2017 National Summit Sessions

**Pre-Conference Workshops**

**Defense Policy Primer: Major Defense Initiatives in 2017 under the Microscope**
A new administration is vowing to reverse years of decline in our armed forces’ end strength, readiness, equipment and weapons modernization, and investment in facilities. This workshop will explore the likely fate of the military buildup and other proposals in the House and Senate versions of the fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill. The discussion also will cover proposed organizational reforms for DoD, and changes affecting quality of life and compensation for military families.

**BRAC 101: An Introduction to the process, politics and preparation**
For community leaders new to the base realignment and closure process, or those who simply want to brush up, this primer will cover everything you need to know to prepare for the next BRAC round: how the legislation evolved and the history of the first five rounds; Congress’ role in authorizing a new BRAC and establishing criteria for selecting installations; what DoD needs to accomplish to get ready; the process and analytical model DoD uses to develop its recommendations; the BRAC Commission’s responsibilities; and how the final recommendations become law. Finally, the workshop will cover changes to the BRAC statute that have been proposed to satisfy critics of the 2005 round.

**Air Force EUL Workshop**
Air Force Leadership will host a two hour workshop exploring how installation, community and industry leaders can better take advantage of the EUL authority.

**General Sessions**

**The Base of the Future: Meeting a New National Security Challenges and Supporting Military Readiness**
This keynote discussion will explore how installations will need to evolve to support readiness, new missions and emerging challenges such as cyber-attacks and critical infrastructure vulnerabilities.

**OEA Town Hall**
This session will update active and closure communities on the Office of Economic Adjustment’s activities, including its newest initiatives. Topics will include the fiscal 2018 budget request, technical assistance available to communities affected by a closure or realignment, grants for pre-BRAC planning and economic diversification, compatible use planning/joint land use studies and defense industry adjustment/defense supply chain mapping.

**The FY’18 Budget Request – an Insider’s Guide**
A team of Washington insiders will break down the Trump administration’s newly released fiscal 2018 budget request and help attendees figure out how the president will be able to carry out his pledge to rebuild the military given the political climate on Capitol Hill. The discussion will cover a number of pressing questions, including the fate of sequestration, the extent to which force structure will grow and the prospect for Congress to allocate funding to make a dent in the backlog in facilities’ needs.
2017 National Summit Sessions

General Sessions

Total Force – How the Reserve Component is Changing the Way Our Military Fights, Trains and Manages Installations
Leaders from the Army, Air Force and National Guard will discuss recent changes in how the Army and Air Force are more closely integrating the active and reserve components. The session will look at what these changes mean for installations and for communities that support active and reserve missions.

The panel will take a 60,000-foot view of the current threat environment facing the nation and the implications for defense strategy, future conflicts, force structure and overseas basing. The discussion also will cover the “force of the future,” exploring high-demand skill profiles for service members along with recruitment and retention policies.

Creating Great American Defense Communities: Supporting the Service Member and Military Family of the Future
The needs of military families have changed dramatically over the past few decades. An increased tempo of deployments, a rigid promotion system, an emphasis on child education, a desire by spouses to pursue independent careers and other socio-economic trends have all put a significant strain on military families and DoD’s ability to attract and retain talented service members. DoD and Congress must confront these issues and find new policy solutions to support the military family of the future.

Concurrent Sessions

How to Strengthen Regional Defense Sectors
This session will discuss the various tools, including defense supply chain mapping, state and regional leaders can deploy to expand and strengthen small- and medium-sized defense firms through product innovation, market diversification and enhanced collaboration among defense contractors. These tools have potential to increase industry revenue, create jobs and boost companies’ contracting capabilities for DoD.

What to Expect When You’re Expecting BRAC
A panel will examine short- and long-term strategies employed by defense communities and states to prepare for past BRAC rounds. The panel, composed of community and state leaders and inside-the-Beltway consultants, will highlight successful approaches for strengthening the position of installations ahead of a BRAC and, potentially, attracting new missions.

Best Practices in Working with an LRA Board of Directors
The most effective local redevelopment authorities often are the ones where the authority leadership works hand in hand with its board of directors. LRA officials and board members will share their best practices and give advice on developing strong internal working relationships that benefit all parties involved.

