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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHESAPEAKE SCIENCE & SECURITY CORRIDOR RECEIVES COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

Presented at Special Capitol Hill Ceremony

The Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor has been honored with the 2014 Community/State Excellence Award from the Association of Defense Communities “for innovation and collaboration to address regional growth and ensure eight jurisdictions in three states are working strategically to support Aberdeen Proving Ground.”

The award was presented June 5 at a special Congressional Breakfast on Capitol Hill during the Defense Communities National Summit hosted by ADC, the nation’s leading association representing U.S. communities and states with a significant military presence, and their partner organizations. The ceremony was attended by members of Congress and leaders from the Pentagon.

“It is often very challenging to unite a large region that spans three states, but the Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor brings these communities together to support Aberdeen Proving Ground,” said ADC President Bob Murdock. “ADC is proud to honor CSSC for this innovative, collaborative approach that can serve as a model for other regions across the country.”

CSSC was immediately praised by Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Garrison Commander.

“Aberdeen Proving Ground recognizes the importance of partnerships with the communities and organizations that surround the installation,” Col. Gregory McClinton said. “Team APG applauds the efforts and achievements of the CSSC in support of the greater Harford County area and Aberdeen Proving Ground. There is little doubt that the efforts of the CSSC have contributed to the success of our activities and enhanced the capabilities of our workforce – both service members and civilians – resulting in our position as a premier combined Center of Excellence in support of the Army, the Department of Defense and the nation. Through the CSSC’s continued support, Aberdeen Proving Ground will continue to grow and be recognized as an adaptive installation, always evolving to meet the mission requirements of the total force.”

The award was accepted by CSSC Regional BRAC Manager Karen Holt, who said “it’s an honor to work with CSSC and have so many entities in our region not only recognize the economic importance of our installation but achieve a synergy that sustains our defense community across government, industry, academia and nonprofits.”

The honor is “a well-deserved accolade,” said Harford County Executive David R. Craig.

“Over the last decade, Harford County and the CSSC have worked tirelessly to prioritize infrastructure, transportation, and workforce needs, and to serve as an information source for all who are affiliated with APG,” Craig said. “Harford County is proud to be a partner with APG and to strongly support its mission.”

CSSC was nominated by James C. Richardson, director of the Harford County Office of Economic Adjustment, a member of ADC.

“The CSSC has been a national model of how multiple jurisdictions can work together so that the installation can succeed and thrive,” Richardson said. “I am very pleased with the success of the CSSC model and proud to have played a part.”

The Association of Defense Communities (www.defensecommunities.org) is the nation’s leading association representing U.S. 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 partnerships, defense real estate, mission growth, base redevelopment, and support for military families and veterans.

Profile: Planning Group Tackles Regional Growth Concerns outside Aberdeen Proving Ground

Since 2005, the Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor (CSSC) has helped coordinate a variety of planning needs stemming from the growth experienced at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., following the 2005 round of base closures, including transportation, workforce and infrastructure.

The regional growth management organization for eight jurisdictions in three states outside Aberdeen Proving Ground has spearheaded multiple initiatives aimed at sustaining the post’s R&D missions and boosting economic development outside its boundaries, relying on partnerships and a commitment to the soldiers and civilian personnel working for the 90-plus tenant organizations located there.

Several of its most recent achievements address the proving ground’s transportation needs. Last year, CSSC opened a commuter center in partnership with the installation to reduce traffic congestion there by lowering workers’ reliance on single-occupant vehicles. The center’s primary goal will be to encourage military and civilian employees to consider alternative commuting options, including commuter rail, a private bus line providing service to New Jersey, and car and vanpools.

When budget cuts forced the proving ground to eliminate a commuter shuttle connecting it to the local train station, CSSC partnered with vanpool companies to transport commuters the ‘last mile.’ The

program, funded through the federal transit subsidy, proved critical in preserving regional commuter transit as an option for the proving ground's workforce.

Another CSSC effort intended to fight traffic outside the installation was completed earlier this year. A telework study reviewed existing policies of tenant organizations, surveyed commuters at the post, examined best practices at federal installations and analyzed potential traffic impacts of policy changes.

The group also is coordinating participation among three counties, two municipalities and a consulting team on a joint land use study for the proving ground. The study is intended to alleviate potential conflicts between the installation's operational missions and surrounding communities at the same time the surrounding region experiences population growth and economic development.

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