April.

Among the four areas that are nec essary for the university to succeed, Syverud said in his speech, “I believe Syracuse University must once again become the best place for veterans.”

Shaler said Veterans Day was recog nized and in its ulterior mission to inspire soldiers who are about the same age. The 10th Mountain Band mission: to inspire

"When we get thanked, I don’t think we could ask for anything more," he said. "I’m excited for the upcoming season, when we’ll be out there in the public eye."
After 22 years in the military, including the last seven at Fort Drum, Stephen J. Conaway knew exactly where he and his family should live when he retired.

They fell in love with the Thousand Islands and St. Lawrence River and the area’s beauty.

“I loved the Jefferson County lifestyle,” said Mr. Conaway, 51, who stayed in the north country and started the Thousand Islands Winery in Alexandria Bay.

Mr. Conaway, who retired as a major in the 10th Mountain Division in 2009, is one of 2,600 former Fort Drum soldiers who have continued to live in Northern New York since retirement, according to the Fort Drum Economic Impact Statement released last year.

The figure represents one of the nation’s largest contingents of military retirees living near an Army post, according to the statement.

Michael T. Plummer, former 10th Mountain Division chief of staff, who lives in Watertown, said 30 percent of the base’s retirees remain in the north country.

Among the reasons cited by former soldiers for staying is that the area is a good place to raise a family and find a job that fits well with military backgrounds.

“They love the quality of life,” said Carl A. McLoughlin, executive director of the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, an advocacy group for the post, “It’s the whole package.”

It was partly the love of the 10th Mountain Division that brought Christopher E. Hornbarger, 46, back to Watertown after he served at Fort Drum for 20 years. Mr. Hornbarger was involved in the division’s missions in Somalia and Haiti, where his appreciation for camaraderie with his fellow soldiers grew.

A retired lieutenant colonel, he was assigned to Fort Drum in the early 1990s as a Cobra attack helicopter pilot and then commanded a company of choppers for the 10th Mountain Division before teaching at West Point. He also served at the Pentagon, in the White House, at Central Command in Tampa, and in Iraq under Gen. David Petraeus.

Mr. Hornbarger’s wife, Elizabeth A., grew up in Watertown and graduated from Immaculate Heart Central School, and her husband found his new career there. He said his previous stint as an assistant professor of American politics at West Point — teaching freshmen and sophomore cadets — had a profound impact on his life.

“Teaching was my passion,” he said.

The Hornbargers decided to stay in the north country, and Mr. Hornbarger ended up at IHC, where the school created the position of executive system administrator for him.

For fellow veteran Brett E. Kessler, Lake Ontario was one of the many reasons he remained in the region.

While stationed at Fort Drum, Mr. Kessler, an artillery officer who retired as a lieutenant colonel at age 41, started sailing in Northern New York, where he and his wife, Barbi D., have raised their three children.

He first served at Fort Drum from 1994 to 1997, and then again from 2005 to 2009.

“We fell in love with the area the first time we were here,” said Mr. Kessler, an Arizona native who has developed an avid interest in the outdoors.

In the north country, he and his two teenage sons have become interested in snowmobiling, and he also maneuvers his 18-foot sailboat around the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

At Fort Drum, from 1994 to 1997, and then again from 2005 to 2009, he served at Fort Drum.

“We fell in love with the area the first time we were here,” said Mr. Kessler, an Arizona native who has developed an avid interest in the outdoors.

In the north country, he and his two teenage sons have become interested in snowmobiling, and he also maneuvers his 18-foot sailboat around the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

At Fort Drum, from 1994 to 1997, and then again from 2005 to 2009, he served at Fort Drum.

Mr. Conaway also has made a difference in the north country. He helped to establish the region’s wine trail, which currently features six wineries, two distilleries, and a growing number of breweries.

By CRAIG FOX TIMES STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth A., grew up in Watertown and graduated from Immaculate Heart Central School, and her husband found his new career there. He said his previous stint as an assistant professor of American politics at West Point — teaching freshmen and sophomore cadets — had a profound impact on his life.

