

Recognition of the Region's Military Installations

Key Considerations

- Military bases are vital part of the region, home to thousands of personnel and jobs and a major contributor to the region's economy.
- Local communities are strong partners with the military bases in their communities. Counties, cities, and coalitions such as the South Sound Military and Communities Partnership have demonstrated this on a wide range of issues such as infrastructure, land-use/encroachment planning, support of military families, and beyond.
- Military bases and local communities have partnered in recent years to created Joint Land Use Studies for Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and Naval Base Kitsap.
- PSRC has long supported the region's military bases through regional planning. A few examples include publishing a Military Cluster Strategy in 2010; creating the Washington Defense Partnership; supporting the investment in critical transportation assets such as improvement to I-5 at JBLM and Kitsap Transit's successful PSNS worker-driver program; and updating regional models to better reflect military facilities as special generators of employment and actual base travel patterns.

A Draft Military Installation Proposal

A draft proposal for military installations could include the following:

- Recognize major military bases in VISION 2040 as a distinct regional geography type: *Major Military Installations*. These are JBLM in Pierce County, Naval Base Kitsap–Bangor and Naval Base Kitsap–Bremerton¹ in Kitsap County, and Naval Station Everett in Snohomish County.
 - A key benefit of this regional recognition would be the region weighing in on the importance of a continued and robust presence of the military within the region, and recognition of these large concentrations of employment in all aspects of regional planning.
 - *Major Military Installations* could qualify for regional transportation funding in the same manner as regional centers for projects that connect to or support, but located outside of, military bases when sponsored by a local jurisdiction. Per federal statutes, military installations will be able to partner with eligible applicants, but not be the sole applicant.
- Other smaller military facilities (Keyport, Manchester Fuel Depot, Camp Murray, etc.) could continue to be recognized at the countywide level and qualify projects that connect to or support them in the countywide transportation funding competitions (as they do today).

¹ If the Downtown Bremerton RGC boundaries were expanded, employment at Naval Base Kitsap–Bremerton could be included in the RGC employment totals. In such case, Naval Base Kitsap–Bremerton would not be counted twice for the purposes of regional funding.