



COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY DEFENSE ACTIVITY REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Steven P. Bullard, Executive Director February 16, 2026

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	2
II. Introduction	4
III. Governor Andy Beshear Address (2025 KCMA Full Commission Meeting)	5
IV. Senator Mitch McConnell Letter (2025 KCMA Full Commission Meeting)	6
V. Overview of KCMA	7
VI. Military Employment in Kentucky	8
VII. Kentucky Defense Appropriations	9
VIII. Kentucky Defense Spending	14
IX. Kentucky Contract and Grant Spending	16
X. Kentucky Veterans and Retirees	21
XI. Major Military Sites and Operations in Kentucky	23
XII. Community Advocacy Groups	40
XIII. State Legislative Activity	41
XIV. Department of Defense (DOD) Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO)	54
XV. Conclusion	57
Appendix A: Biography of KCMA Executive Director	58
Appendix B: Statutory Authority of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs	59

I. Executive Summary

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Commonwealth of Kentucky economy was \$235.1 billion in 2025, reflecting an annualized growth rate of 2.3% to 2.7% over the previous five years. Kentucky is famous for its signature industries, including distilled spirits, horse racing, logistics/distribution/transportation operations and motor vehicle manufacturing. The defense community also is a leading contributor to the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Commonwealth.

Military activity in the Kentucky area has long been a major source of employment for Kentucky residents, of business for Kentucky companies, and tax revenues for state and local governments. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) together spent approximately \$16.7 billion in direct payments in Kentucky in 2024, through direct payrolls to military personnel and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians/contractors, through retirement and veterans' benefits, and through DoD contracts with companies around the state.

This report summarizes the results of our seventh investigation into the economic importance of the military in Kentucky, and builds on our previous studies. Among the most important findings:

- Per the Department of Defense FY2024 Defense Spending report, the military spent \$14.7B in direct spending in Kentucky during federal fiscal year 2024, an increase of \$6.2B since 2008
 - Personnel, contracts and grants
 - The spending is primarily accounted for by activity at the Army's major installations – Fort Campbell and Fort Knox – and to large health-care related contracts with Louisville's Humana Corporation (Tricare)
 - <https://oldcc.gov/defense-spending-state-fiscal-year-2024>
- Among organizations that could relocate outside of Kentucky, the military is the largest employer, with 51,965 military and civilian personnel receiving full-or-part-time DoD paychecks, military employment
- The military supports \$3.33 billion in employee compensation in Kentucky, which ranks 15th in nation
- Kentucky ranks 17th highest among the 50 states in the number of total military personnel (including civilians, reservists and the National Guard)
 - Kentucky has the fourth highest number of active-duty Army personnel, following Texas, Georgia and North Carolina
- Expenditures for military personnel and contracts/grants continue to rise in Kentucky, from \$13.8 in FY2021 to \$14.7B in FY2024
- Kentucky received approximately \$11.3 billion in contract spending from DoD in FY2024, 13th highest among the 50 states
 - Humana was the top contractor with awards over \$8 billion for its management of the TRICARE military health care insurance program
 - Some of this award revenue flows out of Kentucky as Humana handles administrative work in multiple locations
- Per Lambert (2024) reporting, payroll for the top defense industry firms of close to \$600 million helps generate over \$731 million in non-defense industry payroll

KCMA Kentucky Defense Activity Report February 2026

- Specifically, for every \$1.00 in defense related payroll, \$1.29 in other non-defense payroll is generated
- The top defense industry firms add approximately \$518 million of value to DoD products/services they produce
- It is estimated that another \$1 billion is valued added to the economy due to technological development and intellectual property of these firms
- In FY2022 there were 28,936 military retirees in Kentucky, and they received \$744,036,000 in total combined retirement pay, for an average yearly retirement pension of approximately \$25,713 (MORE RECENT UPDATES REMAIN PENDING)
 - Kentucky ranks 21st in the number of retired military residents
 - Because retiree residential decisions are not made in Washington, local and state policy in Kentucky influences our share of national retiree dollars
 - Kentucky's two major military installations are retiree magnets, as is the exemption of most retirement income from the Kentucky state individual income tax
 - Texas and Florida are, by a significant margin, the top two states of residence for military retirees owing to their warm winters and no state income tax
 - In FY2022 there were 4,177 Military Survivors receiving retirement benefits of \$55,860,000, for an average annual yearly retirement pension of \$13,373
 - Source: Department of Defense Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System FY2022
- The DoD manages 96,530 acres of land in Kentucky, while the state-owned land managed by the Kentucky National Guard is another 11,938 acres, for a total of 108,468 military-managed acres
 - Source: DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program FY2023 Report (https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/State_Fact_Sheets/Kentucky_StateFacts.pdf)
- Per the VA, in FY2024, Kentucky had an estimated 257,946 veterans, 5.5 percent of the Commonwealth's over age 18 population
 - Jefferson County has 38,552 veterans, followed by Fayette County with 13,857
 - For counties in immediate proximity to our two major military installations, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, Christian County has 5,180 veterans, Trigg County 1,070 and Todd County 632 while Hardin County has 12,412 veterans, Bullitt County 5,469, Nelson County 2,871, Meade County 2,749, Breckinridge County 1,494, Grayson County 1,164, Hart County 1,056, and Larue County 773
 - Among other counties, the leaders in veteran population are Boone County 7,934, Kenton County 7,832, Madison County 5,513, Campbell County 4,028, Pulaski County 3,731, McCracken County 3,705, Oldham County 3,608, Boyd County 3,135, Nelson County 2,871, Shelby County 2,861, Jessamine County 2,711, Laurel County 2,609, Pike County 2,201, Greenup County 2,150, Clark County 1,996, Marshall County 1,975, Lincoln County 1,665, Montgomery County 1,485, Boyle County 1,471, Carter County 1,455, Woodford County 1,450, Taylor County 1,378, Floyd County 1,300, Anderson County 1,293, Grant County 1,265, Simpson County 1,262, Garrard County 1,243, Adair County 1,224, Harlan County 1,214, Perry County 1,143, Marion County 1,122, and Spencer County 1,112
 - Source: <https://veteransdata.info/maps>
- Federal spending for veterans' compensation and pension in Kentucky was \$2,025,048,042 for 83,191 veterans in FY2024, an average benefit of \$24,631 annually

- The VA paid \$1,991,603,040 in direct Compensation Benefits to 80,856 recipients in Kentucky, for an average benefit of \$14,323
- The VA paid \$33,445,002 in direct Pension Benefits to 2,335 recipients in Kentucky, for an average benefit of \$14,323
- Approximately 25.8 percent of Kentucky's veterans have a service-connected disability rating (66,478 veterans)
- There were 9,822 participants in VA veterans' education programs (no dollar amount specified)
- The total face value of veterans' insurance programs in Kentucky was \$68,255,462 (4,813 policies)
- Home Loan guarantees through the VA were \$1,732,873,983 for 6,109 loans
- There were 1,654 Kentucky participants in the VA Veteran Readiness and Employment program, with 138 veterans rehabilitated by obtaining suitable employment and six veterans rehabilitated through independent living
- The median household income of Kentucky veterans was \$64,900, compared with the median income of all Kentucky households at \$61,330
- Source: Veterans Data Info from the Housing Assistance Council (<https://veteransdata.info/states/2210000/KENTUCKY.pdf>); Veterans Administration Fiscal Year Benefits Report 2024 (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/>)

II. Introduction

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is the proud home of two of our nation's premier military installations, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, and hosts a wealth of other military facilities and the nation's finest National Guard force, recipient of the 2023 Best National Guard Command - the first ever awarded – by the Association of the U.S. Army.

According to the latest U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Spending Report (FY2024), Kentucky ranks in the top 17 states in the nation in multiple categories, including defense spending as a percentage of state Gross Domestic Product (8th), per capita defense spending (8th), defense-related contract spending (13th), defense spending by state (14th), and personnel spending (14th). Specific reporting on defense personnel employed by DoD was not updated, though Kentucky, which ranked 16th in the FY2023 report, easily remains in the top 20 in that category.

Kentucky military activities have long been a major source of employment for Kentucky residents, of business for Kentucky companies, and tax revenues for state and local governments. This report and the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA) website, kcma.ky.gov, identifies these economic benefits, compares them to other states and the nation, compares them among Kentucky counties, and compares them among military installations.

According to the Kentucky Center for Statistics, there is expected growth in Defense Industrial Base (DIB) related jobs including a 1.6% increase in transportation, storage, and distribution, a .84% increase in industrial production, and a 1.2% increase in computer and information systems. Kentucky has a relatively high advanced degree attainment rate in DIB and adjacent fields including Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM), health care, education, and business. The monthly unemployment rate during 2024 was 5.3%.

Kentucky's Cabinet for Economic Development (CED) reported that Kentucky ranks first in the nation for the cost of doing business and ranks second in national air cargo shipments. CED's Team Kentucky ecosystem-based strategy touts several reasons for relocating and expanding business in the Commonwealth including being located within 600 miles of 65% of the nation's population and having an "unmatched logistics" network with domestic and global air, ground, rail, and water transportation and distribution networks. Chief Executive ranked Kentucky as the 18th best state to do business in 2025 while Forbes ranked Kentucky the 24th best state to start a small business in 2024.

The Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) reported in 2021 that of the 21,000 jobs created statewide, 90% of them were connected directly or indirectly to manufacturing. Investments by large scale manufacturing and production firms contributed to the growth through new investments in the state's manufacturing hub concept.

This report begins with an overview of military personnel, veterans and retirees in Kentucky. The remainder of the report documents the economic importance of military activity in Kentucky. We track the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) dollars coming into Kentucky by category, including payroll, retirement and veteran income, and contracts. Next, we provide profiles of major military units. We close with an overview of state community and legislative support.

NOTE: The tables, charts and text refer to data from many different sources, and sometimes the data points differ by source for the same economic concept. This is largely due to different time references, such as fiscal year versus calendar year, or a snapshot as of September or December of a year. Also, some published data refer to full-time employees only, while other data refer to all employees regardless of status. We attempt to use the best measure for each subject, and to explain apparent discrepancies where they are significant.

III. Governor Andy Beshear Address 2025 KCMA Full Commission Meeting December 5, 2025

"Hi everyone! It's Andy. I'm honored to give my personal thanks to you, our heroes, who serve and protect our Commonwealth and our country. We are home of the free because of the brave.

Kentucky is one of our nation's strongest military communities. Two of the most well-known and respected bases call Kentucky home – Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. Both play a major role in our nation's defense, and both have bright futures. As many of you know, Britainy worked to support our military children at these bases, visiting many of the schools there. And both Britainy and I have been proud to support these children, through the Purple Star School program, which now has nearly 170 participating schools.

Kentucky is also home to the Blue Grass Army Depot, a leader in the Army's logistics system, supporting all Army installations east of the Mississippi River. And we've got the best National Guard in the entire country. This year alone, during the multiple natural disasters we've faced, our soldiers and airmen showed up in strength. They delivered food and water. They helped families find their loved ones. And they performed life-saving rescue missions. Our National Guard members showed up to help our Feeding Kentucky food banks. Fifty-five Guard members supported efforts across eight food banks,

ensuring our neighbors have access to the food they need. We're also proud of our Reservists, serving in Kentucky and the service they provide.

We've had a great year of moving things forward together. In September, the Blue Grass Army Depot finished processing secondary waste from chemical weapons. We've expanded access to occupational licenses for military spouses. And we've expanded access to licensing for military medical personnel. The Kentucky General Assembly, with support from the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers and others, launched their Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force, and our Department of Veterans Affairs has been recognized with a fifth consecutive award for customer service.

We're committed to our military families, and we're committed to this work. We thank you for your service. We'll never take it for granted. We will honor your work by continuing to build that better Kentucky and better America for everyone. God bless you. God bless the Commonwealth. And God bless the United States of America."

IV. Letter from the Honorable Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Minority Leader, to the KCMA Full Commission membership December 5, 2025

Dear Friends: In connection with the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs' annual meeting, it is my distinct pleasure and honor to share my thoughts on the hard work that Kentuckians have undertaken this year on behalf of our collective national security.

Servicemembers of the Kentucky National Guard and those assigned to Kentucky's military installations have answered our call over the past year, both at home and abroad. Fort Campbell's 101st Airborne Division has made valuable contributions to our national security through its rotational deployment of a Brigade Combat Team to Romania to deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe and through its Combat Aviation Brigade to the Middle East.

The Kentucky Army National Guard's 138th Field Artillery Brigade began its transformation into an Operational Fires Command to take on a critical role of coordinating all artillery forces available to V (Fifth) Corps in Europe. I'm also proud of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard for providing critical and timely support to civil authorities in the February and April floods that afflicted parts of our Commonwealth.

2025 marked another banner year for Kentucky's contribution to our national defense. On September 11, 2025, the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant processed the last of its remaining chemical weapon secondary waste, helping to close the book on America's chemical weapons stockpile. As this mission continues to wind down, I am excited to advocate in Congress for Blue Grass Army Depot to take on new responsibilities that can solve painful shortfalls in our defense industrial base and support the readiness of our armed forces.

As we approach the new year, please know that I will continue to do all that I can to ensure that the Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky's defense installations have the infrastructure and resources they need to support our forces deployed all over the world. As we look back upon the past year, I also reflect on the heartbreaking loss of four soldiers of the 101st Airborne, a Cadet Summer Training participant at Fort Knox, and a Kentucky Airman stationed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

Each of these individual tragedies reminds us that our men and women in uniform take on greater risks in volunteering to defend our country, to whom we owe a solemn debt of gratitude. We live today in the most dangerous international environment since the end of the Second World War. I've said many times before that our adversaries in China, Russia, North Korea and Iran are increasingly working together to undermine the peace and security of the free world. As Chairman of the Senate Defense Appropriations SubCommittee and Kentucky's Senior Senator, my priority is to ensure that the men and women of our armed forces have the resources they need to keep us all safe.

As always, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs' outstanding work in advocating for Kentucky's servicemembers, veterans, and their families. I also want to thank our men and women in uniform, who stand watch across our Commonwealth, our nation, and the world in defense of our American way of life.

Sincerely, Mitch McConnell, United States Senator

V. Overview of KCMA

The Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA) was established by Kentucky Revised Statute 154.12-203 in 1996. The Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA) is an independent agency attached to the office of the governor. Authority to establish the commission was established in 1992 and executed in 1996. The commission is the lead advocate for military installations and the related defense economy in Kentucky. For nearly three decades, KCMA has directly managed Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC), set conditions for economic growth near Kentucky military installations and provided insight to all levels of government regarding the military and veterans.

Mission of KCMA

- Address matters of military significance to Kentucky.
- Maintain a cooperative and constructive relationship between state agencies and the military entities in Kentucky.
- Advise the Governor, the General Assembly, the Kentucky congressional delegation, and other appropriate government officials on military matters.
- Take action to increase the military value of Kentucky's National Guard, active, and reserve military force structure and installations, and improve the quality of life for military personnel residing in the Commonwealth.
- Coordinate the state's interest in future Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities.
- Recommend state, federal, and local military-related economic development projects.
- Promote and assist the private sector in partnering with Kentucky's military installations.
- Recommend to the Kentucky Economic Development Partnership the long-range options and potential for the defense facilities located in Kentucky.
- Develop strategies to encourage military personnel to retire and relocate in Kentucky and promote those leaving the military as a viable quality workforce.
- Allocate available grant money to qualified applicants to further the purposes of the KCMA.

VI. Military Employment in Kentucky

Military employment in Kentucky includes full-time active-duty military personnel, traditional part-time National Guard and Reserves, and full-and-part-time DoD civilian employees. The broadest measure counts all these jobs, and totals 53,661 employees in Kentucky at the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2024, the most recent available reporting data. More than half of these are active-duty Army personnel based at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. The chart below shows, by county, the composition of active-duty Army, Army civilians and active-duty employees and civilians of other branches, Reserves for all branches, and the National Guard (Army and Air). The Army clearly dominates the presence of military activity in Kentucky.

Military Employment by County, 2023 (no data available for 2024 due to abridged reporting)

County	Active Duty	Civilian	National Guard	Reserve	TOTAL
Christian	26,913	2,351	91	101	29,456
Hardin	4,584	4,346	69	2,607	11,606
Jefferson	149	1,260	1,765	576	3,750
Madison	17	964	597	24	1,602
Franklin	No data	297	1,133	No data	No data
Fayette	48	124	285	494	951
Boone	24	22	409	No data	No data
Campbell	No data	30	0	405	No data
Muhlenberg	0	66	313	0	379
McCracken	No data	14	124	131	No data

Source: DoD Defense Spending by State FY2023

According to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) March 2024 report (<https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>), the following is the most recent military assignment reporting data for Kentucky:

Active-Duty	30,755 (TOTAL)
Army	30,252
Navy	10
Marine Corps	87
Air Force	246
Space Force	0
Coast Guard	160

Reserve Component	12,159 (TOTAL)
Army National Guard	6,228
Army Reserve	4,410
Navy Reserve	231
Marine Corps Reserve	104
Air National Guard	1,125
Air Force Reserve	4
Coast Guard Reserve	57

VII. Kentucky Defense Appropriations

Kentucky continues to do very well in the annual defense authorization and appropriations bills. The former – the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – was passed by Congress on in December 2025. In addition, Sen. McConnell announced in February 2026 that he secured nearly \$1.7 billion in federal funding in the FY 2026 Defense Appropriations bill. The federal resources would be used to strengthen the defense industrial base in Kentucky, including projects at the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, Fort Knox, and Blue Grass Army Depot. Kentucky highlights from the bills are below.

