

# UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

## JANUARY 2026



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

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

### 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

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

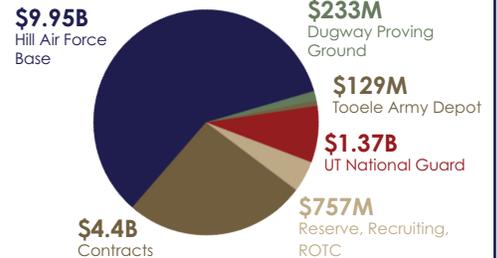
#### TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

**\$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



### VETERANS



**1,021**  
World War II



**3,684**  
Korean War



**38,430**  
Vietnam War



**14,096**  
Cold War/Peacetime



**70,932**  
Current Conflict

**129,783**  
Total Veterans



**91%**



**9%**

(Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis, 2023)

#### VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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

(Source: Utah DWS, Nov 2024)

### CURRENT EFFORTS

#### SUPPORTING GOVERNOR'S "BUILT HERE" PRIORITIES

#### SALT LAKE VETERANS HOME REPLACEMENT

#### NORTHERN UTAH VETERANS CEMETERY

#### RURAL VETERANS OUTREACH

#### MILITARY & VETERAN FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCY

- Encroachment, Energy, UAS
- Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape

#### UTAH IS BEST PLACE TO PERFORM MILITARY MISSIONS

#### TRANSITION EXCELLENCE CENTER

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

#### FOCUSED COMMUNICATIONS & LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

- Veterans Business Registry
- E-Newsletter
- Veterans.utah.gov & Military.utah.gov

### MILITARY



**ARMY** **8,564**  
Active Duty 170  
National Guard 6,012  
Reserves 2,382



**AIR FORCE** **6,940**  
Active Duty 4,124  
National Guard 1,466  
Reserves 1,350



**NAVY** **390**  
Active Duty 32  
Reserves 358



**MARINES** **247**  
Active Duty 147  
Reserves 100



**SPACE FORCE** **1**  
Active Duty 1



**COAST GUARD** **5**  
Active Duty 5

Active Duty 4,479  
National Guard 7,478  
Reserves 4,190  
Civilians 15,601

**31,786**

### VA BENEFITS & HEALTHCARE

#### HEALTHCARE



**83,764**  
Unique Patients  
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

**698,930**  
Outpatient visits (FY2024)

#### COMPENSATION & PENSION



**\$959M**  
Compensation & Benefits

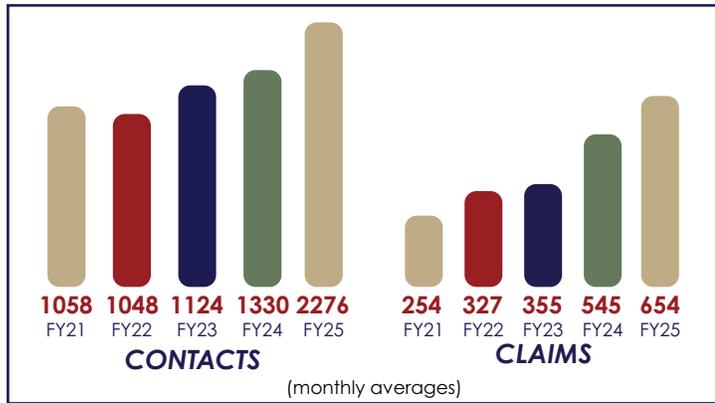
**37,134**  
Utah Veterans w/ a Service  
Connected Disability

**8%**  
Increase in  
Veterans' compensation  
from 2023



(Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, FY2022-2023; VA Salt Lake City Health Care, FY2023)

## VETERANS OUTREACH & SERVICES



## NURSING HOMES & CEMETERY

### VETERANS HOMES

**96%** Occupancy  
**385** Veterans  
**14** Family Member  
**399** Total Residents

**800** Employees  
**\$64M** Expenditures



### CEMETERY Interments

**499** FY25  
**504** FY24  
**494** FY23

Casket to Cremains **50:50**  
 Veterans to Spouses **70:30**

## PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

### VETERAN BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

PARTNERSHIP WITH SLCC



**2,397** Individuals supported  
**840** Jobs created

### MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

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



**800+** Families and students supported  
**13,000** Participants in Mo. of MC events  
**2,500** Teachers trained in MC needs

### GREAT SALT LAKE SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT MILITARY MISSIONS & CONSERVATION



**2.7M** Total area in acres  
**1,700** Sq miles of protected environment

### PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION



**101** Purple Star Schools in Utah  
**33** New schools added in 2025

### FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER GRANT

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH HOUSING AUTHORITY



**52%** to currently serving  
**48%** to veterans  
**244** Grants awarded

### GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE TO PREVENT SUICIDE

PARTNERSHIP WITH SAMHSA, VA, & UTAH DHHS



**1,414** Gun safes to SMVF  
 Launched "Live On Military Playbook"

### HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT

STATE APPROVING AGENCY AND USHE



**8,853** GI Bill® beneficiaries  
**302** Institutions & Apprenticeships  
**11** Veterans support centers

### UTAH STATE PARKS VETERANS PASSES

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH STATE PARKS



**8,500** Honor Passes distributed in 2025  
**1,600** Veterans Park Pass Pilot Program

### ACCELERATED CREDENTIALING TO EMPLOYMENT (ACE)

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH DWS



**220** Employment placements in '25  
**181** Obtained licenses in '25  
**251** Individuals in training

### NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER MILITARY & VETERANS PROGRAMS



**1,709** Veteran/Military participants (FY25)  
**12,660** Total experiences

## GRIT

Partners

GOPB | LFA | VMA

- Prepare Veterans Through Education of Benefits
- Match VSO Supply to Veteran Demand
- Promote and Invest in Success

Oct 2025 - Jan 2026 GRIT Eval Process Started  
 Jan 2026 Report & Implementation Start

### UTAH@EASE

PRO BONO LEGAL SUPPORT  
 PARTNERSHIP WITH AG'S OFFICE AND UTAH BAR



**1,703** Veterans inquired  
**1,167** Veterans supported  
**76** Attorneys in program