“Teaching was my passion,” he said.

The Hornbargers decided to stay in the north country, and Mr. Hornbarger ended up at IHC, where the school created the position of executive system administrator for him.

For fellow veteran Brett E. Kessler, Lake Ontario was one of the many reasons he remained in the region.

While stationed at Fort Drum, Mr. Kessler, an artillery officer who retired as a lieutenant colonel at age 41, started sailing in Northern New York, where he and his wife, Barbi D., have raised their three children.

He first served at Fort Drum from 1994 to 1997, and then again from 2005 to 2009.

“We fell in love with the area the first time we were here,” said Mr. Kessler, an Arizona native who has developed an avid interest in the outdoors.

In the north country, he and his two teenage sons have become interested in snowmobiling, and he also maneuvers his 18-foot sailboat around the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

At Fort Drum, from 1994 to 1997, and then again from 2005 to 2009, he served at Fort Drum.

“We fell in love with the area the first time we were here,” said Mr. Kessler, an Arizona native who has developed an avid interest in the outdoors.

In the north country, he and his two teenage sons have become interested in snowmobiling, and he also maneuvers his 18-foot sailboat around the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

At Fort Drum, from 1994 to 1997, and then again from 2005 to 2009, he served at Fort Drum.

Mr. Conaway also has made a difference in the north country. He helped to establish the region’s wine trail, which currently features six wineries, two distilleries, and a growing number of breweries.
In memoriam
312 soldiers from the division have given their lives

**In memoriam**
312 soldiers from the division have given their lives.

**At Fort Drum, land maintenance, training go hand in hand**

Commercialognos clear warm days during a forestry tour at Fort Drum. Jason S. Wagner, Fort Drum’s natural resources branch chief, says they will always have available land to accommodate training.

**Beauvoir**

**At Fort Drum, land maintenance, training go hand in hand**


**In memoriam**
312 soldiers from the division have given their lives.

**At Fort Drum, land maintenance, training go hand in hand**

Commercialognos clear warm days during a forestry tour at Fort Drum. Jason S. Wagner, Fort Drum’s natural resources branch chief, says they will always have available land to accommodate training.

**At Fort Drum, land maintenance, training go hand in hand**

Commercialognos clear warm days during a forestry tour at Fort Drum. Jason S. Wagner, Fort Drum’s natural resources branch chief, says they will always have available land to accommodate training.

**At Fort Drum, land maintenance, training go hand in hand**

Commercialognos clear warm days during a forestry tour at Fort Drum. Jason S. Wagner, Fort Drum’s natural resources branch chief, says they will always have available land to accommodate training.

**At Fort Drum, land maintenance, training go hand in hand**

Commercialognos clear warm days during a forestry tour at Fort Drum. Jason S. Wagner, Fort Drum’s natural resources branch chief, says they will always have available land to accommodate training.
All cultures intersect when you work, play, shop, learn and pray next to a rainbow of the local citizenry — because of Fort Drum. The broad influence of our military forces is exemplified by the makeup of that here that is far less prevalent than in other similar areas of this state and nation.

Northern New York Community Foundation

We join in commemorating and celebrating Fort Drum, past, present and future. We are especially grateful for the positive impact you have on our neighborhoods, our community, our nation and our world.


For Your Health... Free Info Seminar for Watertown & Fort Drum Residents!

Thinking About Weight Loss Surgery?

Been thinking about weight loss surgery? Is it an option for you? We invite Watertown and Fort Drum residents to a free informational seminar to meet our team and learn the facts about bariatric (weight loss) surgery.

Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for You?

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Hilden Garden Inn of Watertown/Thousand Islands
1290 Arsenal Street/Suite B

This program is free but pre-registration is required by calling 315/472-2464 or online at www.crouse.org/bariatrics.

Light refreshments will be served.

Most insurance accepted, including Tricare!

