

STRENGTHENING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY STARTS AT



Our military's ability to succeed depends on having a strong foundation at home, and that begins with America's Defense Communities. As the nature of modern threats evolves, these communities are increasingly at the forefront of protecting our homeland, often addressing challenges that extend beyond the installation fence line. From safeguarding critical infrastructure to supporting the operational readiness of missions and families, their role has never been more essential.

The Department of Defense's current focus and relatively modest investment in these critical areas are not enough. To ensure our military's home is prepared for the future, ADC's HOME initiative is focused on four key issues:

H HARNESS THE IMPACT OF ESSENTIAL DOD PROGRAMS

Ensure sustained funding for programs that support the readiness of our homeland, including OLDCC, REPI and the services' civilian engagement programs.

O OPTIMIZE INVESTMENTS IN DEFENSE INFRASTRUCTURE

Expand and adapt DCIP to address evolving defense community needs, targeting \$150 million annually to reduce the significant backlog of projects.

M MODERNIZE OUR APPROACH TO QUALITY-OF-LIFE EFFORTS

Invest in community-level programs that address key challenges that impact readiness for military families, including education, childcare, workforce development, and recruitment, through a program modeled after the Defense Community Support Initiative.

E ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS

Build upon the successes achieved through the military services installation-community partnership programs to strengthen mission readiness, expand capabilities, improve efficiency and create cost savings for the military.



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DEFENSE COMMUNITIES: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY



ABOUT DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

For generations, our military has found a home in America's defense communities. These unique places have provided the foundation for both missions and military families to thrive. As global risks increasingly threaten our homeland, the vitality and resilience of these communities are more critical than ever. Our national security depends on America's defense communities and the enduring spirit that forever connects the military to the places it calls home.

AMERICA'S DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

Defense communities are the towns, cities, counties, regions, and states that host our nation's military missions, installations, and industrial partners. They are home to over 70% of service members, the workforce driving defense manufacturing, vital small businesses supporting military operations, and essential resources like power and water. The fence line has all but disappeared, fostering a deeply interconnected relationship where base and community work as one.

Defense communities rely on a network of organizations and individuals, including local and state governments, to address critical issues such as infrastructure and military family support. These networks vary in form and size but are often anchored by a leading organization that drives community-military collaboration.



The **Association of Defense Communities (ADC)** is a 501(3) organization that brings together these networks of support, serving as a vital connection between the Department of Defense and civilian leaders in the communities, regions, and states our military calls home. With over 300 member communities, ADC has been at the forefront of supporting defense communities for nearly 50 years, fostering collaboration and building a unified community with the military.



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BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY

ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND OFFICES

Our military installations and their supporting communities are vital defense assets, with their collaboration being essential to national security. Together, they ensure military families have access to critical services like schools, housing, employment, healthcare, and social support. They strengthen infrastructure critical to supporting military missions on and off base while addressing both foreseeable and unexpected challenges. These efforts sustain military missions and readiness while creating welcoming, supportive homes for our families. This important work is driven by key programs and initiatives across the DoD, states, and local communities, reflecting a shared commitment to our nation's defense:

OFFICE OF LOCAL DEFENSE COMMUNITY COOPERATION (OLDCC):

For over 60 years, OLDCC has been the key joint planning office within DoD, supporting the readiness of defense installations and communities. Under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, OLDCC provides technical and financial assistance to communities, states, and territories, managing programs focused on infrastructure, mission readiness, the industrial base, defense adjustment, and school construction.

DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (DCIP):

This groundbreaking grant program partners with state and local governments to make critical investments in homeland infrastructure, strengthening military readiness. Since 2020, through OLDCC, DCIP has funded 65 projects, leveraging \$300 million in federal funds and \$251.7 million in non-federal contributions, resulting in a \$551.7 million investment in critical infrastructure.



INSTALLATION RESILIENCE PROGRAM (MIR):

Managed by OLDCC, MIR provides a joint planning framework for installations and communities. It enables states and local partners to collaborate with installations and Military Departments to address threats to missions, families, and the defense industrial base, ensuring operational utility.

MILITARY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS:

Created after 2013 legislation established Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs), these programs allow military services to partner with local and state governments to share support services. Over 200 IGSAs at more than 100 installations have generated more than \$100 million annually in savings and cost avoidances.

DEFENSE STATE LIAISON OFFICE (DSLO):

Under the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, DSLO supports state policymakers with insights, research, and assistance on legislation impacting military families and their quality of life.

COMMUNITY LEADER ENGAGEMENT:

Each military branch has programs to connect with local leaders and bridge the military-civilian divide. Programs like the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Air Force Civic Leader Program, and Navy Ambassadors promote understanding of military operations among broader audiences.



DEFENSE COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM INITIATIVE (DSCP):

A new legislative proposal that would create a groundbreaking DOD grant program focused on supporting local and state led efforts to enhance overall readiness by investing in programs that prepare and support military families outside the gates.

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM (REPI):

REPI preserves military missions through cost-sharing agreements with federal, state, and local governments, and private organizations. It mitigates land use conflicts, addresses environmental restrictions, and enhances resilience to environmental hazards.



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