



MEDIA RELEASE

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DAYTON REGION NAMED GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY

DAYTON, Ohio – The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) named the Dayton Region a “Great American Defense Community.” The designation recognized 10 communities throughout the nation that have provided outstanding support to service members, military families and veterans.

“We are fortunate in this Region to have so many people and organizations that whole-heartedly support our service members, their families, and our veterans. We should all be proud of being recognized with this prestigious honor,” said Maurice McDonald, Executive Vice President of Aerospace and Defense for the Dayton Development Coalition.

The Dayton Development Coalition submitted the nomination on behalf of the Dayton Region. The nomination highlighted a diverse collection of efforts throughout the region, touching on key areas of support and collaboration.

“This national recognition is well deserved. Across the Dayton region, our Airmen are consistently supported, encouraged and applauded. The importance of community support cannot be underestimated when it comes to enhancing quality of life for our service members and their families. This support, in turn, enhances our ability to successfully execute the many diverse missions at Wright-Patt,” said Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center commander, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The nomination was supported by US Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, and by Representative Michael Turner, who jointly provided a letter of endorsement as part of the nomination package sent to the ADC Selection Committee.

“A critical part of the community support for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base comes from our federal elected officials, Senator Brown, Senator Portman, and Representative Turner. Their ongoing efforts to meet the needs of the region’s service members, veterans, and their families illustrates why we were selected as a Great American Defense Community,” said Jeff Hoagland, President and CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition.

The communities awarded the designation demonstrated a broad range of efforts they carry out on behalf of military personnel, their families and veterans, including initiatives in education, employment, housing, deployment support and community appreciation. This is the first year ADC has offered the award.

Other communities recognized include Colorado Springs, Colo.; Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.; Goldsboro, N.C.; Grand Forks, N.D.; Lawton, Okla.; Manhattan, Kan.; Monterey, Calif.; Okaloosa County, Fla.; and South Puget Sound, Wash.

“I have been privileged and honored to have lived in, and been associated with the Dayton Community for most of my professional career. There is no finer relationship in a military community in this country than the one that exists between Wright-Patterson AFB, Springfield ANGB, and the Dayton Region’s incredible communities,” said General Lester L. Lyles (ret).

The Region will be presented with the official designation at a ceremony in June during the ADC Annual Summit in Washington, D.C. The Dayton Region was also named the 2015 Community Excellence Award Winner last June by the ADC. This national award is presented annually in recognition of a community that is home to an active installation and which demonstrates strategies to promote collaboration between the military and the community, implements innovative military-community partnerships, and serves as a model for other defense communities.

“This is just another testament to the outstanding support the Dayton Region continues to provide to all the Airmen at Wright Patterson AFB. As we have stated, Wright-Patt is the community and the community is Wright-Patt,” said Col. John M. Devillier, 88th Air Base Wing commander, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

ADC is the nation’s leading association representing communities and states with a significant military presence and their partner organizations. It unites the diverse interests of communities, states, the private sector and the military on issues such as protecting defense infrastructure, community-military partnership, defense real estate, mission growth, base redevelopment, and support for military families and veterans.

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The Dayton Development Coalition (DDC) is the leading economic development organization for the 14-county Dayton region. Working closely with public and private regional partners, its mission is to retain, expand and recruit jobs. The Dayton region ranked as the nation’s top metro for economic development in 2008, 2009 and 2012 and runner-up in 2010, 2011 and 2014. With the State’s largest single-site employer in its backyard, the DDC is also focused on advocating for the critical missions as Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and supporting the work of the United States Air Force. The DDC and the State of Ohio were ranked as America’s top military community, being honored with the 2015 Community Excellence Award from the Association of Defense Communities – a testament to the collaborative efforts in support of Wright-Patt, America’s #1 Air Force Base as ranked by the Air Force Times (2014).

For any questions regarding the DDC, contact Shannon Joyce Neal at (937) 723-2047.