For More Info:

712 James Street, Clayton, NY (315) 686-4000
(315) 686-4000

Reach him at pwhite@wdt.net.
Perry White is the managing editor of the Watertown Daily Times. Read more at pwhite.wdt.net.
Members of the 10th Mountain Division listen to a speech given by 1st Brigadier General and command Sgt. Maj. Stephen L. Michael during a combined deployment ceremony last year at Fort Drum. A 3rd Brigade Combat Team staff member and civilian jobs could be cut from the base by 2020.

By BRIAN KELLY

FORT DRUM — When Fort Drum’s future is discussed, the phrase “catastrophic hit” often comes up, as in, no one has one. While veteran watchers of the federal budget cuts know those words can mean many things, one forecast many in the north country have been made. But observers also see potential opportunity with the addition of defense dollars. The base already has 1,570 active-duty soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division, one of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

The study painted a worst-case scenario in which, in 16,000 soldiers and civilians would call the fort home. That number would be a cause that would come up, as in, no one has one. While veteran watchers of the federal budget cuts know those words can mean many things, one forecast many in the north country have been made. But observers also see potential opportunity with the addition of defense dollars. The base already has 1,570 active-duty soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division, one of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

The study’s authors, however, believe that Fort Drum won’t suffer the lion’s share of reductions in forces, that the decision to cut soldiers “depends on the schedule of Congress,” including which party is in power and who the president is in 2016, when an administration will return to service under the federal budget. “It is an optimistic, and I hope sound, view to first and foremost, the 10th Mountain Division, albeit, small,” Col. Michael Taylor said. With the loss of soldiers also comes a certainty: Mr. Plummer said the division must be “in the running” for any federal cuts that might come in new housing or business ventures that would benefit communities.

Fort Drum has sounded the alarm in recent years over the lack of adequate housing for soldiers. The development has met those needs with hundreds of new housing units both on and off-post. If the town was able to buy new equipment and pay for its employees, it would be able to do so. “You’ve also had improvements in quality schools, a relatively safe environment, and commu- nity, and most businesses will call this home to want to work out of here,” Mr. Plummer said. “But if you take away that demand, that’s where you will see a significant decrease.”

Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most de- pendable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Re- ferral Group. (bases) that would take a hit in new housing or business ventures, in the north country. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group.

He said the Fort Drum area, which was “significant in the long-term equation by trying to add new things.”

Fort Drum also is a state-of-the-art facility that has been designed and engineered to cope with future and rapid deployments in a world that hasn’t been always been the case with some older bases. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has been encased by development, meaning there is plenty of room for training without dis- turbance, something that isn’t seen in more urban bases. Also, the base has plenty of room to grow and make an ideal ground for real- estate driven, a potential growth area at Fort Drum.

Given the base’s strengths, Mr. Plummer said he sees Fort Drum’s assets continuing the valuable to the Army if force cuts are made. He said an even so, with separation and looming, would events continue to remain people that, at some point, the Army will need an in- creased force, if not increased force. “Not for one minute do I think that we can act on it and pretend that we are not going to need to go back to work,” Mr. Plummer said. “We’ve seen more and even. It’s only a matter of time before the Army is thinking about needing to call them back up.”

For the same reason, there is “a lot of momentum” in the Army to need the division. The planning goes beyond the current services in the Army, and that by the time that the power out of here, Mr. Plummer said. “But if you take away that demand, that’s where you will see a significant decrease.”

Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group. (bases) that would take a hit in new housing or business ventures, in the north country. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group.

He said the Fort Drum area, which was “significant in the long-term equation by trying to add new things.”

Fort Drum also is a state-of-the-art facility that has been designed and engineered to cope with future and rapid deployments in a world that hasn’t been always been the case with some older bases. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has been encased by development, meaning there is plenty of room for training without dis- turbance, something that isn’t seen in more urban bases. Also, the base has plenty of room to grow and make an ideal ground for real- estate driven, a potential growth area at Fort Drum.

Given the base’s strengths, Mr. Plummer said he sees Fort Drum’s assets continuing the valuable to the Army if force cuts are made. He said an even so, with separation and looming, would events continue to remain people that, at some point, the Army will need an in- creased force, if not increased force. “Not for one minute do I think that we can act on it and pretend that we are not going to need to go back to work,” Mr. Plummer said. “We’ve seen more and even. It’s only a matter of time before the Army is thinking about needing to call them back up.”

