

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

MILITARY AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 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

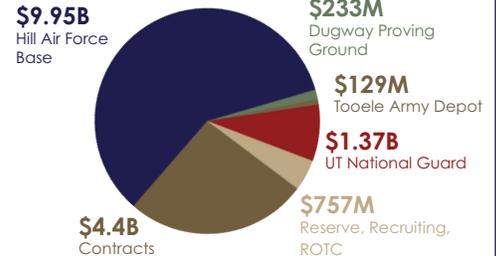
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$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

	ARMY	8,513
	Active Duty	179
	National Guard	5,868
	Reserves	2,466
	AIR FORCE	6,778
	Active Duty	4,067
	National Guard	1,418
	Reserves	1,293
	NAVY	376
	Active Duty	31
	Reserves	345
	MARINES	213
	Active Duty	130
	Reserves	83
	SPACE FORCE	5
	Active Duty	5
	COAST GUARD	2
	Active Duty	2
	Active Duty	4,415
	National Guard	7,286
	Reserves	4,187
	Civilians	15,888
		32,578

(Numbers as of July 2024)

UTAH SUCCESSES

FAMILY READINESS

Mike Miller, Military & Family Program Manager
Kayle Smith, Resiliency Program Manager

- **Servicemember Universally Defined in State Code** – Includes guard and reserve members
- **Veteran Universally Defined in State Code** – After serving 180 cumulative days
- **Spouse Licensure and Reciprocity** – Automatic transferability
- **401K Portability for PCS/Relocation** – Retain employer contributions in Utah Retirement Systems
- **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
- **PCS/Relocation Benefits for DOD Civilians** – Same benefits as military families
- **Paid Military Leave** – Governor increased from 15 to 20 days for executive agencies
- **Education Military Support Teams** – Funded therapists and advocates in four school districts
- **Military Family Life Consultants** – UTNG funds six LCSW's providing service statewide
- **In-State Tuition for Higher Education** – For all service members, veterans, and their dependents
- **High School athletics/activities protections** – Streamlined documentation for PCS/relocation and full eligibility
- **Mission Ready Resource Fairs** - Connecting families with partners and federal, State, non-profit services
- **Family Resiliency Programs** - Spanning and collaborating across our veteran, military and k-12 community.

INSTALLATION RESILIENCY

Tyler Smith, Installation Resiliency Program Manager
Marisa Weinberg, Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape Program Manager

