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**AMERICA'S GREAT
DEFENSE COMMUNITIES**

Five Communities Named 2019 'Great American Defense Communities'

Washington, D.C., January 2—Five communities across the country have been named to the 2019 class of Great American Defense Communities, the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) announced with USAA, the program's official sponsor. The Great American Defense Communities program, now in its fourth year, recognizes military communities and regions that help improve the quality of life for service members, military families and veterans.

The 2019 class includes Bay County, Fla., home to Tyndall Air Force Base; Clovis, N.M., the community neighboring Cannon AFB; Greater Columbia Region, S.C., the region surrounding Fort Jackson; the Middle Georgia region, which is home to Robins AFB; and The North Country-Fort Drum region of New York.

"Defined by a mission of force and family, readiness and resilience, America's defense communities are the foundation of our military's strength," ADC President Bill Parry said. "The communities we recognize through the Great American Defense Communities program represent the best examples of what communities can do to create great places for our military families to live and work. We congratulate these five communities and look forward to sharing your stories with the nation."

The Great American Defense Communities program recognizes the overall support that communities and regions in the United States provide to service members and military families. Communities are chosen through a competitive selection process which considers community building and integration, support and collaboration, educational and employment opportunities, and family support.

"The 2019 Great American Defense Communities highlight some of the most important regions of the country serving and supporting our military families," said John Bird, retired Navy vice admiral and senior vice president of military affairs at USAA. "Military families are a vital part of each of these communities and are in turn supported through a variety of civic programs and initiatives focused on improving their quality of life."

Defense communities, regions which are home to active military installations, were eligible to apply for the 2019 class of Great American Defense Communities. This year's selected communities will be honored throughout the year, including at the [Defense Communities National Summit](#) in Washington, D.C., in June 2019.

About Great American Defense Communities

The Great American Defense Communities program was launched in 2015 in association with the Defense Communities Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The inaugural class, honored in 2016, included Colorado Springs, Colo.; the Dayton, Ohio, region; the Eglin-Hurlburt, Fla., community; the Flint Hills, Kan., region; the Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., region; Grand Forks, N.D.; Lawton, Okla.; Monterey, Calif.; and South Puget Sound, Wash.

The 2017 class included the Alamo – San Antonio, Texas, region; the Charleston, S.C., region; Christian Co., Ky.; the Fort Hood – Central Texas region; Goldsboro, N.C.; the Hampton Roads, Va., region; Sierra Vista, Ariz.; the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments; and West Valley Partners in Arizona.

About ADC

ADC builds resilient communities that support America's military. We are the connection point for leaders from communities, states, the military and industry on community-military issues and installation management to enhance knowledge, information sharing and best practices. With nearly 300 communities, states, regions, and affiliated industry organizations, ADC represents every major defense community/state in the nation. For more information, visit defensecommunities.org and follow us on Twitter ([@defensecomm](https://twitter.com/defensecomm)) or [Facebook](#).

About USAA

The USAA family of companies provides insurance, banking, investments, retirement products and advice to more than 12.7 million current and former members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving our nation in the U.S. military or have received a discharge type of honorable – and their eligible family members. Founded in 1922, USAA is headquartered in San Antonio. For more information about USAA, follow us on [Facebook](#) or Twitter ([@USAA](https://twitter.com/USAA)), or visit usaa.com.

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