The NDAA authorizes funding to train and equip America’s 21st-century military to meet evolving security threats. The bill includes authorization of critical investments secured by Senator McConnell for Kentucky’s military installations and other key defense priorities.

“Passage of this legislation positions our servicemembers stationed in Kentucky to receive the equipment, training, and resources they need to address the threats facing our nation,” said Senator McConnell. “Representing the men and women of the Armed Forces serving in Kentucky is one of my greatest privileges. We owe a special obligation to those who volunteer to serve our country in uniform, and I will continue to support them in the United States Senate.”

2026 Defense Appropriations Bill

Supporting Defense-Related Research at Kentucky’s Universities

University of Kentucky

- **\$20 million** to support the Army’s continued development of advanced materials and additive manufacturing techniques in partnership with the University of Kentucky.
- **\$9 million** to support submarine stealth technology research at the University of Kentucky.

(2026 Defense Appropriations)

“We extend our deepest gratitude to Senator Mitch McConnell for his ongoing support of research collaborations that continue to drive innovation and prepare a highly skilled workforce here in Kentucky,” said University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto. “These investments highlight the value of collaborative research that brings together universities, federal laboratories and industry to solve complex engineering and manufacturing challenges. Through partnerships with the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, UK researchers are advancing materials science, automation and monitoring technologies that strengthen domestic capabilities and expand hands-on training opportunities for students and researchers.”

University of Louisville

- **\$16 million** to support the establishment of new Defense Innovation Unit OnRamp defense-technology gateways, including at UofL.
- **\$2.5 million** to fund research into warfighter molecular and cellular health at UofL.
- **\$12 million** to support the National Security Agency’s cyber workforce training partnership in cooperation with UofL and other universities.

University of Louisville President Gerry Bradley said, “We are very thankful for Senator McConnell’s support to create the Kentucky Defense Innovation Unit OnRamp Hub at the University of Louisville, as well as the continued support of our Veterans Cyber Initiative. These federal investments will significantly expand the university’s ability to support our nation. As the operator of OnRamp Hub: Kentucky, the University is building a unified defense innovation network across the state and speeding up the development of advanced solutions critical to national security.”

Blue Grass Army Depot

- Nearly \$1 billion in federal funding for Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD)
 - **\$903 million** to fund the expansion of manufacturing capacity for energetics materials at BGAD.
 - **\$59.96 million** to invest in energetics manufacturing capability resiliency at BGAD.
 - **\$3.2 million** to fund the construction of a new raw water line at BGAD.
 - **\$1 million** to support ground-breaking research efforts at BGAD to develop new remote sensing techniques for surveillance at defense facilities.

Fort Knox

- **\$8 million** to construct a new gas line to serve Ft. Knox’s energy needs.
- **\$2.5 million** to upgrade Ft. Knox’s railhead facilities that support the installation’s role as a Mobilization Force Generation Installation.
- This legislation also contains language to prohibit the use of appropriated funds to close the General George Patton Museum of Leadership at Fort Knox.

Kentucky National Guard

- **\$1.875 million** to furnish the Kentucky National Guard’s Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Northern Kentucky.

Strengthening the Defense Industrial Base in Kentucky

- **\$130 million** to improve facilities, reinforce manufacturing capabilities, and strengthen the workforce that supports Columbia and Virginia-class submarine shipbuilding in the Louisville region.
- **\$15 million** to replace aging machinery with modern tools and control systems to ensure reliable production of critical Mk45 5-inch guns used by the Navy to defend ships and sailors. Mk45 guns are produced in the Louisville region.
- **\$70.14 million** to fund the procurement of six additional Land-based Phalanx Weapon Systems, which are produced in the Louisville region.
- **\$71.47 million** to fund the procurement of additional SeaRAM Ship Defense Systems, which are produced in the Louisville region.
- **\$11.2 million** to fund the lease of a subterranean training facility in the Louisville region.
- **\$7.5 million** to continue the Army’s development of next-generation vehicle armor, part of which will take place in the Louisville region.
- **\$9.5 million** to fund further development of a cooperative spacecraft payload developed in partnership with Morehead State University in Eastern Kentucky to increase the responsiveness, effectiveness, and resilience of Integrated Air and Missile Defense platforms.
- **\$50 million** the procurement of additional Ultra-Lightweight Camouflage Net System (ULCANS) multi-spectral camouflage nets critical to the survival of U.S. forces on the modern battlefield, which are produced in Southeastern Kentucky.

- **\$8.5 million** for Army Mobile ULCANS Research, which will fund further research into advanced camouflage nets for Army combat vehicles. This research will support future manufacturing work in Southeastern Kentucky.
- **\$10 million** to support Field Containerized Kitchen service life extension work in Southeastern Kentucky.
- **\$10 million** for the Army to procure modernized drone technology under Phase II of the Soldier Borne Sensor program. Drones of the Soldier Borne Sensor program are repaired and maintained in Southeastern Kentucky.
- **\$6.12 million** to support the testing of carbon fiber utility tanks in South Central Kentucky for use in Forward Aerial Refueling Points by the Army.
- **\$175 million** to support Improved Turbine Engine Program test and integration efforts. Parts used in the Improved Turbine Engine Program are manufactured in Western Kentucky.
- **\$50 million** to support research efforts to enhance the F-15EX fighter's engines. This research will support future engine part manufacturing work in Western Kentucky.
- **\$10 million** to support the Air Force's expansion of the Generating Rural Innovation for National Defense program to additional states, including Kentucky.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), December 2025

In his role as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Sen. McConnell secured a key provision that safeguards the future of Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) in Madison County. This legislation protects BGAD and other military installations from being closed by the Department of Defense without Congressional notification and a full evaluation of local and strategic consequences. It also requires the Secretary of the Army to provide Congress with an annual report on BGAD and other installations – arsenals, depots and ammunition plants – referred to as the Army's Organic Industrial Base (OIB).

Sen. McConnell also secured measures that encourage the Department of Defense to bring new missions to BGAD. These measures direct the Secretary of Defense to study the feasibility of expanding domestic propellant production and support the establishment of an additional artillery munition production line within the Army's OIB.

"For years, I've worked with local leaders to complete the chemical weapons disposal mission at BGAD," said Senator McConnell. "Now that the mission is complete, we're focused on building a new future for the Depot—expanding its world-class facilities and unlocking new economic opportunities for Central Kentucky. With the NDAA's passage, the Army is now positioned to help shape that future mission."

"Senator Mitch McConnell's leadership has once again delivered real results for Madison County and for our nation's defense. Throughout the NDAA process, Senator McConnell championed measures that not only protect Blue Grass Army Depot from closure, but actively encourage the Department of Defense to expand propellant manufacturing and artillery munition production right here at BGAD. This is exactly the kind of forward-looking investment we have been advocating for during my tenure—one that strengthens national security while creating hundreds of good-paying jobs for our community. I am grateful to Senator McConnell and our federal delegation for their continued partnership and commitment to protecting and growing this critical Madison County asset," said Madison County Judge Executive Reagan Taylor.

Sen. McConnell also secured several provisions throughout the NDAA process that support the Commonwealth's role as a cornerstone of America's national defense:

- Authorization for a new \$45 million air traffic control tower at Fort Campbell, replacing the aging existing structure.
- Support for the Army's procurement of advanced Ultra-Lightweight Camouflage Net Systems.
- Encouragement for the potential use of the Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System to defend Air Force bases.

In addition to these Kentucky-specific victories, the NDAA also authorizes the following provisions to support our service members and to deter American adversaries:

- Authorization of a well-deserved 3.8% pay raise for service members.
- Overhauls the defense acquisition bureaucracy to speed support defense innovation and accelerate the Defense Department's procurement of critical weapon systems and munitions.
- Reauthorizes the Ukraine Security Initiative and formally authorizes the Baltic Security Initiative.
- Prohibits the drawdown of American forces in Europe and South Korea below certain levels and reinforces U.S. defense partnerships with Taiwan, the Philippines, and Israel.

Sen. McConnell led Kentucky's Congressional Delegation in securing over \$147 million in defense funding for Kentucky priorities and its servicemembers across the FY 2026 Defense and MilCon/VA (Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies) bills, passed in November 2025.

"I'm honored to represent multiple key military installations in Kentucky that play a critical role in our national defense," said Sen. McConnell. "The legislation we passed—and that the President signed—will support essential construction projects across the state. This bill makes an important investment in Kentucky's contribution to the American defense industrial base by funding plans for a U.S.-based military shipping container production facility at Blue Grass Army Depot. It also provides substantial funding to modernize our military infrastructure at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, both of which are home to some of our military's most distinguished Army units, as well as the Kentucky National Guard—further reinforcing Kentucky's deep importance to our national defense."

Blue Grass Army Depot

\$27 million in federal funding for the planning and design of a military container production facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County, Kentucky. The Department of Defense's global logistics operations rely heavily on 20-foot metal shipping containers for logistics and deployment, yet most of these containers are currently manufactured in China. While BGAD already operates a small facility focused on maintenance and repair of shipping containers, this federal funding will support plans for the construction of a new container production facility—advancing domestic manufacturing capabilities and reducing American dependence on foreign suppliers. This funding represents a step toward an opportunity identified in the Army's study on the feasibility of reusing the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and the Blue Grass Army Depot infrastructure, which was authorized by the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. As articulated by the feasibility study, BGAD is a promising potential home for new missions that would help bridge critical supply chain gaps.

"Senator McConnell's steadfast leadership and vision continue to deliver meaningful results for Madison County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. His success in securing funding for the new military container production project at the Blue Grass Army Depot represents a critical step in sustaining

economic growth and preserving the skilled workforce that has long supported the Depot's mission. As operations at the Chemical Demilitarization Site conclude, Senator McConnell has worked alongside us for a continual focus on job replacement and reinvestment which ensures BGAD remains an anchor of opportunity and innovation for Madison County and for the nation," said Reagan Taylor, Madison County Judge Executive.

Fort Campbell

\$45 million in federal funding for the construction of a new air traffic control tower at Campbell Army Airfield. The existing tower, built in 1975, is among the oldest still in use in the U.S. Army. It supports the critical operations of the 101st Airborne Division and 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell. This new tower will be more capable of supporting Campbell Army Airfield's high tempo of operations, enhancing safety and operational efficiency.

\$11 million in federal funding for the planning and design of a modernized hangar at Campbell Army Airfield. The 101st Airborne Division currently faces a shortage of hangar space for its CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters. A new hangar would accommodate the significant increase in Chinooks stationed at Fort Campbell and enhance the Campbell Army Airfield's readiness and operational effectiveness in support of the 101st's operations.

"The Military Affairs Committee is proud to stand beside the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our freedoms. Our mission has always been to ensure they are supported, equipped, and prepared for success—both in service and at home. We are deeply grateful for Senator McConnell's enduring leadership and his tireless advocacy for Fort Campbell. His commitment continues to strengthen not only the installation but the entire community that supports it," said Shannon Lane, Director, Military Affairs Committee, Christian County Chamber of Commerce; Member, Citizens for Fort Campbell.

Fort Knox

\$50 million in federal funding for the demolition of legacy aircraft hangars at Ft. Knox. According to base officials, the existing hangars at Ft. Knox are not suitable to support current and future operations at Godman Army Airfield.

\$8 million in federal funding for the construction of a vehicle access road at Ft. Knox. The funding will support the construction of a new two-way bypass to connect North Knox Street and Bullion Boulevard, allowing military equipment and large vehicles to easily travel between Fort Knox's main north-south roads.

\$4.5 million in federal funding for the planning and design of two dining facilities at Ft. Knox. These new buildings would replace Fort Knox's dining facilities, which are currently spread across six structures built in the 1960s. The upgraded facilities would better support key missions of Fort Knox, including the Cadet Summer Training, and training support to external units. They would also be equipped to serve significant numbers of troops during a large-scale deployment of forces from Fort Knox in a time of crisis.

"We are certainly thankful for Senator McConnell's continued support to Fort Knox. His support directly impacts Fort Knox as a strategic enabler of readiness and lethality and continues to make it a premier installation. Furthermore, the benefits Fort Knox derives from the Senator's support directly impacts the

greater Fort Knox community,” said Lance O’Bryan, President and CEO of the Knox Regional Development Alliance.

Kentucky National Guard

\$1.5 million in federal funding for the planning and design of the National Guard Readiness Center in Somerset. This federal funding will support the planning of a new Army National Guard Readiness Center and Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Somerset, Kentucky. Currently, elements of the Kentucky National Guard assigned to the existing Somerset Armory, which was built in 1949, and the London Field Maintenance Shop, which was built in 1958, operate out of dated facilities. This new facility in Somerset would provide consolidated, modern infrastructure to better support the Kentucky Army National Guard’s operational needs in southeastern Kentucky.

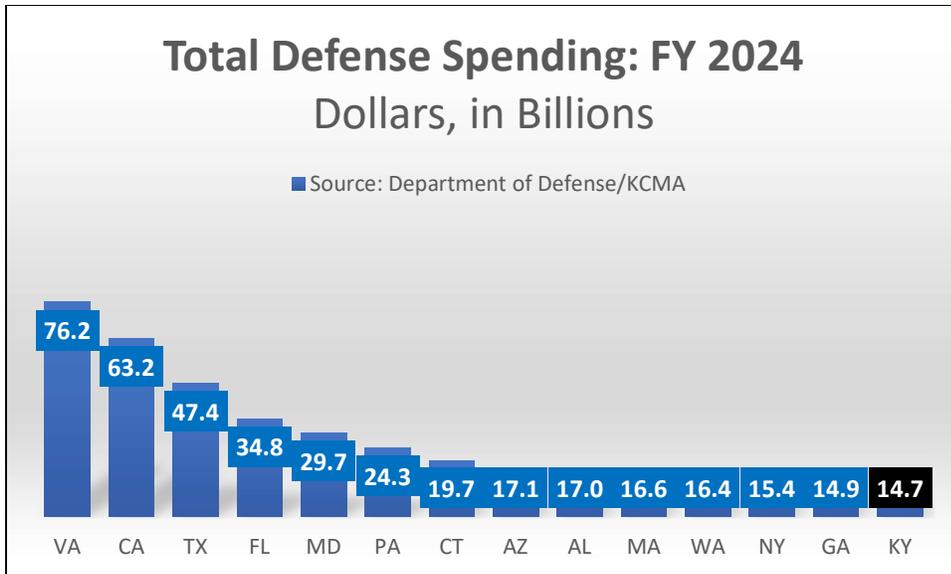
VIII. Kentucky Defense Spending

The most recent comprehensive analysis of state-by-state defense spending is Defense Spending by State, Fiscal Year 2024, released in January 2026 by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) in the Department of Defense. The report is based on research done between March and September of 2025. It is drawn from numerous sources, mainly DOD’s Defense Manpower Data Center and USAspending.gov, which is managed by the Department of the Treasury. This year’s version of the report is an abridged version due to the lengthy federal government of October-November 2025.

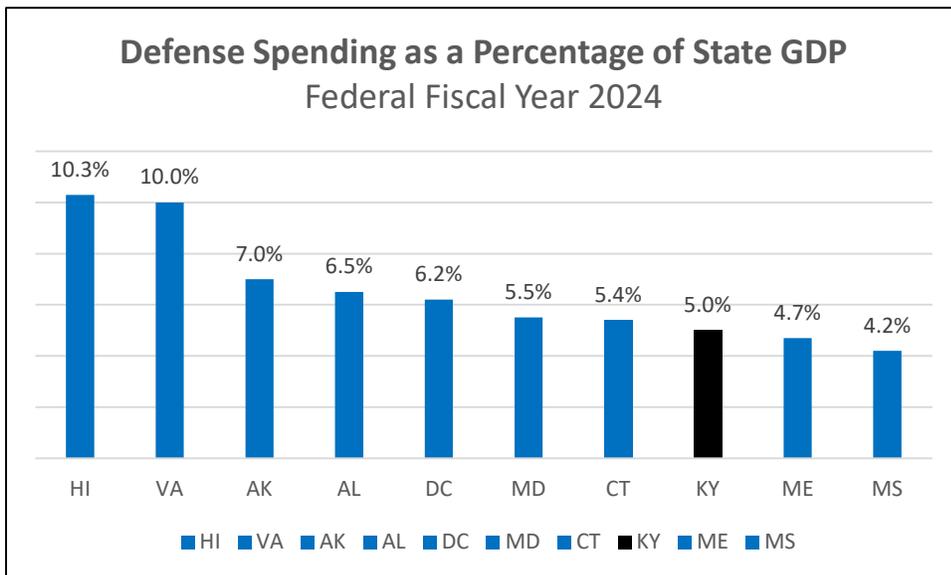
Kentucky, with its population of approximately 4.5 million, continues to excel in the overall rankings. According to the latest U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Spending Report (FY2024), Kentucky ranks in the top 16 states in the nation in multiple categories, including defense spending as a percentage of state Gross Domestic Product (8th), per capita defense spending (8th), defense-related contract spending (13th), defense spending by state (14th), and personnel spending (14th). Specific reporting on defense personnel employed by DoD was not updated, though Kentucky, which ranked 16th in the FY2023 report, easily remains in the top 20 in that category.