How Mission Decisions are Made
This session will explain the process the services follow to determine where to base new missions, with a focus on the criteria they rely on. The panel will provide an inside look at the factors they consider in basing decisions, including an installation’s available capacity — including housing, infrastructure and mission-related facilities — cost, environmental requirements, impacts and synergies with other missions, and quality of life.
Concurrent Sessions

Can We Live in Harmony with Wind Farms?
As wind energy production has grown in many parts of the country, some defense communities have become concerned about the potential for wind farms to interfere with military radar and flight training, prompting lawmakers in a handful of states and Congress to advance proposals to restrict their development. Meanwhile, defense officials, with some exceptions, have said the department’s process for reviewing projects allows potential impacts from turbines to be mitigated in virtually all cases. A panel representing the various stakeholders in this debate — state lawmakers, defense communities, defense energy siting officials, wind energy developers and environmental groups — is aimed at helping attendees better understand the potential risks associated with wind energy.

Pursuing a True Installation-Community Joint Master Planning Policy
Collaboration among military installations and neighboring municipalities, counties and regional organizations for the purpose of strategic planning can benefit a variety of local issues, including growth and development, transportation, encroachment, emergency response, education and health care. This panel will explore how communities and installations can create a policy that will combine their various individual and joint planning exercises into one true master plan.

Understanding Changes to the HubZone
Updates to the Small Business Administration’s HUBZone program in October 2016 were meant to help base redevelopment projects attract tenants. This session will provide an overview of the program changes and serve as a discussion of how closure communities can best incorporate the updates into their reuse plans.

Concurrent Sessions

Army Communities Town Hall
Senior Army leaders will update communities on the service’s latest installations and energy initiatives, including expanding end strength, addressing excess capacity, community-installation partnering and plans for achieving energy resilience.

Air Force Communities Town Hall
Senior Air Force leaders will update communities on the service’s latest installations and energy initiatives, including new missions, the Air Force Community Partnership Program, addressing excess capacity and plans for achieving energy resilience.

New Resources to Support Military Family Quality to Life
Communities can often struggle to find the funds, personnel or capacity to meet the demands of today’s military families. This discussion will focus on identifying resources and partnership opportunities that communities may be overlooking when they attempt to address quality of life issues for military families.

Position Real Estate to Attract Developers to BRAC Sites
It’s said that the first rule in real estate is “location, location, location.” Then perhaps the second rule should be “marketing, marketing, marketing.” In other words, putting your location in the best light to attract the development you want. Pick up some pointers in this session from community leaders and site selection experts.
Concurrent Sessions

The Future of Commissaries and Post Exchanges
The future of military commissaries and exchanges are facing new challenges. Following four years of declining sales and a new business model intended to wean the commissaries off of its $1.4 billion annual subsidy. Military exchanges already are operated as for-profit businesses, but a lasting drop in traffic at commissaries will cut into sales at exchanges and place their contributions to quality-of-life programs at risk. With commissaries and exchanges facing a crossroads, the session will explore possible scenarios for sustaining the system, along with the potential consequences for defense communities.

Reassessing the Model for Supplying Installation Energy
The ‘next big thing’ in defense energy, according to some experts, will be a shift toward an “energy as a service” model, under which a single entity will meet all of an installation’s energy needs by combining on and offsite power generation, procurement authorities — including energy savings performance contracts, utilities privatization and power purchase agreements — and energy controls. Representatives from industry and the Air Force, the first service to test this new model, will describe how the approach could work and explore the consequences for the defense energy sector.

All Politics is Local – How Keep Base Advocacy Efforts a Priority of State and Local Elected Leaders
How do defense community advocacy groups and military affairs committees manage local and state politics to ensure that base advocacy remains a priority for the community? This interactive discussion will explore the public relations tools and careful relationship management can ensure that your communities defense footprint remain front and center in the public discourse.

