

# UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

## MILITARY AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2025



Executive Director: Gary Harter  
Deputy Director, Facilities: Jeff Hanson

Deputy Director, Military Affairs: Brian Garrett  
Deputy Director, Veteran Services: Cory Pearson

(Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2024)

### MISSION

The Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs serves Veterans, current service members and their families by opening doors to benefits, education and jobs.

We advocate for Utah's military installations and defense sector.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

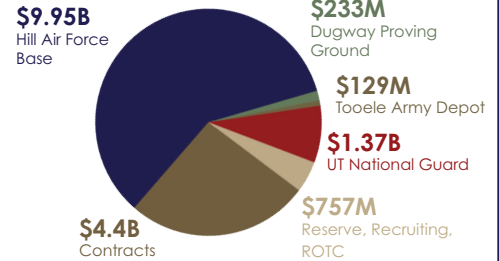
#### TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

**\$22.2B** Economic Activity  
**7.8%** Share of State GDP  
**173,713** Supported Jobs

#### VETERANS ECONOMIC IMPACT

**\$4.5B** Economic Activity  
**38,249** Supported Jobs

#### MILITARY ECONOMIC IMPACT



### MILITARY

	<b>ARMY</b>	<b>8,513</b>
	Active Duty	179
	National Guard	5,868
	Reserves	2,466
	<b>AIR FORCE</b>	<b>6,778</b>
	Active Duty	4,067
	National Guard	1,418
	Reserves	1,293
	<b>NAVY</b>	<b>376</b>
	Active Duty	31
	Reserves	345
	<b>MARINES</b>	<b>213</b>
	Active Duty	130
	Reserves	83
	<b>SPACE FORCE</b>	<b>5</b>
	Active Duty	5
	<b>COAST GUARD</b>	<b>2</b>
	Active Duty	2

Active Duty	4,415
National Guard	7,286
Reserves	4,187
Civilians	15,888
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,578</b>

(Numbers as of July 2024)

### UTAH SUCCESSES

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Servicemember defined in state code** – includes guard and reserve members
- **Veteran defined in state code** – after serving 180 cumulative days
- **Spouse licensure and reciprocity** – automatic transferability
- **Military Interstate Children's Compact** – only state to offer FULL protections to the guard and reserve
- **Employment Preference in state/local government and private sector hiring** – expanded to include servicemembers, veterans, and their spouses
- **Paid Military Leave** – Governor approved increasing from 15 to 20 days for executive branch agencies effective January 1, 2025
- **Military Support Teams** – funded therapists and advocates in four school districts
- **Military Family Life Consultants** – funded six LCSW's providing service statewide
- **Military and Veteran Family Programs Manager** – hired Sept 2024
- **Suicide Prevention Program Manager** – hired Aug 2023

#### INSTALLATION RESILIENCY

- **Installation Resiliency Program Manager** – hired August 2023
- **Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape** – awarded June 2024, coordinator hired October
- **Camp Williams Sentinel Landscape** – over \$20+M total resulting in \$80M in projects
- **UDVMA approval required** – land use changes and wind turbines
- **Restricted foreign entities** – banned from owning property
- **Military Installation Development Authority (MIDA)**
  - Hill AFB Project Area (1.3M SF office space, three gates, new interchange, software building, museum, and hotel)
  - MWR Hotel
  - National Security Administration (NSA) facility
  - UTNG properties recently designated project area

### VETERANS

<b>1,021</b> World War II	<b>38,430</b> Vietnam War	<b>70,932</b> Current Conflict
<b>3,684</b> Korean War	<b>14,096</b> Cold War/Peacetime	