Kentucky’s ranking of 14th in Defense Spending by State (\$14.7B) clearly demonstrates the Commonwealth’s value to our national defense community. This ranking has been consistently rising over recent years – in the 2017 Defense Spending by State report, Kentucky ranked 17th at \$8.2B. This is, however, a slight one-year fall in overall ranking from 13th to 14th despite the \$01.B increase in funding. Kentucky ranks 14th in state DoD personnel spending at \$3.3B, consistent with our overall ranking.

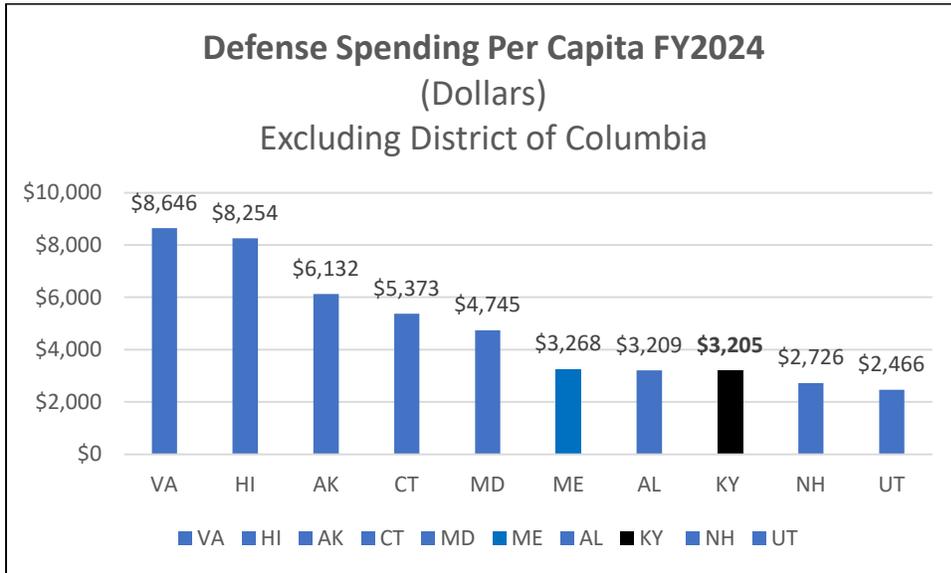
SEE GRAPH NEXT PAGE



Kentucky continues to rank in the top 10 in defense spending by percentage of state GDP at 5.0 percent, demonstrating its value in relation to the Commonwealth’s economic climate. This percentage has steadily risen from 4.0 percent in FY2017, when it ranked 10th overall.



Another way of measuring the strength of Kentucky’s defense industrial base relative to other states is by per capita defense spending – see Figure 5 below. According to the OLDCC report, the FY 2024 per capita defense spending in Kentucky – both for contracts and personnel spending – was \$3,205. This places Kentucky a highly competitive eighth in the nation (excluding the District of Columbia, which is disproportionately represented). Virginia is the strongest state in the nation in per capita defense spending at \$8,646, with a major commitment to the U.S. Navy and the National Capitol Region. Hawaii at \$8,254 is something of an outlier, combining the nation’s major Pacific Ocean presence with a very low population of 1.5 million. Kentucky’s per capita defense spending almost doubles the average state per capita defense spending across the entire United States, \$1,784, a clear demonstration of how important military spending is to the Commonwealth.

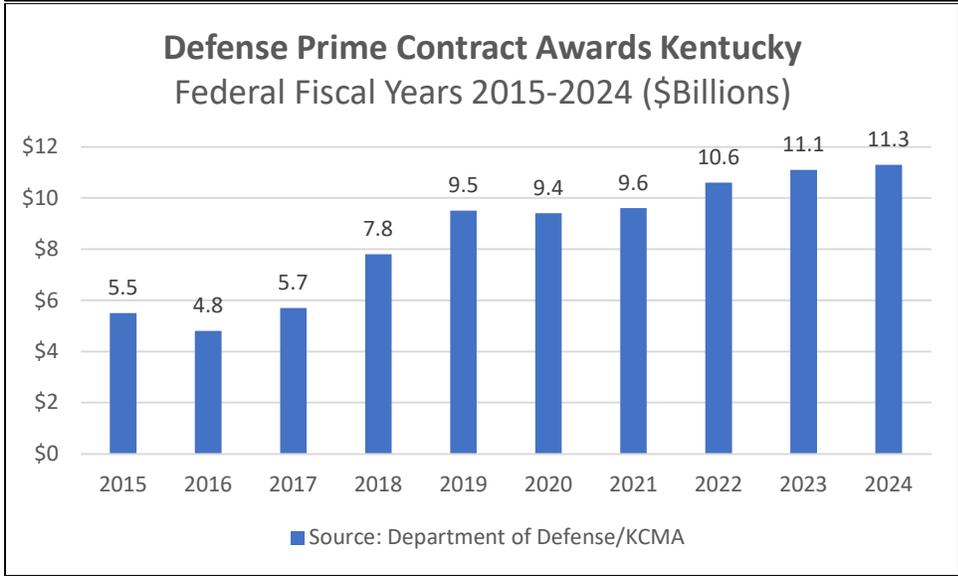
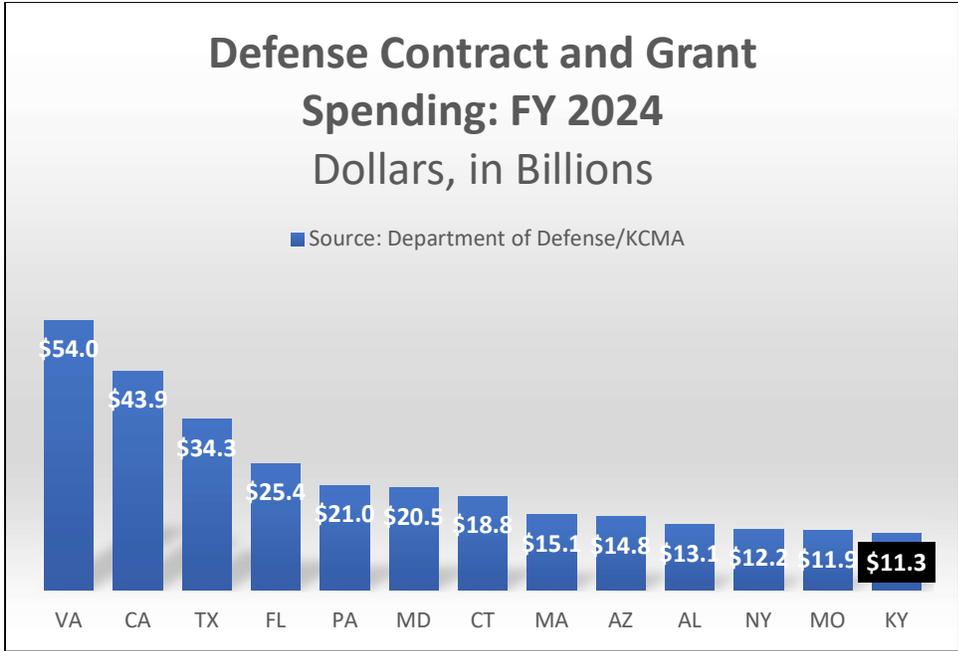


IX. Kentucky Contract and Grant Spending

Kentucky military installations and activities contribute significant dollars to local economies through contract funding. In 2024, Kentucky received \$11.3B in grants and contracts from DoD. The amount of spending varies by year; however, it has consistently grown in Kentucky, as shown by the FY2014-2024 chart below.

The DoD Office of Economic Adjustment publishes annual figures on defense spending by state, with breakouts for contracts and payroll spending. Kentucky’s 2024 total ranked 13th among the 50 states. Kentucky is particularly blessed with Humana Military Healthcare Services in Louisville (Jefferson County) holding the massive DoD health care contract to administer the TRICARE health insurance program, at over \$8.0B in FY2023. That places Jefferson County, which is the recipient of another ~\$300K in contract spending, 8th among U.S. localities in DoD contract and grant spending at \$8.7B.

In another note, the total figure cited in the DoD report is very conservative in that the number is derived from DOD’s daily announcement of contract awards. DoD’s contract announcements apply only to prime contracts with a value of \$7.5M or more, though DoD awards many thousands of contracts nationally with a value less than \$7.5M.



Top National Contract Spending Locations, FY2024

1. Fairfax, VA \$22.0B
2. Los Angeles, CA \$13.4B
3. San Diego, CA \$11.7B
4. Tarrant, TX \$10.5B
5. St. Louis, MO \$9.2B
6. Pima, AZ \$9.0
7. District of Columbia \$8.7
- 8. Jefferson County, KY \$8.7B**
9. New London, CT \$8.3B
10. Madison, AL \$8.3B

Source: Department of Defense-Defense Spending by State 2024/KCMA

Top Kentucky Defense Contractors, FY2024

1. Humana	\$8,011,670,751
2. Lockheed Martin	\$573,805,663
3. Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass JV	\$460,011,974
4. CFM International	\$302,406,901
5. United Parcel Service, Inc.	\$220,959,088
6. BAE Systems	\$172,899,918
7. Conco, Inc.	\$148,579,260
8. Fibrotex USA, Inc.	\$92,084,387
9. Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries, Inc.	\$68,834,388
10. MKS2, LLC	\$49,008,402

Source: Department of Defense-Defense Spending by State 2024/KCMA

Top Kentucky Defense Contract Spending by County, FY2024

1. Jefferson	\$8,699,283,442
2. Fayette	\$692,389,204
3. Madison	\$493,369,919
4. Hardin	\$437,583,221
5. Christian	\$320,959,758
6. Kenton	\$313,008,164
7. McCreary	\$117,634,196
8. Laurel	\$67,794,657
9. Boone	\$36,964,237
10. Boyle	\$33,706,151

Source: Department of Defense-Defense Spending by State 2024/KCMA

Through our Kentucky COMPETES project with the University of Louisville, funded by OLDCC and outlined in the next section, we find that Kentucky-related defense contracts contribute to the Commonwealth’s economy directly in payroll and local/state business taxes and also through indirect and induced employment as a matter of employees working and living in the state. The estimation of direct employment to indirect employment is one direct job creates two indirect jobs, in addition to the spending companies do with vendors and suppliers (source: Lambert, 2024).

In real numbers, payroll for the top defense industry firms of close to \$600 million helps generate over \$731 million in non-defense industry payroll. Specifically, for every \$1.00 in defense related payroll, \$1.29 in other non-defense payroll is generated. Additionally, the top defense industry firms add approximately \$518 million of value to DoD products/services they produce. It is estimated that another \$1 billion is valued added to the economy due to technology development and intellectual property of these firms (Lambert, 2024).

Non-defense business industries also thrive and provide stimulus due to defense spending in Kentucky. Sectors such as support activities for logistics and transportation, employment services, air transportation, truck transportation, residential and nonresidential construction, business services, securities and brokerage, hospitality, security services, and marketing research are but a few sectors that benefit from defense spending of large firms in the state.

Smaller firms in the defense industry base contribute to over \$171 million in direct, indirect, and adduced payroll. While not as large, the extensive Kentucky reliant supply chains and higher than average payrolls for most small firms, every payroll dollar generated contributes similarly to that of larger firms through revenue and tax receipts as well as support for other sectors including facilities development, motor vehicle manufacturing, durable goods, textiles, and ammunition (non-small arms) manufacturing.

Combined, the contributions of larger and smaller defense industry base firms to local tax base are estimated at \$54 million which benefits municipal services including fire, safety, and other public services. It is estimated that every \$1 paid to defense industry businesses generates another \$2.27 in state sales, excise, income and property taxes which benefits public schools, universities, state roads, and other state level programs to the tune of \$119 million (Lambert, 2024).

As shown in DoD reporting, Kentucky continues to rank among the leading states nationwide for defense contracting despite its modest population. In addition, the operational activities of Kentucky's military installations, including Fort Campbell, Fort Knox, Blue Grass Army Depot and Bluegrass Station, contribute greatly to the Commonwealth's economic well-being. Military operations and training is a separate expenditure class from that covered in this document, one that is not quantifiable by state due to the nature of spending that crosses both state lines and international borders in the execution process. An overview of the activities of Kentucky's military installations and major organizational elements will come later in this report. Bottom line, Kentucky is a high performer in DoD spending and operations, with a bright future for its defense economy.

KCMA-OLDCC Grant Partnerships

KCMA works closely with OLDCC to help address national defense needs. We have been the recipient of four OLDCC grants since 2015, completing our fourth OLDCC grant in the Fall of 2025, in the amount of \$1.7M.

As noted above, our fourth grant, the Kentucky COMPETES Project with the University of Louisville, funded by OLDCC, was a comprehensive, systematic investigation to identify modernization and diversification efforts among Kentucky's defense industrial base (DIB) in manufacturing, aerospace and distribution/logistics. Kentucky COMPETES is Collaborative Opportunities to Modernize Practices, Engagement, Teams, and the Economy for Success. The 18-month grant period of performance ran from September 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025. The grant program, requested and refined by OLDCC over the past several months, was aligned with the DOD Diversification & Modernization Program for Economic Adjustment Assistance for State Governments. The U of L Research Foundation (ULRF) was the official subrecipient of this grant via a memorandum of agreement. The program was managed by KCMA Grant Project Manager Dr. Dallas Kratzer, who is one of the nation's foremost experts on defense community military transition, in tandem with Dr. Jeff Sun and his team at the University of Louisville's College of Education and Human Development, Department of Educational Leadership, Evaluation, & Organization Development.

Dr Kratzer also managed our successful 2021-2022 KCMA-University of Louisville \$2M Cybersecurity Certifications, Careers, & Communities (C4) grant, a program that created a cyber training program for veterans and military-connected students. The C4 grant was phase three of KCMA's effort to diversify Kentucky's defense industry sector. The first two phases, carried out between 2015 and 2019, were focused on studies of Kentucky's defense sector and efforts to expand that industry and its workforce.

Kentucky has also received recent OLDCC grant programs to create a “Compatible Use Plan” for the community surrounding Fort Knox, in coordination with the Lincoln Trail Area Development District, to conduct an 18-month land conservation survey of the land surrounding Fort Knox, and two grants to the Blue Grass Area Development District to assist in job creation for displaced workers of the Blue Grass Army Depot’s chemical weapons eradication program.

The Kentucky COMPETES grant examined:

- Defense industrial business economic impact on the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- National DIB trends impacting the state, the business climate and readiness of the workforce
- Opportunities and strategies to modernize and diversify
- On-going engagement with key stakeholders including DIB firms, economic development agencies, workforce education entities, industry associations, and experts

Three initial opportunities identified included:

- A recommendation to utilize an ecosystem approach to map and articulate factors impacting and impeding DIBs and adjacent businesses due to the state’s unique characteristics
- More broadly define modernization and diversification to address different DIB firm size needs in the state
- Consider investment in additive manufacturing as a reshoring to Kentucky strategy

The Kentucky COMPETES team also examined the role of emerging technologies, the need to proactively/adequately prepare a resilient workforce, and the impact of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence operations. The final report was published in August 2025.

Final work products included highlighting workforce needs, suggestions for policy recommendations, along with next steps ahead on strategic investments for infrastructure priorities, emerging concepts and industry needs

- Ecosystem Sustainability Plan
- Implementation Plan
- Futures Analysis
- Findings Report

The link to report is at <https://louisville.edu/education/departments/leod/skills/kycompetes>.

- KCMA served as grant administrator and fiscal agent, managing all contractual agreements and performance reports, to include submitting all end of project requirements, as directed by federal agreement
- The University of Louisville, as sub-recipient, worked with 40 defense companies examining KY’s defense industrial base (DIB) businesses, equipping them with the information and resources needed to create a more modernized and competitive ecosystem, while preparing for upcoming Department of Defense challenges
- For post-grant sustainability, UofL is committed to be the lead for continued statewide business engagement
 - The weblink will remain active for business access to reports, while working with key stakeholders- KCMA, CED, KAM, academia and other parties to publicize and pursue the Implementation Plan

X. Kentucky Veterans and Retirees

Millions of dollars flow into Kentucky each year to provide retirement, disability and other benefits to veterans and retired military personnel. These dollars are spread geographically around Kentucky, following the residential decisions of the recipients. The largest concentration of benefits occurs in counties proximate to Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, and to counties containing the largest cities in the Commonwealth.

