

Military & Defense Sector Implementation

Economic Development District Board

June 3, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

Initial Work with Partners

The EDD Board identified the Military and Defense sector as an area of interest.

Military and Defense steering committee was established to explore needs and opportunities.



Military & Defense Economic Impact



Defense expenditures,
including direct, indirect,
and induced effects,
supported

255,000 jobs

and

added \$30.9 billion

to the state's GDP in fiscal
year 2023



Washington's Major Military Installations

- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Naval Base Kitsap
- U.S. Coast Guard Base Seattle
- Naval Station Everett
- Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County
- Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

**Central Puget
Sound Region**



Transformative Investments in Kitsap County

Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP) at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton

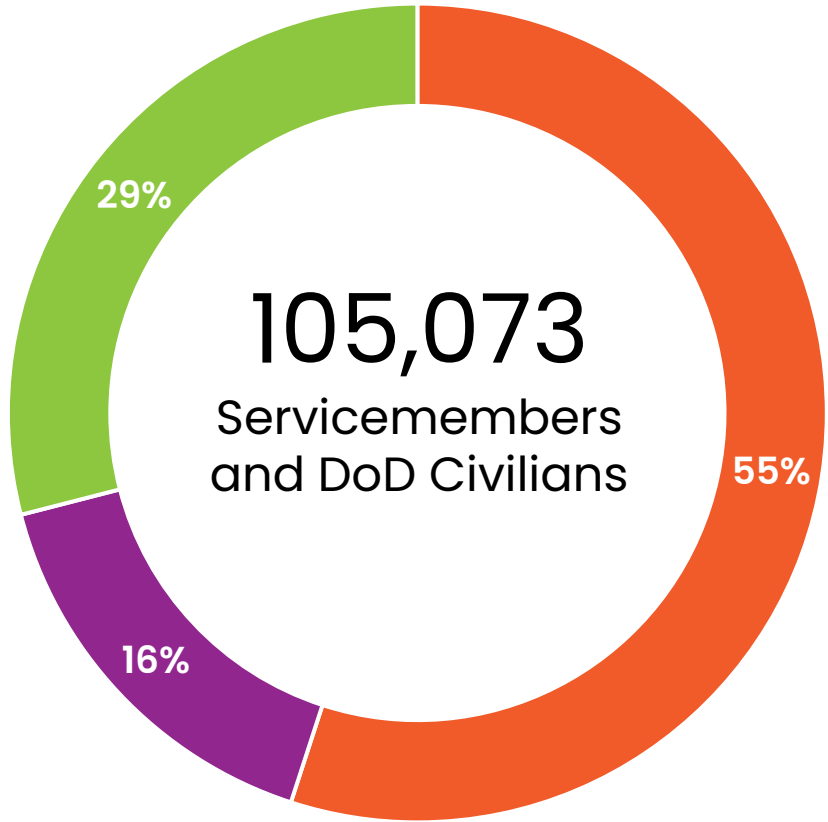
- 20-year project
- \$447M already invested, up to \$20B expected



