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**Fort Drum, True Economic Impact Totals Nearly \$1.7 Billion  
and Supports an Additional 5,700 Jobs in the Region.**

WATERTOWN, NY, February 27, 2018 – According to the results of its economic impact model—to be reported tomorrow at the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Economic Forecast Breakfast on February 28th—the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO) estimates that Fort Drum’s 2017 economic impact totaled \$ 1.7 billion in the three-county region that includes the counties of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence. The value-added portion of that impact accounts for 11.6% of the region’s Gross Domestic Product. The FDRLO model estimates that in addition to the 18,832 military and civilian personnel directly employed at Fort Drum in 2017, Fort Drum spending also supported an additional 5,622 jobs in the general regional economy. “Those are jobs not on Fort Drum, but that exist off-post because of Fort Drum”, noted David J. Zembiec, Deputy CEO of Jefferson County Economic Development and member of the FDRLO board of directors. He added that the 24,454 Fort Drum related jobs account for 22% of the employed population in the region. The model estimates that 22,866 of those job holders reside in Jefferson County; 1,104 in Lewis; 232 in St. Lawrence; and 252 outside the Tri-County area.

Fort Drum annually reports its spending in various categories for the preceding fiscal year. However, that annual report accounts for direct spending only. “In order to understand the full

economic impact of that spending on the three-county region, you have to understand the additional economic activity that spending generates and the jobs that spending supports”, said Mr. Zembiec. “We entered the numbers reported by Fort Drum into a model developed just for that purpose.”

FDRLO’s economic impact model was developed by the Economic Development Research Group, Boston, MA. The model is maintained for FDRLO by the Jefferson County Planning Department. When Fort Drum’s direct expenditures are entered, the model takes into consideration that different categories of spending reported by Fort Drum have different multiplier effects in the local economy. Those impacts include the off-post jobs and business income stimulated by Fort Drum’s spending, and the re-spending of that income on consumer purchases and additional business sales in the region. In addition to Fort Drum’s direct spending of nearly \$1.2 billion for payroll and purchases, the model adds more than \$0.4 billion in indirect and induced business activity to arrive at the total impact \$1.7 billion.

The model also estimates how the additional 5,622 additional jobs supported by Fort Drum related activity are distributed across 20 different industry sectors and occupations. By industry sector, the top five categories are health care and social services, followed by educational services, retail trade, real estate, and food and accommodations. The top 5 occupations are office and administrative, education and training, healthcare practitioners, sales, and healthcare support.

- *See attached economic impact summary*

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