



ASSOCIATION OF
**DEFENSE
COMMUNITIES**

**STRONG COMMUNITIES.
STRONG BASES.**

July 24, 2019

Dr. Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Esper:

On behalf of the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Board of Directors and the more than 300 communities, states and regional organizations that comprise our membership, I am writing to congratulate you on your confirmation as the 27th Secretary of Defense. Based on what I have heard from our members around the country, I believe your service as Secretary of the Army has uniquely prepared you to be an excellent leader for our nation's defense enterprise and a good partner with military communities.

During your confirmation testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee you stated that your personal priority as Secretary will be to focus on the well-being of our service members and their families. ADC understands very well the impact issues such as housing, childcare, spousal employment and military child education have on the readiness of our military. Our members are working diligently to create great places for service members and their families to call home, and are forging truly innovative partnerships with DOD and the services to address critical quality of life issues at the local level. I believe ADC can be an important resource for your office as you look to address these issues and we offer our support and partnership.

Further, I believe ADC and our members can help you with your goal of bridging the gap between the military and American society. As the communities that host our nation's military installations, our members are on the front lines of this issue and their successful efforts to close this gap are examples that can be shared with non-military communities across the country.

Thank you for sharing your vision for the future of our nation's military at our Defense Communities National Summit here in D.C. just this past June. Your remarks at the Summit were well received by the more than 700 defense community and installation leaders in attendance. We hope that you found the experience to be worthwhile as well and will consider being our guest keynote speaker next year.

We wish you good luck and Godspeed in your new journey.

Very truly yours,

Joseph L. Driskill, President
Association of Defense Communities