According to the Veterans Administration Fiscal Year Benefits Report 2024, in FY2024 Kentucky had 257,946 veterans, down from 267,611 in 2023, 5.5 percent of the Commonwealth's over 18 population. Jefferson County has 38,552 veterans (down approximately 4,000 from 2023), followed by Fayette County with 13,857 (down 804 from 2023). In addition to Jefferson and Fayette Counties, the chart below highlights the top 10 Kentucky counties by military veteran population.

Kentucky Veteran Population by County, FY2024

1. Jefferson	38,552
2. Fayette	13,857
3. Hardin	12,412
4. Boone	7,934
5. Kenton	7,832
6. Madison	5,513
7. Bullitt	5,469
8. Christian	5,180
9. Campbell	4,028
10. Pulaski	3,731

Source: <https://veteransdata.info/maps>

According to the Department of Defense Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System FY2022, there were 28,936 military retirees in Kentucky, and they received \$744,036,000 in total combined retirement pay, for an average yearly retirement pension of approximately \$25,713. Kentucky ranks 21st in the number of retired military residents.

NOTE: This report has not yet been updated by DOD, so the information has not changed from last year's report.

Because retiree residential decisions are not made in Washington, local and state policy in Kentucky influences our share of national retiree dollars. Kentucky's two major military installations are retiree magnets, as is the exemption of most retirement income from the Kentucky state individual income tax. Texas and Florida are, by a significant margin, the top two states of residence for military retirees owing to their warm winters and no state income tax.

In FY2022 there were 4,177 Military Survivors receiving retirement benefits of \$55,860,000, for an average annual yearly retirement pension of \$13,373 (DOD update currently not available). Federal spending for veterans' compensation and pension was \$2,025,048,042 for 83,191 veterans in FY2024, an average benefit of \$24,631 annually. The VA paid \$33,445,002 in direct Pension Benefits to 2,335 recipients in Kentucky, for an average benefit of \$14,323.

Approximately 25.8 percent of Kentucky's veterans have a service-connected disability rating (66,478 veterans). There were 9,822 participants in VA veterans' education programs (no dollar amount specified); and the total spending for veterans' insurance programs was 68,255,462 (4,813 policies). Home Loan guarantees through the federal Veterans Administration (VA) were \$1,732,873,983 for 6,109 loans. The median household income of Kentucky veterans was \$64,900, compared with the median income of all Kentucky households at \$61,330. Source: Veterans Data Info from the Housing Assistance Council.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) manages multiple sites in Kentucky, including a Louisville, Kentucky-based VA Fiduciary Hub serving regional offices in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and Puerto Rico. The VA manages two Regional Medical Centers, one in Lexington and one in Louisville. Additionally, the VA manages clinics in Belleview, Bera, Carrollton, Clarkson, Florence, Fort Knox, Fort Thomas, Hazard, Lexington, Louisville, Morehead, Prestonsburg, Radcliff, and Somerset.

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) plays a significant role in the health of the Commonwealth's veterans' community. KDVA operates four state veterans' centers, with a fifth under construction in Bowling Green that will open in early 2026, that serve the 120 counties that make up the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with a combined FY2025 budget of \$101,412,015.33. Over the course of FY25, the successive monthly Compensation and Pension awards to Kentucky veterans and survivors represented by KDVA—approximately 16% of veterans in the Commonwealth—increased from \$42.3 million to \$45.9 million. The total VBA payments to KDVA clients for FY25 was \$531 million.

Kentucky has five state veteran cemeteries that serve the 120 counties that make up the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The veterans' cemeteries are fully funded by the General Assembly and staffed by full-time state employees. Kentucky's five veteran cemeteries have completed 23,151 honorable and dignified interments, 1,631 were completed during FY25.

For FY25, the KDVA Benefits Division continued to administer the Kentucky Tuition Waiver program by awarding 1,087 waivers of tuition to Kentucky's state-funded colleges and universities with a monetary value of \$32,386,440. The Veterans Program Trust Fund (VPTF) granted a total of \$849,917.90 to 20 grantees. The Homeless Veterans Trust Fund granted a total of \$277,658.86 to 509 veterans.

Kentucky allows a military retiree to exclude military retired pay income of up to \$31,110 from adjusted gross income when filing state income tax returns. A property taxes exemption of \$49,100 (2025-2026) exists for 100 percent disabled veterans, with application for the disability exemption made through the county property valuation office. There is a tuition waiver for dependents of veterans who are 100 percent disabled.

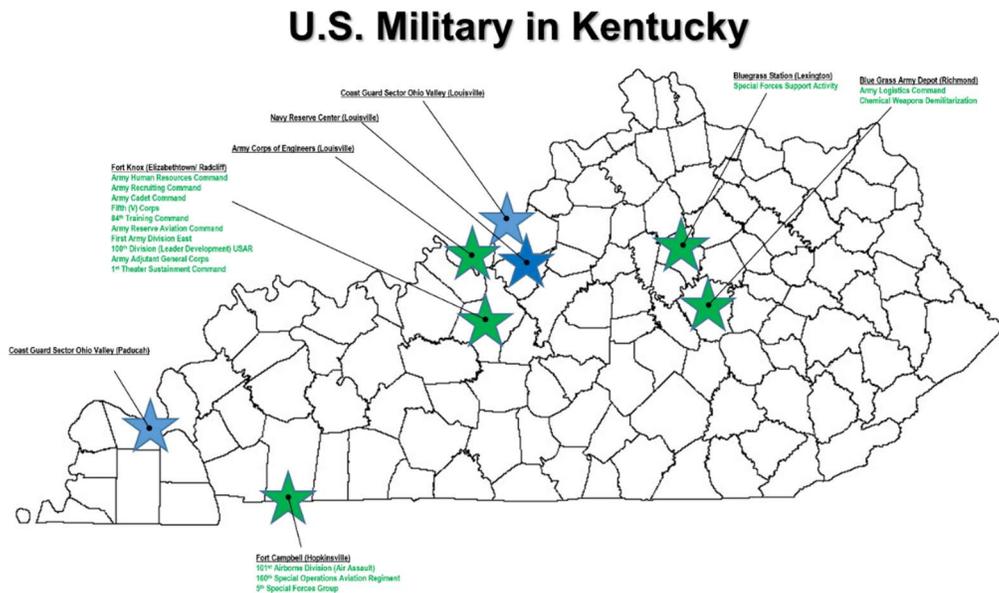
The Commonwealth's veterans' community is admirably served by the Joint Executive Council of Veterans' Organizations (JECVO, <https://www.facebook.com/JECVOKY/>), which is comprised of 26 organizations, including the state's major Veterans Service Organizations, who speak with one voice on behalf of Kentucky veterans and families. The organization meets bimonthly at varying locations around the Commonwealth, and meets monthly in Frankfort during sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly.

XI. Major Military Sites and Operations in Kentucky

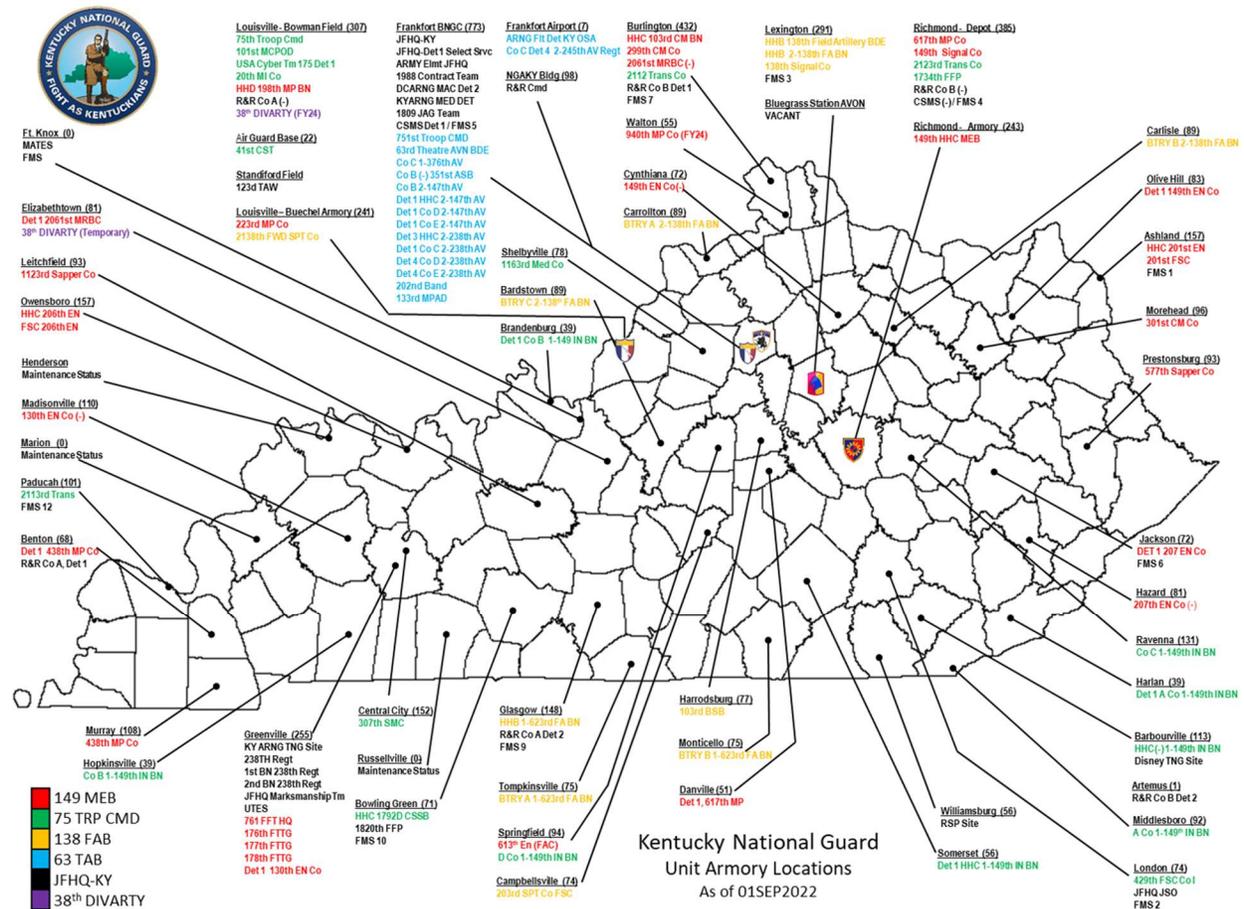
Kentucky is home to two major U.S. Army installations – Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. These have large residential and daytime populations, and are essentially self-contained cities surrounded by tens of thousands of acres of rugged training areas. In fact, Fort Knox is a certified Kentucky city – the sixth largest urban community in the Commonwealth. The Blue Grass Army Depot, adjacent to Richmond, is another large Army facility. It is a storage, distribution and demilitarization center for munitions and chemical defense equipment, with specialty manufacturing and logistics capabilities. Nearly all Blue Grass Army Depot employees are civilian.

Louisville has a number of important military activities, including a district headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the headquarters of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley, the Kentucky Air National Guard base at the Louisville-Muhammad Ali International Airport, and the Airport Industrial Center (formerly the Technology Park of Greater Louisville, and prior to that the Naval Ordnance Station). Other military personnel are scattered throughout Kentucky, generally distributed through the population at large. Training reservists, National Guard units, military recruiters, and ROTC/JROTC students are present in all major Kentucky cities. Frankfort’s Boone National Guard Center serves as the state headquarters for the National Guard.

Military retirees and veterans reside across the state, though they tend to cluster around Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. According to federal data, there are military personnel, especially Kentucky National Guard members, in virtually every one of Kentucky’s 120 counties. The figures below are maps of major military locations in Kentucky:



Kentucky National Guard Operating Locations



U.S. Army – Fort Campbell

Fort Campbell is the historic home of the venerated 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the rapid response for U.S. contingency operations worldwide. Fort Campbell is one of the largest installations in the world. Strategically located on the Tennessee/Kentucky state line, the 106,700-acre installation possesses a unique capability to deploy mission-ready contingency forces by air, rail, highway, and inland waterway. The post is named in honor of William Bowen Campbell, a former Tennessee Governor who served as a Union General in the Civil War. Fort Campbell was originally established (in 1942) as a war-time armor training and mobilization camp during WWII and became a permanent installation in 1950. From 1948 to 1965, the post was also home to Clarksville Base, a top-secret nuclear weapons storage and modification facility. Over the years, Fort Campbell served as the home to several airborne, armored and infantry units and has grown to become one of the Army’s most important permanent installations.

Throughout its history, Fort Campbell has supported the training and deployment of front-line Army units involved in the nation’s wars, beginning with World War II through Vietnam and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and up to the current Overseas Contingency Operations. Since 2002, Fort Campbell units have been among the most deployed combat units in the Army.

Fort Campbell is the home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the only Air Assault division in the world, since 1956. Two prestigious Special Operations Command units, the 5th Special Forces Group

(Airborne) and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), have also been at Fort Campbell since the mid-1980s. In 2009, the 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD) relocated to Fort Campbell (from Fort Gilliam, GA) as part of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) stationing actions. The installation itself is managed by the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Campbell, with Campbell Army Airfield, numerous associated training ranges, and the Don F. Pratt Museum. Manning for FY2025 includes 28,200 assigned soldiers and approximately 2,500 associated military personnel, and 8,300 full-time Department of the Army civilians and Department of Defense contract employees working in numerous miscellaneous roles. Total local area military-connected population includes 49,000 active duty family members, 36,500 military retirees and 68,800 military retiree family members.

Installation priorities include child-care assistance and assistance for transitioning soldiers due to a lack of qualified child-care providers, a common Department of Defense challenge nationwide which is an impediment for spouses to find employment. Kentucky took a positive step in that direction in January 2023 with the adoption of Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS, a child-care stipend program for soldiers who place their children with qualifying state providers.

Between 400-to-500 soldiers a month transition out of the Army from Fort Campbell, with approximately 35 percent of these soldiers remaining local, a trend of 10 percent or more higher than the normal Army installation experience. Kentucky is working to support these soldiers through various means. An area for potential improvement is that communities around Fort Campbell do not accept the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act. Fifteen Kentucky cities have adopted it, as has the Tennessee legislature for statewide implementation. The installation is supported in the local community by the Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, in coordination with Todd and Trigg Counties. Citizens for Fort Campbell is an ad hoc advocacy group that comes together for an annual visit to Kentucky's Congressional Delegation in Washington, DC and to the Pentagon to advocate for Fort Campbell priority needs, including child care, new missions and modern lodging facilities.

U.S. Army – Fort Knox

As the Army's Human Resource Center of Excellence, Fort Knox is positioned to continue its central role in the front ranks of military installations in the United States, recruiting, training and supporting warfighters for the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Human Resource Center of Excellence is responsible for all Soldier career management, from swearing in to departing service. Its units include Accessions Command, Human Resources Command, Army Recruiting Command and Army Cadet Command. Fort Knox is also the home of the General George Patton Museum which is open year-round. The U.S. Department of Treasury's Kentucky Bullion Depository is adjacent to Fort Knox; however, it is closed to visitors. Units located on Fort Knox are considered "Partners in Excellence" and include active-duty Army organizations, Army Reserve, National Guard and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Fort Knox has a daytime population of over 26,000 soldiers, family members and civilian employees. Boosted by outstanding community support, including the U.S. Army "best practice" community advocacy organization (Fort) Knox Regional Development Alliance, Fort Knox has become one of the premier training centers in the world, leading the Army into the 21st century by developing cutting edge technology which enhances training, readiness, and the nation's warfighting capabilities.

Fort Knox encompasses 109,000 acres in three Kentucky counties, Bullitt, Hardin, and Mead Counties and is located 35 miles south from Louisville, and north of Elizabethtown. Fort Knox is a certified Kentucky city – the sixth largest urban community in the Commonwealth. Fort Knox is adjacent to the

city of Radcliff, 15 miles north of Elizabethtown, and approximately 35 miles south of Louisville. The surrounding communities house hundreds of military retirees and active-duty families.

Fort Knox partnered with the Lincoln Trail Area Development District and Hardin County government to develop and publish a Compatible Use Plan (CUP) in January 2022 that addresses existing and planned land uses/activities in ways the military and civilian communities can be mutually supportive so that growth and development is managed in a way that doesn't impede the military mission. The installation garrison command continues to work with Bullitt and Meade Counties on their CUP considerations. In addition, the garrison command successfully worked with the Heart of Kentucky Association of Realtors and KCMA in developing a real estate disclosure notice where buyers will be informed to the installation's presence and its potential to produce noise related to the installation's multiple combat training ranges, including the Digital Air Ground Integration Range (DAGIR) which opened in 2024 on the site of the former Yano tank range.

Fort Knox remains the second largest employer in the state of Kentucky, behind only UPS, with 26,000 civilians, soldiers and family members calling Fort Knox home. There were \$484M in Fort Knox-based contracts awarded to small businesses in FY2025. Fort Knox economic impact from a broader perspective features a total of \$5.6 billion annually pumped into the local economy, supporting Harden, Meade, Bullitt, and Jefferson Counties primarily, including \$3B in payroll. In 2025, Fort Knox was awarded the best installation in the U.S. Army, a testament to those 26,000 strong people who call Fort Knox home.