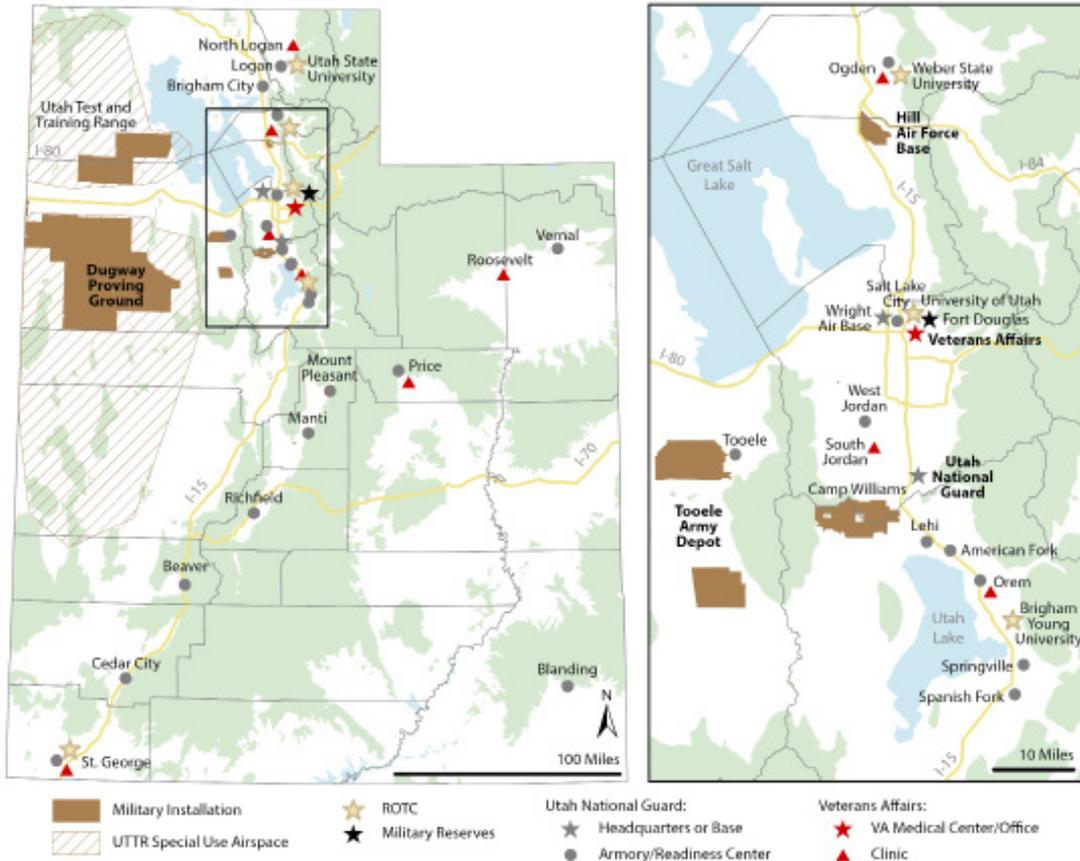
- **Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape (Federal)** – Awarded June 2024
 - 2.77 Million Acres across nine counties
 - Encompasses Hill Air Force Base, Camp Williams, Tooele Army Depot, and Little Mountain Test Facility
 - Consortium of 40+ Federal, State, Local, & Private partners
 - Integrated with Great Salt Lake strategic plan
- **West Traverse Sentinel Landscape (State)** – Over \$20+M in state funds leveraging \$90M in projects
- **Land use changes near installations & wind turbines** – UDVMA approval required
- **Restricted foreign entities** – Banned from owning property
- **Intergovernmental Service Agreements** - State/local authorities to enter into IGSA's with DoD
- **Food delivery dead zones** – Prevents online food orders to or from installations
- **Military Installation Development Authority (MIDA)**
 - Hill AFB Project Area (1.3M SF office space, three gates, new interchange, software building, museum, and hotel)
 - Grand Hyatt Deer Valley MWR Hotel
 - Army Reserve facilities at Camp Williams
 - National Security Administration (NSA) facility
 - Utah National Guard properties recently designated project area

VETERANS

1,021	38,430
World War II	Vietnam War
70,932	3,684
Current Conflict	Korean War
14,096	
Cold War/Peacetime	
129,783	
Total Veterans	

(Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis, 2023)

INSTALLATIONS



(Source: State of Utah, SGID and Ken C. Gardner Policy Institute)

PARTNERS

- Utah State Legislature Vet & Mil Affairs Commission
- Utah Defense Alliance – Roosevelt Group
- 47G-Utah Aerospace and Defense Association
- Military Installation Development Authority
- Top of Utah Military Affairs Committee
- Salt Lake Chamber Military Affairs Committee

2026 LEGISLATION

- Child abuse reporting and interpersonal violence
- Lease termination relief for servicemembers and DOD civilians
- Medical professional licensure
- IGSA for higher education and service districts

PARTNERSHIPS

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 FY25

MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

AN EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH DAVIS, WEBER, OGDEN, AND TOOEELE SCHOOL DISTRICTS



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

GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE TO PREVENT SUICIDE

PARTNERSHIP WITH SAMHSA, VA, & UTAH DHHS



1,314 Gun safes to SMVF
Launched "Live On Military Playbook"

ACCELERATED CREDENTIALING TO EMPLOYMENT (ACE)

PARTNERSHIP WITH UTAH DWS



220 Employment Placements in '25
181 Obtained Licenses in '24
251 Individuals in Training

VETERAN BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

PARTNERSHIP WITH SLCC



2,397 Individuals supported
840 Jobs created