Military Workforce in Washington State



Washington State Military Workforce, 2025



■ Active Duty ■ National Guard/Reserve ■ DoD Civilian

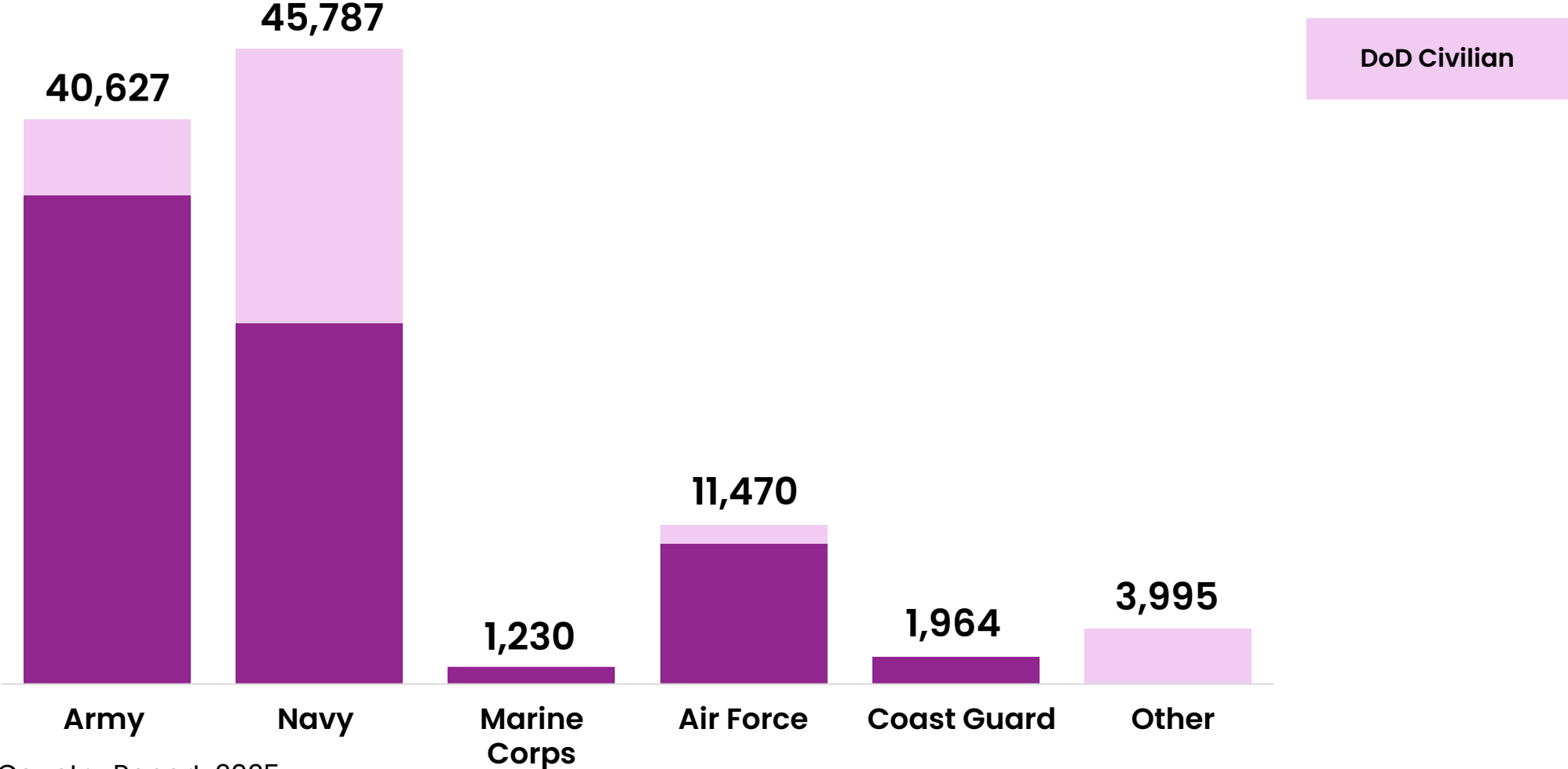
Credit: Sgt. Sarah Enos, U.S. Army

Citation: DMDC Location Country Report, 2025



Navy and Army are the Largest Employers

Washington State Military Workforce, 2025
(includes Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and DoD Civilian)



Citation: DMDC Location Country Report, 2025

Washington #7 on Military Personnel

Top 10 Total Personnel by State, 2025

1	California	274,136
2	Virginia	241,787
3	Texas	215,016
4	North Carolina	137,634
5	Georgia	137,404
6	Florida	124,606
7	Washington	105,073
8	Hawaii	91,947
9	Colorado	75,203
10	Kentucky	61,521

Citation: 2024 DoD Personnel Report



State Defense Spending Lags

States by Total Defense Contract Spending, 2024

Total Spending (B)

1	Virginia	\$53.7
2	California	\$42.9
3	Texas	\$34.0
4	Florida	\$25.2
5	Pennsylvania	\$20.6
6	Maryland	\$19.7
7	Connecticut	\$18.7
8	Massachusetts	\$14.7
9	Arizona	\$14.7
10	Alabama	\$12.9

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16	Washington	\$8.1
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States by Defense Contract Spending Per Resident, 2024

Per Resident

1	Virginia	\$6,093
2	Connecticut	\$5,100
3	Hawaii	\$3,815
4	Maryland	\$3,147
5	Alaska	\$2,998
6	Maine	\$2,558
7	Alabama	\$2,497
8	Kentucky	\$2,464
9	New Hampshire	\$2,439
10	Massachusetts	\$2,056

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23	Washington	\$1,015
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Top 10 in Both Total and Per Resident Contract Spending

Citation: 2024 DoD Defense Spending by State



Defense Spending = Cross Sector Impact

Defense spending supports businesses & workforce across many regional sectors



Military & Defense Coordination in WA

Statewide

- Washington Defense Partnership (WDP) - *Defunct*
- Washington Military Alliance (WMA) - *Defunct*
- New Commerce Mobility Sector Lead (Defense, Aerospace, Maritime) - *Previously Military Sector Lead*
- WA State Military Transition and Readiness Council (WSMTRC) - *Recently relaunched*

County

- South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP)
- Snohomish Military Affairs Committee (MAC)

Northwest

- Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition (PNDC)



Credit: Tech. Sgt. Christopher Boitz, U.S. Air Force

RES Implementation Objectives



The EDD Executive Committee recommends including Military & Defense as a key implementation initiative in the RES.

Implementation goals include:

- Establishing a forum to discuss statewide military and defense economic development
- Pursue the development of a regional military & defense sector economic development strategy



Next Steps for Military and Defense



Near-term actions:

- Continue Military and Defense steering committee meetings
- Engage additional partners as the work progresses
- Report back to EDD Board

Board Discussion

Should the EDD Board continue pursuing Military and Defense as a key implementation initiative in the RES?





Thank You!

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Puget Sound Regional Council