Fort Knox is stressed by housing shortages, spouse and veteran employment opportunities, networks, healthcare access and more. Efforts are underway to develop a new passenger service route between Elizabethtown and Detroit, as well as Elizabethtown and Jackson, Tennessee. Such an increase in available travel routes will benefit the Fort Knox community. Installation leadership strongly supports the Elizabethtown airport board's aim to have a new 7,800 foot runway that would accommodate critical movements of personnel and material, along with mainline airline charter flights, for deployment purposes. Fort Knox also strongly supports Ford Motor Company's BlueOval SK Battery Park project. The positives are numerous, and the opportunities are there to continue to capitalize on this major economic boon for the region. Installation leadership simply asks that Fort Knox considerations and equities continue to be part of the larger growth management conversation as a single entity and location. The Knox Regional Development Alliance has grown into a passionate and effective advocate for installation support and has garnered strong community investment into their effort.

Fort Knox Tenant Units

- **U.S. Army V Corps**
 - As the senior, tactical headquarters in the contact layer for Europe, V Corps provides training, increases readiness, and retains operational control of assigned and allocated units in order to compete across the competition continuum alongside Allies and Partners; deny adversaries in crisis; and, should conflict occur, fights and wins in Multi-domain, Large Scale Combat Operations to reestablish sovereign borders. They operate 20 sites throughout Europe on the eastern flank, with deployed 27,000 soldiers assigned to three brigades in Germany in 2025. V Corps' European presence allows U.S. Army forces to support more exercises and training with our allies and partners while increasing readiness and the ability to deter potential adversaries. The return of V Corps to Europe enhances security in the region and reassures our NATO allies and partners of

the U.S. commitment to NATO and its partners in Europe. The primary mission of the new forward headquarters in Poznan, Poland will be to conduct operational planning, mission command and oversight of the rotational forces in Europe. It will also provide additional capability to support allies and partners in the region and help improve interoperability. The V Corps' history dates back to 1918, when the unit was activated during World War I in combat in France. By the end of the war, the Corps had fought in the Lorraine, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns, and was dubbed the "Victory Corps." V Corps later took part in the World War II D-Day invasion and liberation of Europe; defended Western Europe during the Cold War; saw service in the Balkans and in Iraq and Afghanistan; and has helped build U.S. bonds with America's multinational partners across Europe. The motto of V Corps is "It Will Be Done." The V Corps' logo features a pentagon representing the number of the Corps, while blue and white are the colors associated with Corps flags. V Corps returned to active status at Fort Knox on October 1, 2020. The corps continuously supports troops rotating forward to Europe on 6-to-9 months deployments, with over 200 V Corps soldiers forward-posted to the forward headquarters in Poland. While V Corps maintains a forward presence in Poland, its main headquarters effort remains its Fort Knox headquarters. Our priority continues to be improving these lines of communication. V Corps is primarily tasked with assuring U.S. allies on the eastern flank of NATO, deterring Russian aggression anywhere in NATO territory, and building interoperability and securing force assistance with our NATO partners across the eastern flank.

- **U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC)**

- The U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, commonly known as "USAREC," is focused on bringing quality young men and women into the Army - people who will complete their tours of duty, make a contribution to the Nation's defense, and provide the strength for America's Army. In 2025, USAREC transitioned to a Lieutenant General (3-star) command structure, with subordinate commands in the Recruiting Division, Cadet Command and the Army Marketing Office. With the deactivation of Army Training and Doctrine Command and Army Futures Command, and the activation of Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM), USAREC will serve as the Force Generation Command, integrated to recruit, access, and train the next generation of Warriors. This will enhance oversight, reduce attrition, and provide flexibility to achieve readiness across the Army. USAREC is now responsible from the soldier's first handshake to his/her first unit of assignment. The command is responsible for recruiting officer and enlisted soldiers and getting them to initial military training before we hand them off to operational units. USAREC is responsible for manning both the Active Army and the U.S. Army Reserve, ensuring security and readiness for our Nation. Recruiting operations are conducted throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and at U.S. facilities in Germany and Asia. The USAREC headquarters at Fort Knox provides the command, control and staff support to the recruiting force. More than 400 officers, enlisted members and civilian employees work in diverse areas such as personnel, administration, resource management, safety, market research and analysis, public relations and recruiting operations. The command has its own inspector general, staff judge advocate and headquarters command. USAREC's subordinate structure includes seven recruiting brigades and one outreach brigade. The 1st Recruiting Brigade is headquartered at Fort Meade, Md. The 2d Recruiting Brigade is at

Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The 3d Recruiting Brigade headquarters is located at Fort Knox. The 5th Recruiting Brigade is at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The 6th Recruiting Brigade is located in North Las Vegas, Nev. The Medical Recruiting Brigade headquarters, which also manages Special Forces and Chaplain recruiting, and the Marketing and Engagement Brigade are collocated with the USAREC Headquarters at Fort Knox. Each brigade commands up to eight recruiting battalions within its geographic area for a total of 44 battalions. Each battalion commands the recruiting companies in its area. Two hundred sixty-one companies provide the tactical control of recruiting stations. The Medical Recruiting Brigade consists of five Medical Recruiting Battalions across the Command and the Special Operations Recruiting Battalion. The Marketing and Engagement Brigade oversees the U.S. Army Parachute Team, U.S. Army Marksmanship Team, and the Mission Support Battalion. There are approximately 10,900 Soldier and civilian recruiters working out of more than 1,400 recruiting stations across America and overseas. All have records of proven ability and potential, and each represents the finest traditions of the Army and military service. Army recruiters must be knowledgeable in Army opportunities and the enlistment process before they are assigned to a recruiting station. The Recruiting and Retention School, located at Fort Knox, Kentucky, provides soldiers the institutional training necessary to become successful recruiters. The recruiters' skills continue to be developed in unit training programs that begin as soon as recruiters arrive in their recruiting areas.

- **U.S. Army Cadet Command**

- The U.S. Army Cadet Command, headquartered at Fort Knox, partners with universities to recruit, educate, develop, and inspire Senior ROTC Cadets to commission officers of character for the Total Army; and partners with high schools to conduct JROTC in order to develop citizens of character for a lifetime of commitment and service to the nation. Under the new 3-star USAREC command structure, U.S. Army Cadet Command now falls under Recruiting Command. They oversee approximately 280,000 junior ROTC cadets at over 17,000 high schools across the U.S., the third largest youth program in the United States, behind Scouts and 4H. Their senior ROTC cadet program is composed of over 28,000 cadets on approximately 920 college and university campuses. Annual ROTC cadet summer training continues to bring approximately 8,000 cadets to Kentucky each summer. In 2024, Cadet Command partnered with the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Student Transition and Career Readiness Office, Career and Technical Education, to bring on COL Tim McDonald upon his Army retirement from Cadet Command to be a new State Director of Army Instruction. They've created a robust and innovative program to manage Army JROTC operations at Kentucky high schools.

- **U.S. Army Human Resources Command**

- The U.S. Army Human Resources Command, commonly known as "HRC," headquartered at Fort Knox, serves the Army's valued customers – soldiers, units, families, retirees and veterans – in ways that have a transformative impact on their careers and Family life while creating a positive and lifelong connection to our Army. Its goal is to transform Army human resources, optimize the Army's performance and personnel readiness, and preserve the future of the All-Volunteer Force. HRC conducts world class talent

management and manage human resource and data management initiatives that enable the Army to fight and win the nation's wars. Its scope includes the active duty and the reserve components, including units, retirees, federal employees and families. In 2023, HRC embarked on a major reorganization/transformation taking customer service from a transitional process to a direct service that always puts all soldiers first, modernizes and improves business processes, becomes more transparent in our communications, and more agile in processes to serve the Army's most important asset, which is its people. Elements include the Army's Integrated Personnel Pay System (IPPS-A), a data-rich environment ensuring full total force visibility. HRC is also reaching out to corporate partners to see how they might help the Army meet emerging requirements with the latest best practices in the field of human resources. The command is reorganizing from a legacy structure to the HRC 2030 structure, emphasizing the customer versus the process, IPPS-A's potential capitalization, agility, data-centric decisions, redundancy elimination and automation capabilities. A major goal is to increase retention across the board. The U.S. Army Human Resources Command has a rich history and legacy of providing first-class personnel service and support to soldiers, families, retirees and veterans. The creation of U.S. Army Human Resources Command occurred Oct. 1, 2003, when Army officials merged U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, or PERSCOM, and U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command, or AR-PERSCOM. Initially designed as a field operating agency of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G-1, in 2017, HRC became a direct reporting unit to Headquarters, Department of the Army. HRC is the Army's functional proponent for military personnel management (except for The Judge Advocate General Corps and the Chaplain Corps) and personnel systems. It supports the director of the Army National Guard, and the chief of the Army Reserve, in their management of the Selected Reserve. The HRC commanding general is the commander of the Individual Ready Reserve, or IRR, the Standby Reserve and the Retired Reserve. Throughout our history, HRC continues to transform Army human resources, optimizing the Army's performance and personnel readiness while preserving the future of the All-Volunteer Force.

- **U.S. Army First Theater Sustainment Command**

- The U.S. Army First Theater Sustainment Command (1st TSC), headquartered at Fort Knox, is America's only permanently deployed sustainment command, facilitating relationship activities within 21 countries across the Middle East. The 1st TSC provides centralized sustainment Command and Control and executes predictive and precise operational-level sustainment to the Army, Joint Force, and Unified Action Partners to enable multi-domain operations in support of the Combatant Command (USCENTCOM) and the Theater Army/Combined Forces Land Component Command. The command focuses on Peoples, Partners and Innovation in support of U.S. Army Central Command and U.S. Central Command, taking care of both soldier well-being and sustainment of operations. The 1st TSC lineage goes back to the 1st Logistical Command, activated as a planning headquarters in October 1950 at Fort McPherson, Georgia. During the Berlin crisis of 1961, the unit deployed to France to organize the base logistics command, which was responsible for the supervision of seven depots and area port operations in western and southwestern France. On August 11, 1962, the 1st Logistical Command returned to the U.S., where it was reassigned to III corps at Fort Hood, Texas. On April 1, 1965, the unit deployed to Vietnam to serve as the logistics command headquarters for all units in the conflict. The mission included provision and management of maintenance, supply and transportation. During the five-year tour, the command's ranks

swelled to 50,000 to include three area support commands, numerous brigades and group-sized units. With five meritorious unit commendations for its exceptional performance, the 1st Logistical Command redeployed to Fort Lee, Virginia and was re-designated the 1st Field Army Support Command on December 7, 1970. On June 22, 1972, the command was re-designated the 1st Corps Support Command (COSCOM) and reassigned to XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where it deployed multiple times in support of combat and disaster relief missions. On April 16, 2006, COSCOM was re-designated as the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and reassigned to Third Army, U.S. Army Central Command. Since 2006, the 1st TSC has been perpetually deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility where we conduct sustainment operations to ensure warfighters have the supplies and transportation capabilities they need to accomplish their missions. In August 2017, the 1st TSC ended its more than four decades of history on Fort Bragg when they cased their colors and moved to a new U.S. headquarters at Fort Knox. On any given day, over 18,000 service members and 500 civilian contractors are in countries supporting U.S. operations. 1st TSC experts coordinate and track reports of movement of vehicles, equipment and resources that travel throughout the theater to support operations, with the goal of improving fighting positions and delivering readiness to the field.

- **U.S. First Army Division East**

- First Army Division East partners with, advises and assists the Reserve Component to establish the conditions for generating Total Army Readiness. The command, headquartered at Fort Knox, initiates and executes Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) expansion to meet partial or full mobilization requirements. First Division East coordinating authority spans 39 states, with over 3,300 soldiers/civilians. Fort Knox itself is designated as a mobilization station for Guard and Reserve forces. The command mobilized 50,000 Guard and Reserve soldiers in 2023, 16 percent of all deployed soldiers, and expects that to reach 20 percent in 2024. Twenty percent of those deployed make up the majority of forces in Africa and the Middle East. First Army Division East dates back to World War I and was involved in some of the heaviest battles of World War II, with 77 soldiers earning the Medal of Honor between the two conflicts. On January 16, 2006, First Army's mission expanded to include training, readiness oversight, and mobilization of all Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve units within the Continental United States and two U.S. Territories. First Army reorganized into two subordinate multi-component Headquarters, Division East and Division West. Department of the Army Permanent Order 156-7 established Division East to provide training and readiness oversight for an area of responsibility spanning 27 States and Territories. On March 7th, 2007, Division East was activated and headquartered at Fort Meade, MD, consisting of ten Brigades: 4th CAV, Fort Knox, KY; 205th IN, Camp Atterbury, IN; 181st IN, Fort McCoy, WI; 174th IN, Fort Drum, NY; 72nd FA, Fort Meade, MD; 189th IN, Fort Bragg, NC; 157th IN, Fort Jackson, SC; 158th IN, Patrick Air Force Base, FL; 188th IN, Fort Stewart, GA; and 177th AR, Camp Shelby, MS. In 2015, First Army reorganized under Operation Bold Shift and transitioned Division East from a Brigade Combat Team-centric organization to a Combined Arms Training Brigade (CATB) and Multi-Functional Training Brigade (MFTB) composite formation. The ten Brigades consolidated into the five current Brigades: 4th CAV (MFTB), Fort Knox, KY; 157th IN (CATB), re-stationed to Camp Atterbury, IN; 174th IN (CATB), re-stationed to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ; 188th IN (CATB), Fort Stewart, GA; and 177th AR (CATB), Camp Shelby, MS. Reorganization enhanced Army National Guard and U.S. Army

Reserve partnerships enabling the enduring task of increasing pre-mobilization readiness to reduce post-mobilization training time prior to deployment. The reorganization concluded in June 2016 with the relocation of Division East Headquarters to Fort Knox. Today, Division East is a multi-component Division comprised of 3,762 Active Duty, U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard Soldiers and DA Civilians organized into five geographically dispersed Brigades with a total of 53 Active Component, U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard Battalions.

- **U.S. Army Reserve 84th Training Command**

- The U.S. Army Reserve 84th Training Command, headquartered at Fort Knox, consists of approximately 5,000 soldiers and 162 civilians in four training divisions and the headquarters, in units spread out across 35 States. Of those, over 400 work, live or attend school in Kentucky. Fort Knox hosts their Mission Training Center (MTC), which provides the capability to train virtually through a variety of exercises. The MTC is used extensively by V Corps, and is also open to all other commands. The command is responsible for planning, resourcing, managing, and executing major exercises for all Army Reserve units. It executes nine multi-echelon exercises replicating Large Scale Combat Operations in four separate locations per year and trains more brigades per year than all other Combat Training Centers. It has subordinate units located across the U.S. and performs these missions with 3,300 Reserve Soldiers, 296 Active-duty Soldiers, 125 civilians, and 110 contractors. Missions include conducting internal education program training over for 400 Observer/Coach-trainers and Senior Gunners, executing five live fire events per year (including one for forces in Korea), and conducting the External Evaluation for Combined Forces Headquarters Korea twice a year. The 84th TC runs five-to-six large scale multinational combat operations exercises each year. They feature a mix of collective and individual warfighting training focused directly on anything that enhances warfighting skills. The 84th TC runs the Observer Coach and Trainer (OCT) Academy, generating up to 800 instructors and assessors who then go out with rotational units that are part of the larger exercises to help them be successful. Their Senior Gunner Course supports live fire convoy certification by working with rotational units long before the exercise so they can train up for the right skill set to be successful during certification.

- **U.S. Army Adjutant General**

- The U.S. Army Adjutant General Directorate, headquartered at Fort Knox, provides the leadership and the organizations of the Training and Doctrine Command military personnel support through policies and resources that will allow the command to successfully execute its mission. Missions include serving as the primary advisor and administrator to the Command Group in all matters pertaining to military personnel retention; accomplishing cross-training and cross-training related actions critical to the sustainment of Military Personnel Actions Team mission capability; managing TRADOC's military personnel and ensuring accountability; and advocating for TRADOC schools, activities, policies and command input across the spectrum of military personnel issues; providing responsive support to TRADOC schools and activities. The directorate consists of 550 soldiers and civilians, primarily at Fort Knox, but also with their Physical Disability Agency at Joint Base San Antonio in Texas as well as their Military Postal Service Agency, spread out between Chicago, the East Coast and West Coast. The directorate develops and executes all human resources policies in support of 1.1 million soldiers, Active, Guard and Reserve, and over five million veterans and associated family members around the world. They drive personnel readiness for the Army, making sure that

soldiers and families are prepared and focused on their warfighting mission and not distracted by any administrative noise that's going on in the background. They manage the Army Service Center, which helps soldiers, families and veterans with personnel matters. The post of Adjutant General was established 16 June 1775, and has been continuously in operation since that time. The Adjutant General's Department, by that name, was established by the act of 3 March 1813 and was redesignated The Adjutant General's Corps in 1950.

