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STEVE LEVESQUE RECIEVES NATIONAL AWARD

Base Redevelopment Leadership Award to Steve Levesque, Executive Director,
Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, Maine

Steve Levesque was awarded the 2011 Base Redevelopment Leadership Award by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC). This award recognizes an individual from a closed or realigned base whose leadership efforts have been essential to the success of a base redevelopment project. This award was presented on July 19 at a special ceremony held during the ADC 2011 Annual Conference in Norfolk, VA.

As head of first, the planning LRA for Naval Air Station Brunswick, and now, the implementing LRA, Steve Levesque has been the leading force turning what could have been a devastating economic blow to Maine's Midcoast region into an exciting reuse project full of potential for helping the area recover from the air station's closure.

In recognition of Levesque's vision to follow a collaborative, community-based process to plan the reuse of the Navy base and for setting a record pace for any BRAC round for the air station's redevelopment, ADC has selected Levesque, executive director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, for its Base Redevelopment Leadership Award.

With an optimistic outlook, Levesque's leadership has both enriched and accelerated the redevelopment of NAS Brunswick into Brunswick Landing, a high-tech business campus focusing on aviation, renewable energy, advanced composites and education. He has drawn on the property's assets and the strengths of the region's workforce to provide the community with a sense of optimism regarding its economic future. Much of the success so far in promoting the base's redevelopment can be attributed to Levesque's strong working relationship with the Navy, the state's congressional delegation, the governor's office, the legislature, local officials and the business community.

Highlights of the LRA's accomplishments to date include:

- Gaining the FAA's approval of the authority's application to obtain the Navy airfield via a public benefit conveyance;
- Opening Brunswick Executive Airport and eight new businesses prior to the air station's formal closure;
- Working with state officials to create the Jobs Tax Increment Financing program, which dedicates a portion of the state's income tax proceeds from newly created jobs at Brunswick to the LRA;
- Gaining approval of the Maine Jobs Bond which included a \$3.3 million bond package to fund property improvements at the base;
- Sponsoring a feasibility study to assess Brunswick's capacity to host a renewable energy center; and

- Working with the state higher education system to establish a campus housing the Maine Advanced Composites Technology Center.

The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) is the nation's premier membership organization serving America's defense communities. With 1,200 members nationwide, ADC is the voice for communities and states with a significant military presence. ADC unites the diverse interests of communities, state governments, the private sector and the military on issues of base closure and realignment, community military partnerships, defense real estate, mission growth, mission sustainment, military privatization, and base redevelopment.

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For more information, or to schedule an interview with ADC, please call Tim Ford at 202-822-5256 ext.425, or email Tim at tford@defensecommunities.com.