

A 'One Community' Agenda

How We Can Create Great Places for Our Military to Live, Train and Defend our Nation

Major challenges at home and around the world remind us that the fence line surrounding our military bases does not matter when tackling many of the big issues facing our military, service members and their families. It is only when communities and the military are working as one, that we make a difference – this is the One Community Policy Agenda. The Association of Defense Communities believes the components of its One Community agenda will foster a new level of military-community collaboration that can tackle four key issues facing our nation and national defense:



Improve Military Family Quality of Life for Our Service Members and Families in Collaboration with Communities

Service members and military families deserve to live in communities that provide high-quality services, including schools, housing, social services and childcare. We must support communities and military families by:

- Developing a new federal funding program for community and state workforce development and quality of life efforts.
- Establishing clear and equitable community and installation expectations for measuring quality of life and resources to address these challenges.
- Promoting joint military-community efforts to ensure military families have access to high-quality schools, childcare, healthcare, affordable housing, and special needs programs.
- Identifying and promoting innovative efforts and resources to make service members feel welcomed and valued in every community that becomes their military home.



Invest in the People Who Make Our Military Work

The people who support our installations, which are essential to our nation's defense, are more important than ever. We support everyone from the cyber expert and ship builder to the primary school student who will become a future member of the military or workforce. We need to invest in our current and future defense workforce by:

- Working collaboratively at the local and national level to understand and plan for the evolving expectations and capabilities of the defense sector workforce
- Promoting military, community and industry efforts to develop training and education programs in K-12 schools (e.g., DODEA grant programs, STARBASE, Cyber Patriot, FIRST Robotics and other STEM programs)
- Investing in defense workforce development initiatives that ensure we have a skilled workforce for the future (e.g., the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS), Defense Manufacturing Communities Support Program and other DoD programs)
- Leveraging community and state resources to support military spouse hiring and training initiatives and DoD's overall recruitment needs.



Invest in Infrastructure and Programs that Support Missions and Families

Our military and our families rely on a complex network of roads, buildings, facilities, utilities, and land – both on and off base – to support critical training, power-projection platforms and the everyday needs of our families. We need to prioritize investment in our nation's defense infrastructure by:

- Increase funding beyond the original \$100M authorization for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and ensure the program has sufficient flexibility to address the dynamic needs of defense communities.
- Promoting sustained investment in our installations through a stable, robust military construction program that replenishes any redirected funds.
- Enhancing the value of public-public (P4) and public-private partnerships (P3) to maximize a full range of tools that leverage resources to improve the efficiency and resilience of defense infrastructure.
- Prioritizing DoD's focus on infrastructure and resilience appointing a new Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations, Energy & Environment.
- Strengthening the ongoing collaboration between military and community by supporting and enhancing the role of the DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC).



Advance Climate Resilience for Installations and Communities through Collaboration

Sea level rise, extreme weather events and other climate-related issues are having real impacts on our installations, defense communities and national security. Responding to this threat must be coordinated across the fence line, regionally and nationally by:

- Creating a coordination point within the Office of the Secretary of Defense to connect DoD, the services, and communities on climate change issues, ideally through OLDCC.
- Continuing funding and support for the Military Installation Sustainability (MIS) program.
- Embracing programs, including DCIP, that support joint installation-community climate resilience planning and infrastructure projects.
- Developing program benchmarks that are clear, quantifiable, and objective, and provide a baseline measurement of DCIP and MIS program performance.

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