- **U.S. Army Reserve 100th Training Division (Leader Development)**

- Effective 1 October 2017, the 100th Training Division Operations Support was redesignated as the 100th Training Division Leader Development. The 100th Training Division (LD) establishes and implements the Army Reserve Leader Development strategy to provide a continuum of career education, training, and experience for leaders in the Army Reserve. Commanding General, 100th Training Division (LD) is the Army Reserve Senior Responsible Official for Leader Development for the U.S. Army Reserve Command Commanding General. The 100th Division offers itself as a premier training resource for the U.S. Army. It is headquartered in Fort Knox, Kentucky, with units located across the United States. Elements include the 83rd Readiness Training Center, which prepares soldiers and civilians to prevail in complex and uncertain environments through education and training in the areas of leadership, sustainment, security, and readiness, and the 97th Training Brigade, which is the intermediate leader training for Majors and Lieutenant Colonels prior to command. The 83rd RTC is a subordinated units stationed at Fort Knox. Task Training Center trains Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve, along with Department of the Army civilians, throughout the year. The 83rd RTC has elements at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Camp Parks, California; and Fort Dix, New Jersey. The 100th Training Division also conducts classes in Puerto Rico, Hawaii and, when requested, overseas officer training in Germany. The 97th Training Brigade works with the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas as the Reserve schoolhouse. Their mission spans the U.S. and has overseas elements. Intent is to give Army leaders at all stages the ability to become a better commander as they move through their career. The 100th has a very distinguished historical lineage. It was established as the 100th Division at Camp Bowie, Texas on July 23, 1918 and demobilized on November 30, 1918, then was reorganized as the 100th Infantry Division in Organized Reserves with Headquarters in Charleston, West Virginia on 24 July 1921. The 100th Infantry Division was activated on November 15, 1942, following the attacks on Pearl Harbor. In October of 1944, the 100th Infantry Division deployed to Europe, where their soldiers would see 185 day of uninterrupted ground combat and serve in three campaigns; the Rhineland, Central European, and Ardennes-Alsace campaigns. The 100th Infantry Division was inactivated on January 26, 1946 after their return from the European Theater, then reactivated as the USAR 100th Airborne Division in the fall of 1946 at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1959 it was redesignated as the 100th Division for Institutional Training with a mission to teach basic, advanced individual, and common training to new Soldiers. In 1961 President John F. Kennedy mobilized 1,500 soldiers to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, during the Berlin Crisis. The 100th did the country proud by training some 32,000 soldiers after rebuilding long unused and dilapidated rifle ranges, barracks and other facilities. With the training mission accomplished, the unit was demobilized in

August 1962 and returned to reserve status. In 1978 the 100th Division was selected as the first Army Reserve unit to be equipped with its own M-1 tanks, and the only training division with the mission of conducting training on the M-1 Abrams tank and the M-3 Bradley Cavalry vehicle. In 1986, the 100th Division was considered the largest reserve unit in Kentucky, commanding 58 percent of all reservists in the state with an annual economic impact of \$25 million. Within 10 days after Operation Desert Storm was launched in January 1991, two brigade task forces from the 100th Division (1,147 soldiers) were activated to go to Fort Knox, KY to train 2,000 tank crewmen and armored Cavalry scouts. In 1992, 100th Division trainers took total responsibility for three company cycles of Basic Training at Fort Knox. In 1995, the 100th Division was reorganized to include USAR Schools by taking over responsibilities for TASS, and implemented a distance learning systems approach to military career training. In 2000, the 100th Division took the USAR Communities of Excellence Award. Also, 2nd Bn, 399th Regiment, 7th Brigade began turn-in of their M1A1 tanks, bringing to a close the end of a training era. The division continued the training mission, but leased the equipment. Immediately following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the 100th Division (IT) mobilized volunteer cadre to rapidly spin up Army National Guard units from Ohio and Kentucky mobilized at Fort Knox, assisting in their in-processing, training and transportation. The 2005 Base Realignment & Closing (BRAC) process relocated the 100th Division headquarters to Fort Knox to support the re-engineering and streamlining of support delivered by Army Reserve training base units in order to significantly enhance training in support of mobilization and deployment. In 2026, the 100th is transitioning back to its traditional focus on basic military training. In this transition, staffing at Fort Knox will increase from 268 to 891 personnel, with approximately 3,500 personnel across the Southeast Region, a 292 percent increase in overall personnel. Traditionally the 100th has been putting 12,000 students through its Fort Knox pipeline. Under this new construct, the 100th expects to put 18,000 students through, a 50% increase. It will also utilize its drill instructors to support annual ROTC Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox.

- **U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command**

- The U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command (ARAC), known as “A-Rack,” based in Fort Knox, Kentucky, provides command and control for all Army Reserve aviation. However, the Army Transformation Initiative (ATI) has ordered Army Reserve Rotary Headquarters inactivation effective at the end of FY2026. That takes about 80 percent of the ARAC’s footprint and inactivates it at the close of federal fiscal year 2026, the core of which exists here at Fort Knox. What will be retained is a consolidated ARAC headquarters, probably downsized from a one-star General Officer command to an O-6 Colonel command, with a theater fixed-wing company in the form of eight C-12 aircraft. Currently, the command’s units are spread across the country, but the highest concentration of units is at Fort Knox, with eight subordinate elements stationed there. The ARAC provides air traffic services, airfield management, aeromedical evacuation, combat aviation brigade reinforcement, theater aviation support and coordination of aviation staging and onward movement to support Army or joint operations. With more than 4,400 Soldiers, approximately 600 civilians and 230 aircraft in 12 states, the Army Reserve Aviation Command is one-of-a-kind, providing command and control for all

Army Reserve aviation, air assault, air movement, aeromedical evacuation, and inter- and intra-theater transportation. The ARAC's rotary-wing aircraft includes UH-60s, HH-60s and CH-47s, while C-12s and UC-35s make up their fixed-wing element. The Army plans to build two modern hangars at the Fort Knox Godman Army Airfield to accommodate both their current and future aircraft. This project is a construction priority for the Army Reserve. The ARAC continues to provide support to the Army Reserve and the Total Force, and also supports recruiting operations across the country.

Blue Grass Army Depot

The Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), located in Richmond, Kentucky, occupies land that was originally home to the Adena Culture from 1000-to-200 BCE. Later, the region was home to several Native American tribes, including the Shawnee, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Yuchi. The first person of European descent to see the land upon which BGAD would be built was Daniel Boone. During the Civil War, the area was the site of the "Battle of Richmond."

BGAD was established in 1941 as the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot (BGOD) when the U.S. Army purchased 14,449 acres of land in Madison County. BGOD began operations in 1942 as an ammunition and general supply storage facility. Since World War II, BGAD has stored two percent of the nation's original chemical weapons stockpile. In collaboration with the Program Executive Office for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) constructed the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant to demilitarize the chemical weapons stockpile. Efforts to safely destroy the stockpile first began in 1984. BGCA completed the mission to demilitarize the stockpile through a neutralization process in July 2023, ensuring compliance with the international Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty.

To support the Korean War, in 1953 a major addition of 100 igloos expanded the storage area. In 1958, Blue Grass opened the first Nucleonics Laboratory in the U.S. to develop equipment to detect and measure radiation. In August 1962, BGOD was redesignated Blue Grass Army Depot. The following year, the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command established a bomb training site at BGAD and operated for many years. In August 1964, BGAD merged with the Lexington Signal Depot, Avon, Kentucky, becoming the Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot (LBAD). This merger expanded the depot's mission, absorbing new functions from various depots and commands in 1965, including automotive and tank transmissions, brakes, gas turbines, vehicular and aircraft engines, and other accessories. After several realignments, LBAD regained full depot status under the Depot Systems Command in 1985. The Lexington portion of the depot was closed under the 1988 BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) and the remaining facility was designated BGAD.

Today, BGAD contains 1,153 buildings, 902 igloos and a storage capacity of 3.2 million square feet. It is used for storage of conventional explosive munitions, repair of general supplies and ammunition, and the disposal of munitions. Capabilities include industrial services support; ammunition maintenance, renovation, disassembly and demilitarization; thermal arc coating for Air Force bombs; water washout facility with flaker belt; Molten Salt Research and Development Facility; ultrasonic testing for mortar ammunition; Chemical Material Surveillance Program; quality assurance and joint logistics support; and ammunition life cycle management. The depot also serves as a large training ground for service members. While posturing the depot for the future, BGAD focuses on supplying ammunition requirements in support of Presidential Drawdowns (PD) for Ukraine and Israel.

BGAD has the ability to surge and meet real world ammunition requirements. Whether that movement is by truck, rail or air, BGAD can get ammunition shipped anywhere in the East Coast within 24 hours. In addition, BGAD's team renovated over 65,000 artillery rounds in support of Ukrainian efforts. BGAD leadership continues to assess human capital needs and skills needed for our future missions. Contributors to BGAD success include the proximity of the I-64/I-75 Interstate corridor, its relationships with local trucking companies, and its state-of-the-art Consolidated Shipping Center, all supporting BGAD's ability to meet aggressive delivery schedules and timelines. Currently, BGAD's main purpose is to ship, receive, store, maintain and demilitarize conventional munitions. The depot has supplemental missions to support joint warfighters with chemical defense equipment, air condition units, and more. BGAD's top growth imperative is to evaluate new mission opportunities from the recent feasibility study, look to developing these future opportunities, and work potential growth initiatives to help lessen the impact of personnel losses due to sunset missions such as chemical weapons stockpile eradication. The depot has been greatly aided by the support of the local Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB).

Moving to the future post-chemical weapons remediation, the core BGAD mission will remain a government-owned, government-operated facility doing out-load shipment. Potential future missions include a flexible modular production assembly line for 155mm artillery ammunition rounds. Another is drone production, as drones have become a significant part of the future battlefield. BGAD has been chosen as the innovation hub for the new Army program called Sky Foundry, an enterprise where several different depots across the United States are doing production of different capabilities to build domestic drones with the organic capabilities that we have in the industrial base, supplementing commercial industry. We need the capability to scale up combat operations of drone aircraft, so the Army is also looking at doing domestic production. Another new program, already validated and moving forward, is container fabrication, with \$27 million allocated for the design, build, container fabrication. BGAD is evaluating partnerships with academia and commercial industry to support their efforts as an innovation hub in areas such as field and engineering testing and advanced manufacturing. The depot is currently excelling at enhanced security, integrating artificial intelligence into sensor platforms on the depot through their Physical Security Enterprise and Analysis Group (PSAG) initiative. The goal for all Army installations is to provide the type of top-notch, futuristic security now under development at BGAD. The depot continues to effectively manage and improve its traditional mission sets; for example, working innovative warehouse designs for small arms storage.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Louisville District

The Louisville District covers more than 306,000 square miles and supports the Army, Air Force and other Department of Defense agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. The Louisville District serves seven Army Installations, five Air Force Installations, three DoD sites, six BRAC sites and provides worldwide support to Army Reserve Centers. The award-winning Military Branch of the district's Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (P3MD) is essential to the nation's defense. The Military Branch is responsible for managing the future and ongoing projects of the nation's bases and defense systems. All projects are led by project managers who are responsible for organizing a panel of professionals who then as a team will plan/design, contract, and construct the projects. The Army/Air Force projects range anywhere from developing training facilities for U.S. military forces to providing homes and schools for the families of U.S. troops. The district also provides project management and planning support for Army Reserve Centers in the United States and Puerto Rico. The district's Reserve

Support Team also serves as the design agent for the Air Force Reserve program. The Reserve program makes up more than 30 percent of the district's military workload.

The Corps plays a vital role in national security during peace and war. The district supports military construction as part of the Overseas Contingency Operations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville operates in multiple areas, including flood risk management, commercial navigation, ecosystem restoration, support for our Army, support for the Air Force, support for the Army and Air Force Reserves and more. The Louisville organization has 1,100 Department of the Army civilians, many of whom are veterans, and 10 active-duty military. In 2025 the office executed over \$1 billion in contracts, including Louisville District Flood risk management projects, with the levies, floodwalls, detention basins, and the reservoirs that people use for boating and fishing and more. They are originally built for flooding management, and they've prevented over a billion dollars in damages, a very significant benefit to the Commonwealth. Additionally, Corps recreation facilities in Kentucky provide over \$500 million each year in economic benefits.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley

Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley, part of the "Brown Water Coast Guard" and headquartered in Louisville with a Marine Safety Unit in Paducah, Coast Guard cutters in Hickman and Owensboro, and boat stations in Paducah and Louisville, manages 8,300 miles of the Ohio River, its tributaries, parts of the Mississippi and the federal lakes across 10 States and eight major port complexes, including 30 major lakes, 211 dams and 57 locks. The unit is managed under the U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area command structure. Missions include waterways management and vessel traffic service; marine safety inspections, investigations and recreational boating safety; search and rescue; aids to navigation; ports, waterways and coastal security; and marine environmental response.

Sector Ohio Valley manages waterways in 10 states, including Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri. In Kentucky, Sector Ohio Valley works closely with the Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville, with additional support from and to the National Guard and the Army, planning, coordinating and executing drills and exercises across Kentucky. Sector Ohio Valley exercises include handling active shooters on towing vessels and barges, preparation for mass casualty events on the river, massive oil pollution response, and more. The Corps of Engineer and Sector Ohio Valley keep riverways open, which are the lifeblood of our national and economic security of our country. Eight small boats based in Paducah and Louisville conduct 3,500 underway hours a year to include enforcing waterways safety and security zones across the 1,039 miles of the Ohio, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Illegal drug usage and illegal passenger operations are increasing, with the Coast Guard working with joint state and local law enforcement operations to address these challenges.

Sector Ohio Valley is seeing an increase on recreational boat casualties due to significantly increasing recreational boat usage, often in incidents with commercial vessels. Boating while intoxicated issues are another increasing challenge, both on river systems and areas like Lake Cumberland and Dale Hollow. The Coast Guard has been operating in Kentucky since 1881, when it established Louisville's first station and small boat operations. Personnel involved in Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley's roles include over 400 active and reserve Coast Guard personnel and approximately 1,000 Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers.

U.S. Navy Reserve Center Louisville

Formerly known as the U.S. Navy Operational Support Center Louisville, the U.S. Navy Reserve Center in Louisville has supported U.S. Navy Reserve operations, training and deployments since 1955. The Navy Reserve provides essential naval warfighting capabilities and expertise, strategically aligned with mission requirements - valued for readiness, innovation, and agility, providing the Navy with strategic depth by maintaining unsurpassed individual, command, and force readiness.

Kentucky National Guard

The Kentucky National Guard is a joint federal-state program that provides support to both the nation's regular military forces and to the Commonwealth. The National Guard may be called into duty by the Governor to handle local emergencies such as natural disasters and civil strife. The "National Guard" is by design distinctly different from a "state militia," despite their common origins, and is responsible to support the federal government, in addition to the state, through the U.S. Department of Defense.

State militias are authorized in state and federal law. They generally operate with emergency management and homeland security missions. The Militia Act of 1903, also known as the "Dick Act" for the sponsor, Congressman Charles Dick, chairman of the House Militia Affairs Committee and a Major in the Ohio National Guard, formed the predecessor to the modern-day National Guard and required the states to divide their militias into two sections. The law recommended the title "National Guard" for the first section, for federal administration, and "Reserve Militia" for the individual states. The guiding intent was to professionalize the National Guard for dual federal/state service while separately maintaining the traditional militia role in its state-specific role. Per Wikipedia, Congress directly authorized state militias in 1956 under Title 32, Section 109. In Kentucky, the state militia concept is authorized under Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 37, "Active Militia," with overall command of the Governor through the Adjutant General of Kentucky; however, the state militia is not active in Kentucky. Currently, 24 states maintain some form of state militia, two of which are for ceremonial purposes only.

The Kentucky National Guard is governed by KRS Chapters 35 ("Military Justice"), 36 ("Department of Military Affairs") and 38 ("National Guard"), also under overall command of the Governor through the Adjutant General of Kentucky. The Adjutant General of Kentucky has a dual role as both head of the Kentucky National Guard and also as head of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, a state agency. In addition, the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs is responsible for management and functions of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. The Kentucky National Guard responds to domestic emergencies and operations – both within Kentucky and nationally – through their State Active Duty (SAD) mission. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is the primary means for providing support to other states (and from other states to Kentucky).

The Kentucky National Guard comprises approximately 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen in the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, which are components of the United States Army and the United States Air Force, respectively. Its major units include the 75th Troop Command, the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade, the 138th Field Artillery Brigade, the 238th Regiment, the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 123rd Airlift Wing.

In Calendar Year 2023, the Kentucky National Guard received three of the nation's most prestigious military awards. The Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) recognized Kentucky with the first-ever National Guard Most Outstanding National Guard State Command Award, across all 54 States and territories. The 123rd Airlift Wing recently received its Air Force record 20th Outstanding Unit Award, recognized not just as an Air National Guard unit, but amongst the very best regular Air Force, Air

National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. The 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry earned the prestigious Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) Walter T. Kerwin Jr., Readiness Award for outstanding readiness metrics, in competition with the entire Army National Guard.

