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February 8, 2016

Association of Defense Communities
2020 K Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Great American Defense Communities Selection Committee,

I write today to support the nomination of the City of Sierra Vista, Arizona as a Great American Defense Community. As you may know, Fort Huachuca is the home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM)/9th Army Signal Command. Sierra Vista goes above and beyond not only in providing their military community with important services, but also in embracing and honoring their service and contributions.

Sierra Vista is committed to serving Fort Huachuca and the larger community that it encompasses. According to Sierra Vista's Mayor, Rick Mueller, the city provides the installation with library, transit and refuse and recycling services on Post. In addition, the city coordinates with the Army to provide soldiers and their families with recreational opportunities such as youth and adult sports.

Sierra Vista ensures soldiers and their family's health needs are met by the local healthcare community. The community recently constructed a new hospital, the Canyon Vista Medical Center, which includes an inpatient behavioral health treatment facility that provides individuals with greater access to care. Before this facility existed, soldiers and their families had to travel over seventy miles to Tucson to receive similar services. In addition, the Canyon Vista Medical Center has a strong partnership with Fort Huachuca's Raymond Bliss Medical Facility.

In addition to providing access to healthcare, the local community college, Cochise College, partners with Fort Huachuca to create an extensive curriculum designed specifically for members of the military and their families. This program is developed with specific educational methods, such as on-line opportunities, to meet the needs of the military community. As a result, every year Cochise College awards a large number of degrees to military members and their families.

Finally, the Sierra Vista business community and civic leadership are committed to active duty and retired military members. The Sierra Vista United Veterans Council is a partnership of all veteran organizations in the area that meet monthly to coordinate services and programs needed by area veterans and soldiers. Also, the Military Affairs Committee of the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce hosts a monthly luncheon where soldiers and civilians at Fort Huachuca are recognized and honored each month for exemplary performance.

Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca have had an important community and military partnership for years and have been leaders for many other installations that are now beginning to formalize similar relationships. Sierra Vista truly embodies what it means to be a great American defense community and I am pleased to recommend their consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Flake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent than the last name "Flake".

JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator