

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)

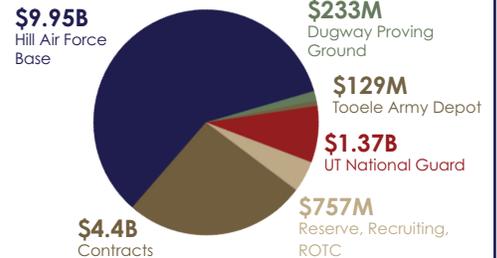
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$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

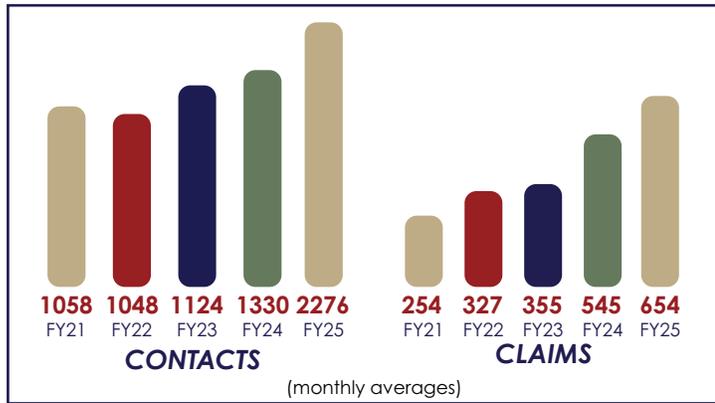
8%

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