Concurrent Sessions

Defense Budget Deep Dive – What Is Really in DoD’s FY’18 Budget Request?
Defense budget experts will take a close look at the administration’s fiscal 2018 budget proposal to help attendees better understand how the plan would affect their defense communities. The discussion will highlight the accounts that are slated for a significant funding boost, whether there is sufficient funding to sustain the military’s aging infrastructure and DoD’s priorities for military construction.

Emerging Contaminants
Beyond the generally understood set of environmental contaminants, communities must be aware of “emerging contaminants,” those substances that have been newly recognized. Such substances as those in a class known as PFASs and PFOSs represent a major challenge for both active base and closed base communities. The presence of these emerging contaminants can disrupt mission readiness, halt redevelopment projects and put damage the relationship between the military and communities. Environmental experts and communities that are dealing with these problems will talk about what is known about the latest class of emerging contaminants and how they can be dealt with.

What is the Future of Defense Workforce & Industry?
New Technologies and Evolving National Defense Strategies are forcing defense industry leaders to rethink how they supply DoD with installation support services, develop new military systems, and what types of workforce skills are required. This session will explore how defense industry and workforce skillsets are evolving.
Concurrent Sessions

DIA Working Group Roundtable
The uncertain defense budget situation creates a challenging market environment for defense companies. This uncertainty also complicates the work of community leaders, elected officials, and economic developers who want to help defense firms capture new business in both defense and commercial markets. What are community leaders doing to help local defense firms solidify their work in defense markets and to capture new business in commercial markets? How can this work promote local economic development while also support a robust and sustainable defense industrial base? Please join us for an important discussion on these topics where we’ll hear from community leaders across the US on how best to support a robust, sustainable, and profitable defense industrial base.

Defense Energy: Pursuing Policies to Create Modern, Secure and Resilient Systems
DoD’s Utility System Infrastructure is aging, inefficient and catastrophic system failures could deleteriously impact mission continuity, and potentially, the health and safety of the on base and potentially off base populace. DoD has multiple avenues for renewal of the infrastructure, with particular emphasis on serving mission critical facilities, and a panel of noted experts in finance, energy management and program management will discuss the potential mechanisms that DoD could create a modern, secure and resilient 21st century utility infrastructure.

Discussion Sessions

Squeezing Waste out of the Pentagon: Possible Outcomes for An Initiative to Eliminate a Service-Centric Approach to Delivering Services
After one month in office, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis instructed officials to conduct a review aimed at consolidating business functions, including real estate and installation services, across the department in an attempt to reduce overhead. To carry out the streamlining effort, the department will establish cross-functional teams in real property management and installation services, including retail operations, lodging and morale, welfare and recreation services. A panel of former DoD and federal officials will highlight likely changes the Pentagon could introduce to merge functions now carried out separately by each military department.

Water, Water Nowhere
An increasing number of installations are grappling with how they will secure long-term access to water supplies, a dilemma which if not solved could jeopardize their ability to support existing missions and accommodate new ones. The session will explore a range of policies and solutions to help installations manage their water use strategically and identify alternative sources, including conservation, modernizing infrastructure, desalination, reverse osmosis and other technologies.
Discussion Sessions

Reassessing the Model for Supplying Installation Energy

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The P3 Future of DoD

Over the past several decades, public-private partnerships have played a key role in supplying a variety of installation support functions — family housing, Army lodging, utilities and renewable energy — as well as aiding the military services’ efforts to make better use of its unused real estate. The new administration’s drive to make the federal government operate more efficiently is bringing renewed attention to P3s and raises the question as to what installation support activity is ripe to become the next to benefit from greater industry participation. The P3 Town Hall will explore ideas that have been on the drawing board but not yet implemented, such as facility management, as well as others that have been used but have not been introduced on a large scale such as barracks privatization.

How to Finance Redevelopment

With dozens of project funding options available, how does one know which approach will work best in a given situation? Panelists will explain how the options work and how they fit different cases.

Council Meetings

Energy and Infrastructure Council
LRA Directors Council
Military Families Council
State Advisory Council

FIND NEARLY EVERY TOP DEFENSE COMMUNITY/STATE, INDUSTRY LEADER AND KEY DECISION MAKER IN ONE PLACE.