**129,783**  
Total Veterans

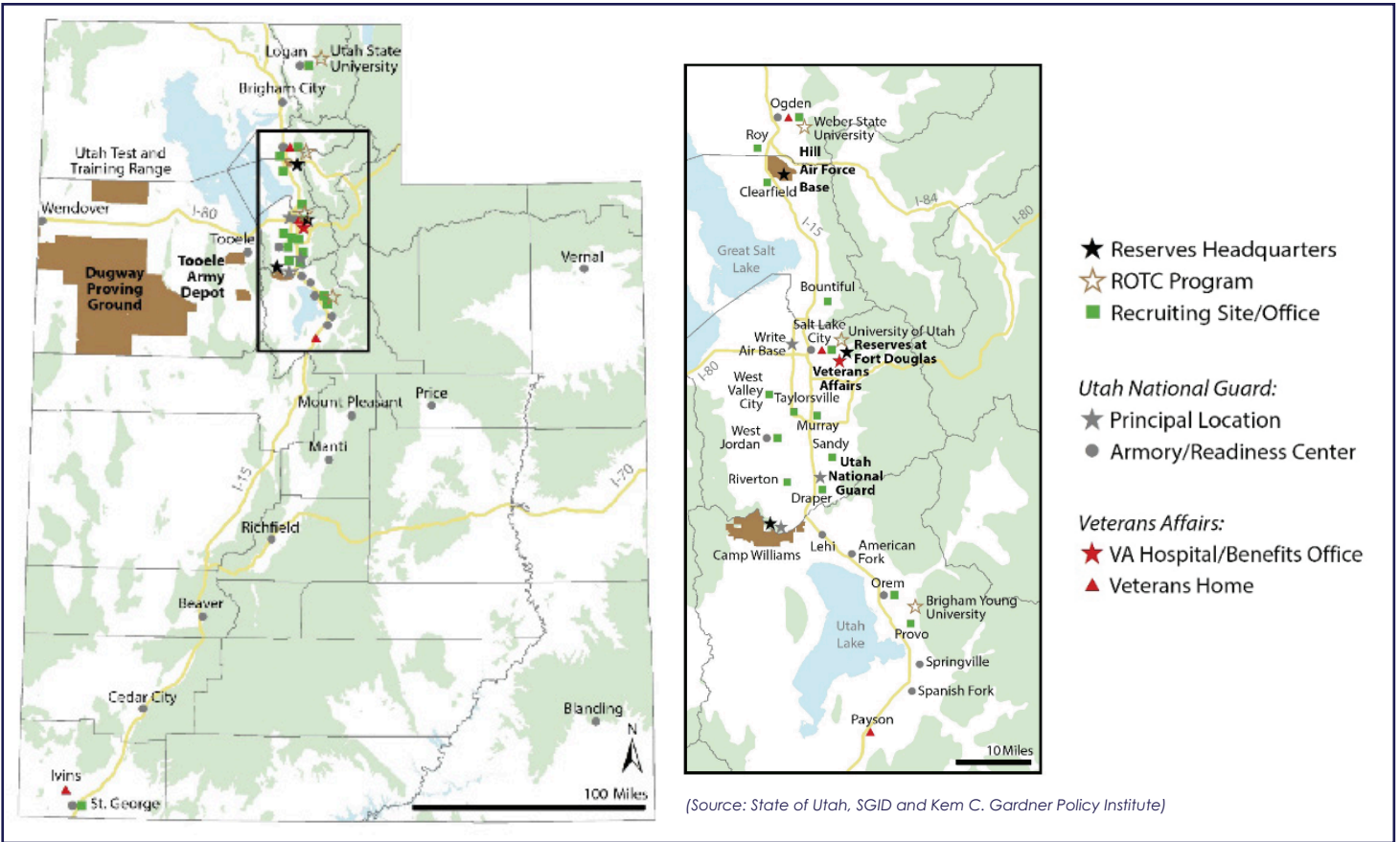
(Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis, 2023)

#### VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT

**3.5%** State of Utah  
**3.0%** Veterans

(Source: Utah DWS, Nov 2024)

## INSTALLATIONS



## PARTNERS

- Utah State Legislature Vet & Mil Affairs Commission
- Utah Defense Alliance – Roosevelt Group
- Utah Aerospace and Defense Association
- Military Installation Development Authority
- Top of Utah Military Affairs Committee
- Salt Lake Chamber Military Affairs Committee

## 2025 LEGISLATION

- Transition services for DOD civilians
- Military spouse 401k portability
- Student loan repayment
- In-state tuition for military, veterans & servicemembers
- Child abuse reporting and interpersonal violence

## PARTNERSHIPS

### PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION



**67** Purple Star Schools in Utah  
**28** New schools added in 2024

### FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER GRANT

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH HOUSING AUTHORITY



**\$500K** Funding amount  
**181** Grants awarded

### MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

PARTNERSHIP WITH DAVIS, WEBER, OGDEN, & TOOELE SCHOOL DISTRICTS



**200+** Families and students supported

### GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE TO PREVENT SUICIDE

PARTNERSHIP WITH SAMHSA, VA, & UTAH DHHS



**408** Gun safes to SMVF  
Launched "Live On Military Playbook"

### ACCELERATED CREDENTIALING TO EMPLOYMENT (ACE)

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH DWS



**267** Employment Placements in '24  
**180** Obtained Licenses in '24  
**228** Individuals in Training

### VETERAN BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

PARTNERSHIP WITH SLCC



**2,278** Individuals supported  
**816** Jobs created