For the same reason, there is “a lot of momentum” in the Army to need the division. The planning goes beyond the current services in the Army, and that by the time that the power out of here, Mr. Plummer said. “But if you take away that demand, that’s where you will see a significant decrease.”

Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group. (bases) that would take a hit in new housing or business ventures, in the north country. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group.

He said the Fort Drum area, which was “significant in the long-term equation by trying to add new things.”

Fort Drum also is a state-of-the-art facility that has been designed and engineered to cope with future and rapid deployments in a world that hasn’t been always been the case with some older bases. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has been encased by development, meaning there is plenty of room for training without dis- turbance, something that isn’t seen in more urban bases. Also, the base has plenty of room to grow and make an ideal ground for real- estate driven, a potential growth area at Fort Drum.

Given the base’s strengths, Mr. Plummer said he sees Fort Drum’s assets continuing the valuable to the Army if force cuts are made. He said an even so, with separation and looming, would events continue to remain people that, at some point, the Army will need an in- creased force, if not increased force. “Not for one minute do I think that we can act on it and pretend that we are not going to need to go back to work,” Mr. Plummer said. “We’ve seen more and even. It’s only a matter of time before the Army is thinking about needing to call them back up.”

For the same reason, there is “a lot of momentum” in the Army to need the division. The planning goes beyond the current services in the Army, and that by the time that the power out of here, Mr. Plummer said. “But if you take away that demand, that’s where you will see a significant decrease.”

Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group. (bases) that would take a hit in new housing or business ventures, in the north country. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group.

He said the Fort Drum area, which was “significant in the long-term equation by trying to add new things.”

Fort Drum also is a state-of-the-art facility that has been designed and engineered to cope with future and rapid deployments in a world that hasn’t been always been the case with some older bases. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has been encased by development, meaning there is plenty of room for training without dis- turbance, something that isn’t seen in more urban bases. Also, the base has plenty of room to grow and make an ideal ground for real- estate driven, a potential growth area at Fort Drum.

Given the base’s strengths, Mr. Plummer said he sees Fort Drum’s assets continuing the valuable to the Army if force cuts are made. He said an even so, with separation and looming, would events continue to remain people that, at some point, the Army will need an in- creased force, if not increased force. “Not for one minute do I think that we can act on it and pretend that we are not going to need to go back to work,” Mr. Plummer said. “We’ve seen more and even. It’s only a matter of time before the Army is thinking about needing to call them back up.”

For the same reason, there is “a lot of momentum” in the Army to need the division. The planning goes beyond the current services in the Army, and that by the time that the power out of here, Mr. Plummer said. “But if you take away that demand, that’s where you will see a significant decrease.”

Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group. (bases) that would take a hit in new housing or business ventures, in the north country. Mr. Plummer said that because the division has proved its value as one of the most dependable divisions in the Army, as opposed to one base being cut and the other being left intact, the cuts would be spread across Army 2020 Force Structure Referral Group.
You’ve waited your whole working life for this...

Now WHAT?

It's okay. Most people get a little intimidated when it comes to managing their retirement savings. It’s hard to know where to turn or what to believe. One thing’s for sure…you need smart people you can trust who can help you sort it all out.

The secret? Having a plan and a budget — and working with a financial advisor who can help optimize your finances to make sure you can live the way you want in retirement. That’s what AmeriCU’s Retirement Peace of Mind™ service is all about: it’s four simple steps to help ensure that you’re making the smartest choices with your money given your goals.

Retirement Peace of Mind…complimentary for AmeriCU members.

Visit www.americu.org to learn more and schedule your first appointment.
Or if you prefer, call us at 315.356.3300 or email retirement@americu.org.

70 is the new 50...

The average person has more than 20 years to live in retirement. How you spend it is totally up to you. Whether you want to travel, buy a winter place in SoCal Somewhere, or just want to stay home to garden and relax, it’s important to know that you’re financially ready — especially if you’d like to leave a legacy to your children and grandchildren.