Funding for the Kentucky National Guard is shared between the federal and state governments, with approximately 90 percent of funding from the federal government. The DoD is responsible for the payroll of Guard personnel as they conduct their monthly and annual training requirements, and when Guard members are mobilized into federal service, on a voluntary or involuntary status. Kentucky state government covers the personnel costs when Guard members are activated to respond to state emergencies/operations, and covers part of the cost of supervisory management.

The Kentucky National Guard-managed Bluegrass Station, located just outside Lexington, Kentucky, is a self-sustaining military industrial complex which has ties to the U.S. Department of Defense. Through the Bluegrass Station Division of DMA, the Kentucky National Guard provides logistical and operational support to many tenants, both government and private industry. The 777-acre facility includes more than 2.2 million square feet of space in over 100 buildings, 17 miles of paved roads, 27 acres of paved parking lots, its own water, electrical and wastewater systems and an active railhead. The U.S. Army transferred the property to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in phases, with the final phase transferred in September 2008. The Commonwealth now owns all the land, buildings and infrastructure that comprise Bluegrass Station.

The Kentucky National Guard operates the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center (WHFRTC), approximately 12,000 acres capable of supporting medium-sized training requirements of units from all service components. Thousands of Kentucky National Guard troops, active-duty members from all service components, and state emergency response force teams/personnel have trained at the facility.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2024, the Kentucky National Guard employed 6,374 part-time (Traditional) soldiers and 876 part-time airmen with a total payroll of \$72,728,793, plus an additional \$1,602,083 in Kentucky State Active Duty pay and allowances.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2024, the Kentucky National Guard employed 892 total (Army and Air) "Active Guard and Reserve" (AGR) members – those on full-time federal duty supporting the state – with a total payroll of \$94,539,452. In addition, the Kentucky National Guard employed an additional 767 members in federal DoD civilian status, for a total payroll of \$56,086,759.

While most Kentucky National Guard members reside in Kentucky, 1,053 reside in other states and commute to Kentucky for their training and other activities. Most come from bordering states. There is no Kentucky residency requirement for KYNG membership.

On the state employee side, the Department of Military Affairs employed 342 state employees for a total state payroll of \$20,602,423.

Top Kentucky Counties by Total Federal & State Expenditures Over \$10M

County	Personnel	Annual Payroll	Total Federal & State Expenditures
Franklin	324	\$10,607,345	\$50,274,822
Letcher	11	\$103,435	\$40,129,776
Fayette	617	\$9,237,477	\$36,656,861
Jefferson	800	\$9,043,856	\$32,223,207
Knott	3	\$31,031	\$27,458,098
Perry	35	\$366,515	\$26,502,396
Reside Out-of-State	769	\$14,142,808	\$21,840,543
Breathitt	39	\$310,307	\$18,946,285
Madison	326	\$2,844,482	\$18,829,413
Graves	39	\$341,338	\$18,042,931
Pike	26	277,559	\$16,556,772
Warren	328	\$2,865,169	\$14,897,145
Hardin	253	\$3,183,770	\$11,531,970
Muhlenberg	70	\$2,459,596	\$11,050,121
Lawrence	22	\$217,215	\$10,516,115

Kentucky Counties by National Guard Employment (over 100 actively serving members)

County	Personnel	Annual Payroll
Jefferson	800	\$9,043,856
Reside Out-of-State	769	\$14,142,808
Fayette	617	\$9,237,477
Warren	328	\$2,865,169
Madison	326	\$2,844,482
Franklin	324	\$10,607,345
Hardin	253	\$3,183,770
Boone	187	\$1,709,696
Scott	183	\$1,303,290
Kenton	149	\$1,437,756
Daviess	127	\$1,095,612
Anderson	123	\$831,171

Woodford	122	\$879,203
Shelby	107	\$796,445
Christian	106	\$1,034,357
Bullitt	102	\$848,173

Top States by Kentucky National Guard Employment

State	KYNG Members
Indiana	317
Tennessee	192
Ohio	179
Illinois	37
Florida	34
Virginia	30
Texas	29
Georgia	24
North Carolina	22
Alabama	21
Missouri	20

Source: Kentucky National Guard and Department of Military Affairs Economic Impact Report 2024

XII. Community Advocacy Groups

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is fortunate to have many government agencies and community advocacy groups supporting the military mission. In addition, KCMA, along with the (Fort) Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA) and the Christian County Chamber of Commerce, are active members of the national Association of Defense Communities (ADC). KCMA Executive Director Steve Bullard has served continuously as co-chair of the ADC State Advisors Council, which represents state military advocacy agencies/organizations across the nation at both the government and community levels, since 2020.

Community Advocacy Groups include the (Fort) Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA), website <https://growknox.org/>, which is a private-public regional alliance focused on protecting and promoting Fort Knox to increase its economic impact. KRDA works with the community to do all we can for Soldiers, civilian employees, their families, and Fort Knox.

The Christian County Chamber of Commerce’ Military Affairs Committee, known locally as the “MAC,” website <https://www.christiancountychamber.com/military-affairs/>, supports the soldiers, families and communities in and around Fort Campbell. They also take a strong leadership role in the community’s annual visit to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC to advocate with Kentucky’s Congressional delegation and

the Pentagon for Fort Campbell priorities under the “Citizens for Fort Campbell” umbrella. This trip is preceded by a community leadership meeting with the Commanding General of Fort Campbell and the installation’s leadership team.

Blue Grass Army Depot enjoys the outstanding support of the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens’ Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB). This group has for decades worked with installation leadership to ensure safe chemical and conventional weapons storage and destruction operations, and to seek new mission opportunities. A great success in 2023 was their work with the U.S. Army to create a unique and highly successful Blue Grass Army Depot Future Missions Feasibility Study Assessment in coordination with the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command. The Army study evaluated the potential, with community input, for future missions, with the following identified as potential mission opportunities. In addition, the community continues to work with DoD Prime Contractor Bechtel National and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development to assess opportunities with an off-site Hyper Scale Data Center. We will continue working with the Army to assess these near-term opportunities. Meanwhile, the Army is considering doing a similar report for all its depot operations around the nation.

- Sky Foundry Team Lead for Domestic Military Drone Production
- Production of Metal Components for 155mm Artillery Munitions
- Security Guard Academy
- Data Center (storage)
- Centralized Security Monitoring Center
- Conventional Munitions Demilitarization Center of Excellence
- Electric Vehicle Battery Production, Storage, Maintenance, and/or Recycling
- Production of Ammunition Containers
- Production of Metal Shipping Containers
- R&D Lab for Advanced Manufacturing Processes

Other active community advocacy groups include, but are not limited to:

- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Military Hiring Academy
- Kentucky Association of Manufacturers Defense and Aerospace Council
- Kentucky Workforce Investment Board’s subcommittee on Veterans and Transitioning Servicemembers (VATS)
- Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations

XIII. State Legislative Activity

The Kentucky General Assembly has done an outstanding job over the years protecting the military and veterans’ community, with over well over 200 related bills passing the legislature since 1954 (<https://kcma.ky.gov/Legislation/Pages/default.aspx>). Legislators work closely with their community advocacy groups, state agencies and the DoD Defense State Liaison Office to promote positive activity on behalf of the Commonwealth’s military and veterans’ communities.

In addition to the overall record listed in detail below, the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly made the following appropriations:

KCMA Kentucky Defense Activity Report February 2026

- \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to each Murray State University and the University of Louisville budget unit to support construction, renovation, and operations for the University's cybersecurity program;
 - Creates the Kentucky Cybersecurity Center program
- \$1M to Kentucky VALOR for veterans licensing and DoD Skillbridge support, administered through the KDVA budget
 - Veterans Accelerated Licensing Occupational Recruitment
 - Skillbridge is the DoD program to facilitate post-military employment and internship opportunities for exiting servicemembers of all components
- \$750K per fiscal year to Kentucky Vets for Hyperbaric Chamber Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) treatment for veterans, administered through the KDVA budget

DoD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) priorities are listed here:

- https://defensecommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2023KeyIssuesTwoPageFlyer_20220706.pdf
- <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/#priorities-report>

State legislative successes over the years include the following:

Tax and Financial

- Military Pay Exempt from State Income Tax
 - Provides a military pay exemption from KY income tax received by active duty, reserve components of Armed Forces and member of National Guard, including compensation for state active duty. (KRS 141.010 (10) (u))
- Prohibition of patriot penalties in insurance
 - Prohibits insurers from refusing to issue a policy of motor vehicle liability insurance, or imposing an additional premium, solely because the person is uninsured if, during the period the person was without insurance, the person was on military service and absent from the Commonwealth; require insurers to inquire about military service upon application for insurance; provide penalties for insurers who demonstrate a willful pattern of noncompliance. (KRS Chapter 304, Subtitle 20)
- Discharge Papers Recorded with County Clerk
 - Requires discharge papers recorded with the county clerk shall not be public records subject to public disclosure. (See KRS 422.090)
- Notaries Public Fee Exemption
 - Remove fee exemptions for members of the National Guard, Reserve, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. (KRS 64.300)
- Probate Fee Exemption
 - Exempts estate probate fees for any regular member of the Armed Forces. (KRS 61.315)
- Tax Increment Financing Provisions for Project Developments Surround Military Base
 - Provides tax increment financing for mixed-use development located within three miles of a military base that houses, deploys, or employs any combination of at least twenty-five thousand military personnel, their families, military retirees or civilian employees. (KRS 65.7051 & 65.7053)
- Property Tax Exemption for Service-Connected Total Disabled Veteran

- Provides homestead exemption on an annual basis for a service-connected totally disabled veteran. (KRS 132.810)
- Kentucky State Park Overnight Accommodations Rate Exempted
 - Exempts overnight accommodations rate at any KY State Park for KY veteran residents who are permanently and totally disabled (KRS Chapter 148)
- Kentucky State Parks offers a military discount for active and retired Service members
 - Type in discount code “USA” when booking online November through March for deals on lodge rooms and cottages (15% lodging discount)
- Guard Member Injured on State Active Duty
 - Requires Guard Members temporary or permanently disabled as a direct result of an injury or disease arising out of the performance of an act in the line of duty as a result of state active duty, at the discretion of the Governor, remain on paid state active duty status until a competent medical authority releases them to return to their normal activities or the Governor deems it appropriate to relieve the individual from state active duty status. (KRS 38.030)
- Auto Insurance Discount Military Defense Driving Course
 - Approves insurance reduction for military members who take a defensive driving class from US Armed Forces. (KRS 304.13-063)
- Motorcycle Endorsement for Operator's License
 - Allows military personnel stationed outside Kentucky to submit documentation to obtain a motorcycle endorsement on an existing operator's license through mail or electronically (KRS 186.416)
- State Income Tax Exemption Death on Line of Duty
 - Excludes all income from all sources for active duty and reserve members killed in the line of duty, for the year during occurred and the year prior. Specifically exempts all federal and state death benefits payable to the estate or any beneficiaries from state income tax. (KRS 141.010)
- Birth & Death Certificate Copies Fees Waived for Within 60 Days of Deployment
 - Require state registrar to furnish birth and death certificates for free under certain circumstances for current and past members of Armed Forces and Kentucky NG (KRS 213.141)
- Income Tax Return Extension for Service in Combat Zone
 - Extends state income tax filing for service in a combat zone without penalty. (KRS Chapter 141.175)
- Compensation for State Active Duty
 - Receives pay at the same rate as active duty Armed Forces. (KRS 38.205)

Economic Development

- Built-to-Suit Lease supporting Defense-Related Business Growth
 - Enhances defense-related business growth by allowing the KY Commissioner of the Dept for Facilities Management, on behalf of the Dept for Military Affairs, to award a built-to-suit lease. (KRS Chapter 45A)

Professional Licensing

- Creation of academic career pathways and integrated academic bridge programs to prepare military healthcare personnel for licensure in various (27) healthcare-related fields (KRS 164.2846)
 - Targets 27 fields with some amount of medical exposure/training are targeted for inclusion, including: 1. Infantryman; 2. Hospital Corpsman; 3. Biomedical Equipment

Specialist; 4. Orthopedic Specialist; 5. Practical Nursing Specialist; 6. Operating Room Specialist; 7. Dental Specialist; 8. Physical Therapy Specialist; 9. Patient Administration Specialist; 10. Optical Laboratory Specialist; 11. Medical Logistics Specialist; 12. Medical Laboratory Specialist; 13. Occupational Therapist Specialist; 14. Nutrition Care Specialist; 15. Cardiovascular Specialist; 16. Radiology Specialist; 17. Pharmacy Specialist; 18. Veterinarian Food Inspection Specialist; 19. Preventive Medicine Specialist; 20. Animal Care Specialist; 21. Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Specialist; 22. Respiratory Specialist; 23. Combat Medic Specialist; 24. Behavioral Health Specialist; 25. Eye Specialist; 26. Independent Duty Medical Technician; and 27. Aerospace Medical Technician. (KRS Chapter 164)

- Occupational License Reciprocity
 - Service members, veterans, and their spouses can easily transfer their out-of-state professional licenses to Kentucky, in alignment with (and beyond) the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. (KRS 12.245)
- Reciprocity under the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the rights and conditions of qualified school teachers. (KRS Chapter 161)
- Reciprocity under the Cosmetology Licensure Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the rights and conditions of licensed cosmetology professionals. (KRS Chapter 64)
- Reciprocity under the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the rights and conditions of a psychologist licensed in the compact to practice telepsychology. (KRS Chapter 319)
- Reciprocity under the Licensed Professional Counseling Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the a multistate licensure right to practice for Licensed Professional counselors. (KRS Chapter 127)
- Reciprocity under the Occupational Therapist Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the rights and conditions of licensed occupational therapists. (KRS Chapter 164)
- Reciprocity under the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing a multistate licensure privilege to practice for audiologists and speech-language pathologists. (KRS Chapter 334A.010)
- Reciprocity under the Nurse Licensure Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the rights and conditions of licensed nurses. (KRS Chapter 314)
- Reciprocity under the Social Work Licensure Compact
 - DOD priority compact recognizing the rights and conditions of social workers. (KRS Chapter 335, passed March 2024)
- Application of military service toward the licensing of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning professionals
 - Applies military experience toward obtaining a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning license and allows a 60-day grace period after the expiration of the license for the licensee to continue to practice and apply for renewal. (KRS 198B.664)
- Provisional Teaching Certificate
 - Allows a veteran with a bachelor's degree in any area to be issued a provisional teaching certificate if other criteria are met. (KRS 161.010)
- Certification for Military Training and Service to Firefighter

KCMA Kentucky Defense Activity Report February 2026

- Develops procedures for accepting military training and service toward firefighter certification. (KRS Chapter 95A)
- Reciprocity for Emergency Medical Technician
 - Directs the Board of Emergency Medical Services to allow direct reciprocity for initial KY certification as an emergency medical technician for members of the US military. (KRS Chapter 311A)
- Automatic Extension of Professional Licensure and Certification
 - Grants any professional license or certificate renewal without payment of fees or obtaining continuing education to active duty military personnel. (KRS Chapter 12)
- Military Spouse Professional Licensure and Certification
 - Grants any professionally licensed or certified spouse of active duty military personnel transferred to KY issued a six-month temporary license. (KRS Chapter 12)
- Military Spouse Assistance
 - Assist spouse of military personnel obtaining professional and occupational licenses by posting information on KY DMA website. All state agencies and credentialing boards shall assist KY DMA. (KRS 36.480)
- Continuing Education Requirements Exempted for Licensed Engineers
 - Grants waiver during Armed Forces deployments on continuing education requirements for engineer licenses. (KRS 322.160)
- Alternative Teacher Certification
 - Creates an alternative teaching certification for veterans of Armed Forces to teach elementary, secondary and secondary vocational educational education levels. (KRS 161.048)

Education (K-12)

- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
 - Establishes Kentucky into an Interstate Commission Compact in agreement to provide oversight relating to educational opportunities for active duty and civilian military children. (KRS Chapter 156.730)
 - Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), including the Kentucky State Council, managed by KCMA, which meets annually and maintains all necessary standards/actions
 - DOD Civilian Employees Added to Educational Opportunity for Military Children in 2008 (KRS 156.735)
 - Children of National Guard and Reserve personnel added within the rights granted under that compact in 200 (KRS 156.735)
- State Director of Army Instruction Office, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps
 - Creation of the State Director of Army Instruction Office, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Kentucky Department of Education Division of Student Transition and Career Readiness, Office of Career and Technical Education (2024) to manage state Army JROTC programs in coordination with the U.S. Army Cadet Command at Fort Knox
 - Creation of a Kentucky Purple Star Schools ribbon for Army JROTC cadets in participating Purple Star Schools (2025)
- School Enrollment Protection for Transferring Reservists (aka "The Dean Stoops Bill")
 - Include parents or guardians who are transferring to a reserve component or separating from the military under honorable conditions; include a home under contract to be built as a qualifying residence; allow qualifying students to temporarily reside outside of

district if the housing is unavailable and be included in the attending district's average daily attendance. (KRS 159.075)

