



Department of Veterans & Military Affairs

AUGUST 2026

Commissioner: Gary Harter
Deputy Commissioner, Facilities: Jeff Hanson

Deputy Commissioner, Military Affairs: Brian Garrett
Deputy Commissioner, Veterans Affairs: 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)

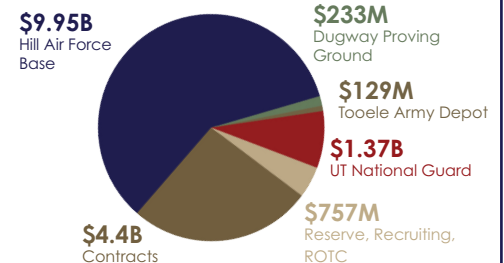
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$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, Feb 2026)

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 **8,720**
Active Duty 162
National Guard 6,171
Reserves 2,387



AIR FORCE **7,018**
Active Duty 4,174
National Guard 1,488
Reserves 1,356



NAVY **411**
Active Duty 31
Reserves 380



MARINES **227**
Active Duty 128
Reserves 99



SPACE FORCE **1**
Active Duty 1



COAST GUARD **6**
Active Duty 6

Active Duty 4,502
National Guard 7,659
Reserves 4,222
Civilians 16,383
31,424

VA BENEFITS & HEALTHCARE

HEALTHCARE



82,360
Unique Patients
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
695,144
Outpatient visits (FY2025)

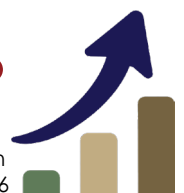


COMPENSATION & PENSION

\$959M
Compensation & Benefits
41,874 (FY2024)
UT Veterans w/ a Service Connected Disability

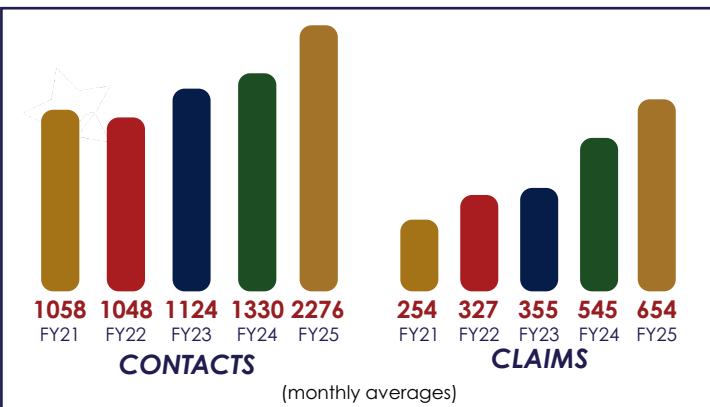
17%

Increase in
Veterans'
compensation
from 2023-2026



(Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, FY2025; VA Salt Lake City Health Care, FY2023)

VETERANS OUTREACH & SERVICES



NURSING HOMES & CEMETERY

VETERANS HOMES

96% Occupancy
388 Veterans
13 Family Member
401 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



180 Purple Star Schools in Utah
79 New schools added in 2026

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



1,526 Gun safes to SMVF
2200+ Mission Ready Resource Fair

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