- Military Service Excused Absences
 - Allow any high school student participating in basic training required by a branch of United States Armed Forces to be considered present for all purposes for up to ten days. (KRS 159.035)
- K-12 Students of Civilian-Military Employees Equal Education Rights
 - Provides students of civilian-military employees the same rights as students of military families if the parents are required to move to perform their job responsibilities, resulting in the students changing schools. (KRS Chapter 156; 156.730)
- Pre-Enrollment for K-12 Students
 - Allows military children whose families are transferring to Kentucky on official orders to be pre-enrolled in a school district before obtaining a permanent address. Allows for remote enrollment. (KRS Chapter 159)
- Kentucky Virtual Academy
 - Offers online schooling options with consistent curriculum and accessibility for military students (HB 9, 2024)
 - <https://kyva.k12.com/resources/military-family-support/>
- Students Excused Absences to Visit Military Parent on Leave Deployment
 - Permits excused absences for up to twelve days to visit a parent or legal guardian serving in the US military, stationed out of the country, and on leave granted by the military. (KRS 159.035)
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
 - Students of civilian-military employees shall be afforded the same rights as students of military families if the parents are required to move to perform their job responsibilities resulting in the students having to change schools. Includes the National Guard, Reserve and DOD employees. (KRS 156.730)
- K-12 Open enrollment flexibility
 - Passed in 2024; KRS 159.075
- Awards High School Diploma to Veterans of World War II, Korean, or Vietnam Conflict
- Educational Excellence Scholarship Awards
 - Permits a student attending an out-of-state high school while parents are serving in US military, and who maintains KY as their home of record to qualify for KY educational excellence scholarship awards. (KRS 164.7879)
- High Schools Must Grant Student Access and Information
 - Requires KY high schools to provide access to campuses and student directory information for official recruiting of US Armed Forces, KY Air National Guard, and KY Army National Guard. (KRS 160.725)
- Kentucky Purple Star Schools Program
 - Voluntary program managed through the Commission on Military Affairs with the assistance of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Department of Education to enable K-12 schools to train and support counseling capabilities and programs for military connected students. (KRS Chapter 160)

Higher Education

- Maintaining post-secondary education residency

- Allows service members, spouses, and dependents who are accepted to or enrolled in a Kentucky public post-secondary institution to keep residency status if the service member is required to move on official orders
- In-State Tuition Waivers for Kentucky National Guard
 - Allows Kentucky public universities to charge in-state tuition to any active member of the Kentucky National Guard. (KRS 164.2844)
- Tuition waivers for United States Military Reserve Component
 - Allows KY public universities to charge in-tuition to members of any United States Reserve component. (KRS 164.2844)
- Protection for Earned KEES Funding
 - Allows students forced to transfer from a Kentucky school due to military service to return to Kentucky and use their earned KEES funding from prior years. (KRS 164.7879)
- Tuition waivers for adopted children who serve in the military
 - Extends the five-year tuition waiver eligibility period for adopted children who serve in the military if military service proceeds attending higher education institution. (KRS 164.2847)
- Tuition Benefit for Non-KY Residents on Post 9/11 GI Bill
 - Allows KY public universities to charge in-state tuition to veterans who are non-KY residents if that veteran qualifies under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. (KRS Chapter 164; 164.020(8))
- Tuition Exemption Spouse & Children of Deceased, Disabled, POW/MIA
 - Allows a tuition and fee waiver to a spouse or student under the age of 26 of a permanently deceased KY veteran, disabled Guard member, war veteran, POW or MIA for state-supported colleges, universities or vocational training schools. (KRS 164.507; 164.515)
- Tuition Waiver for Disabled Child of Veteran
 - Allows child of a veteran who acquired a disability as a direct result of veteran's service receive a tuition waiver at state-supported university, college, or vocational training institute. (KRS 164.512)
- Exemption from Matriculation or Tuition Fee
 - Exempts dependents, widow, or widower of members of the Armed Forces or of members of the National Guard killed while in service or having died as a result of a service-connected disability or having died as a result of a service-connected disability. (KRS 164.505)
- Students Called to Active Duty
 - Requires a student called to federal military active duty shall not be discriminated against for absence and credit with academic work accomplished and given reasonable time to make up work. Expands (KRS 38.470)
- KY National Guard Tuition Award Program
 - Allows Guard members in good standing pay tuition up to in-state, rather than full-time tuition rate. (KRS 164.5169; 10 6 KAR 3:010)

Family Support

- Membership in the DOD Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS program
 - Provides a reimbursement stipend up to \$1,500 a month for child care for military parents utilizing a qualifying child care center
- Fort Campbell and Fort Knox School Liaison Officer Program
 - Aides military families with local school district needs

- <https://knox.armymwr.com/programs/school-liaison-officer>
- Adoption Assistance
 - Establishes the KY National Guard Adoption Assistance Program to allow money in the military family assistance trust fund for adoption assistance. (KRS Chapter 36; KRS 36.474)
- National Guard Life Insurance Program
 - Outstanding family benefits program operated by the National Guard Association of Kentucky; placed under the control and protection of the Adjutant General (KRS Chapter 38)
- National Guard Youth Challenge Program
 - Creates a Youth Challenge Division within Department of Military Affairs. (KRS 36.010, CY2000)
 - Aligns the Kentucky National Guard Youth Challenge Program for challenged teens with high school requirements in coordination with the Kentucky Department of Education. (KRS Chapter 36.042, CY2023)
- Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act
 - Adopted national standard for military parent protection during deployments. (KRS Chapter 403A)
- Military Family Assistance Trust Fund
 - Grants eligibility to military personnel and their families through military family assistance trust funding; administrative authority provided by KY Dept Veterans Affairs. (KRS 36.474; 106 KAR 2:020; Trust Fund established in 2006, eligibility significantly expanded in 2024)
- State Service Members, Veterans and Their Families (SMVF) Behavioral Health Initiative
 - Program managed through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
 - Goal is to strengthen the statewide behavioral health care systems and services for SMVF through ongoing collaboration at the federal, state and local levels
 - <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/sud/smvf>
- Military Spouse Unemployment Benefits
 - Prohibits disqualification for unemployment benefits for a worker who leaves the job to follow a military spouse who has been reassigned to another military base or duty location 100 miles or more from the worker's home. (KRS 341.370)
- Death Benefits
 - Creates a death benefit of \$80,000, paid by KY for the family of a member of the National Guard or Reserve who dies on federal active duty. (KRS 61.315)
- Veterans' Program Trust Fund
 - Established the Veterans Program Trust Fund to be managed by Ky Dept Veterans Affairs directing funding to projects and programs that help KY Veterans for which other funds are not available. (KRS 40.310(3); 40.450)
- Financial Housing Assistance for Deployed Families
 - Aides military personnel during active duty employment outside of the United States by providing assistance with housing costs and services
 - <https://www.kyhousing.org/Homeownership/Current-Homeowners/Pages/Military-Housing-Assistance.aspx>

Government Operations

- Uniform Military and Overseas Voting Act

- Improves military access to voting by allowing military and overseas citizens to register to vote and update their registration online, ensuring that military and overseas voters have sufficient time to vote in special elections and extend existing protections to state and local elections and National Guard members. Allowing voting ballots to be transmitted to the military via the Internet, but not returned electronically; Creating a task force to consider other improvements to military and overseas voting procedures. (KRS Chapter 117A)
- Kentucky a Purple Heart State
 - Declares a formal recognition and honor for those Kentuckians who have been wounded or killed in the service of our country by being engaged in combat with an enemy force while protecting our freedom. (SCR 19, CY2013)
- Kentucky Code of Military Justice
 - Updates the KY National Guard's KCMJ- based on the national Model State Code of Military Justice that was developed by the National Guard Bureau, modified to comply with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of KY. (created 1954/updated 1986, 2016; KRS Chapter 35)
- Child Abuse Case Reporting to Military Installations
 - Requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to determine the military status of any parent or guardian subject to an investigation and to notify a Department of Defense family advocacy program of an investigation involving a member of the U.S. Armed Forces (KRS Chapter 620)
- Modification to Firefighter Work Schedules
 - Permits specified fire personnel employed at Fort Campbell, Fort Knox and by the Kentucky National Guard/Department of Military Affairs to have schedules of 48 hours on duty followed by 96 hours off duty; allows for collective bargaining. (KRS Chapter 95.500)
- Certification for Military Training and Service to Firefighter
 - Develops procedures for accepting military training and service toward firefighter certification. (KRS 95A.90)

Housing

- Property Valuation Paperwork Exemption
 - Exempts Veterans of the US Armed Forces with a one hundred percent service-connected disability from having to file paperwork with Property Valuation Administrators annually. (KRS 132.810)
- Housing Grants
 - Provides KY Housing Corporation grants to reduce principal and interest payments on a mortgage or rental payable by Guard or Reserve member with KY Home of Record during member's deployment on active duty outside of the country. Requires KY DMA to provide spouses with website tools such as educational, technical and ombudsman services to maintain mortgage during federal active duty. (KRS 198A.040)

Motor Vehicle Licensing

- Exempt military in Kentucky from the state driver's license requirement
 - Exempts the KY operator's license requirement for a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, their spouse, and dependent child who hold a valid driver's license from another state when they are assigned to KY but maintain a permanent residence elsewhere. (KRS 186.430)
- Veteran Designation on Operator Licenses and Personal Identification Cards

- Adds a veteran designation on KY operator's licenses and identification cards; requiring an applicant to present an original or copy of his or her DD-214 form. (KRS 186.416)
- Specialty License Plates
 - Kentucky specialty license plates include Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star (with and without valor), Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Combat Action Badge, Combat Infantry Badge (KRS 186.164)
- Drivers Licensing for 17-Year-Olds Enlisted in Military
 - Exempts 17-year-olds who have enlisted in the military from the requirement to obtain an intermediate license. (KRS 186.415 plus more in KRS 186.400 to 186.650, 186.412, 186.450, 186.452, 186.454)
- Commercial Driver's License Waiver
 - Waiver of the commercial driver's skill test for military service members who have recent experience operating commercial-sized motor vehicles. (KRS 281A & 281A.130)

Public Employees

- Veterans Preference for Position in Urban-County Governments
 - Requires employing urban-county governments to expand civil service hiring preference to include veterans who served during the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. (KRS 67A.240)
- Veterans Preference for Positions in State Governments
 - Requires employing state agencies to offer an interview to all eligible veteran and spouse of veteran finalists (no more than 5) entitled to preference points (KRS 18A.150)
- Veterans Preference for Law Enforcement Officers
 - All other qualifications being equal, preference shall be given to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war, who were honorably discharged. (KRS 16.040)
- Military to Law Enforcement
 - The goal of M-2-LE is two-part
 - First, to create an effective and efficient means to recruit and train active duty military personnel interested in starting a law enforcement career within Kentucky
 - Secondly, to incentivize and create financial and expedited hiring benefits to our law enforcement and support agencies who choose to hire veterans
 - Administered by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council
- Interview Preference for Spouses
 - Extends interview preference for state employment opportunities to spouses and dependants of service members and veterans if they meet the minimum requirements
- State Employees Excused One Day for Deployments & One Day for Returned Spouses
 - Authorizes spouse of an active service member, including the National Guard or Reserve members on active duty orders, (1) day off paid leave upon deployment and (1) day off upon returns from deployment. (KRS 18A.190)
- Military Leave for State Employees
 - Grants 21 days annually to include employees of state, counties, cities, school districts. (KRS 61.394; 61.396 Personnel Memo 06-16)
- Teachers, Principals etc. Benefits during Deployment
 - Permits a Board of Education to provide a leave of absence to a member of a state National Guard or a Reserve component ordered to active duty. (KRS 161.168; 161.507 (4) (b))
- Purchase Service Credit for Military Time in Retirement Systems

- Permits vested employee may purchase one month of credit for every six months served in the National Guard or Reserves. Similar provisions for teachers' retirement system. (KERS, CERS KRS 61.555; KRS 6.515 (2) Judicial KRS 21.370(4) (A) (2) Teachers KRS 161.507)
- State Employee Rehire Rights
 - Kentucky public employees who leave their position to voluntarily or involuntarily serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and receives an honorable discharge must be rehired to their former position, or a position of equal seniority, status, pay and any other rights or benefits (KRS 61.373)

Hunting and Weapons Licensing

- Concealed Deadly Weapon Licensing Training Requirements Waived
 - Allows honorably discharged veterans to waive training requirements for a concealed deadly weapons license with proper documentation. (KRS 237.110)
- Concealed Carry License
 - Allows military firearms training to meet the firearms training requirement to obtain a concealed carry license. (KRS 237.110)
- Hunting & Fishing License Exemption on any Military Property
 - Exempts any member of the US Armed Forces based in KY from having to obtain a hunting or fishing license on any military property belonging to KY. (KRS 150.170)
- Kentucky Resident Service Members Exempt from Having Hunting or Fishing Licenses While on Leave for three or more days
 - <https://fw.ky.gov/Licenses/Pages/License-Requirements-and-Exemptions-for-Hunting.aspx>
- Concealed Deadly Weapon Licensing Extension
 - Extends concealed deadly weapon licensing without late fees or other penalties for military personnel within 90 days after the end of a deployment. (KRS 36.450; 237.110)

Veterans

- Bowling Green Veterans Center funding
 - Allocated \$16,630,000 in State Fiscal Years 2022-2023 to the construction of the Bowling Green Veterans Center nursing home
- No State Residency Requirement for Veterans Cemeteries
 - Intent is to support veterans from surrounding states and with Kentucky ties (KRS 40.315)
- Disabled Veteran-Owned Business
 - Provides for a disabled veteran-owned business certification program and requires the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Contract Compliance to establish guidelines for the certification program and application process. (KRS Chapter 42)
- Veteran at Risk Alert
 - Adds a veteran at risk to those included in a "Golden Alert"; allowing any agency searching for a veteran at risk to refer to the "Golden Alert" as a "Green Alert" (KRS 39F.180)
- Disposition of the Military Descendant's Remains
 - Allows the person designation by the descendant on the US DoD Record of Emergency Data, DD Form 93, or its successor form, to have authority and responsibility for the disposition of the military decedent's remains. (KRS Chapter 36.440)
- Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

- Creation of plaque honoring KY Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. (KRS Chapter 42)
- Protection of Medal of Honor Recipients Plaque
 - Requires the Department of Kentucky State Police to provide personal protection to Medal of Honor recipients who are Kentucky residents attending any public event or ceremony to which they have received an invitation Creation of plaque honoring KY Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. (KRS Chapter 42.435)
- Pretrial Screening Combat Veterans
 - Requires pretrial investigations and services to ask whether an individual has been in combat and, if so, provide contact information to services available for combat veterans; and an opportunity to connect with Kentucky NG Family Services program. (KRS 431.515)
- Kentucky National Guard Benefit Program for Returned Deployment, Physical & Mental
 - Institutes a program to assist KY National Guard members returning from deployment overseas with physical and mental conditions. Costs shared by Kentucky NG and KDVA. (KRS Chapter 40)
- Kentucky Medal for Freedom
 - Establishes the KY Medal for Freedom award for soldiers killed on or after 7 October 2001, who had ties to KY. Per amendment Year 2013, eligibility criteria was broadened to allow members of the US Armed Forces Active Duty, a state National Guard, or a Reserve Component who were buried in KY on or after July 15, 2008, and have a surviving spouse, parent, or next available family member who is a KY resident. The KY Dept Veterans Affairs manages the program and receives funds from the Veterans' Program Trust Fund. (KRS 40.353)
- Kentucky Wounded or Disabled Veterans Program
 - Establishes the KY Wounded or Disabled Veterans Program within the KY Dept Veterans Affairs to ease the transition from active service for wounded or disabled veterans and ensure they receive federal, state, and private benefits to which they are entitled. (KRS Chapter 40.353)
- Criminalize Disorderly Conduct at Funeral
 - Requires military burial rights to be distributed and criminalizes disorderly conduct at a funeral. (KRS 213.076; 525.055)
- Military Burial Honors
 - Establishes a burial honor guard program for veteran's funerals. (KRS Chapter 40.360)
- Indigent Veteran's Burial Program
 - Establishes an Indigent Veteran's Burial Program. (KRS Chapter 40.355)
- State Veteran Cemeteries
 - Requires the KY Department of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain state veteran cemeteries. (KRS Chapter 40.315)
- Expansion to all National Guard of State Veteran Cemeteries Eligibility
 - Amend KRS 40.315 to expand interment eligibility in Kentucky state veterans' cemeteries to include eligible National Guard and Reserve service members and their families. (KRS 40.315)
- Kentucky Retired Veterans Day
 - Designates July 1 of each year as KY Retired Veteran's Day (KRS Chapter 2.157)
- Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

KCMA Kentucky Defense Activity Report February 2026

- Designate March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the Commonwealth. (KRS Chapter 2.159)
- World War One Centennial Day
 - Designate April 6, 2017, as the World War One Centennial Day throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. (HCR 59, 2017)
- Korean War Armistice Day
 - July 27 each year. (KRS Chapter 2.158)
- Kentucky National Guard Day
 - June 24th each year. (KRS 2.155)

Miscellaneous

- Kentucky Urban Search & Rescue Program
 - Established in 2023 under the Department of Military Affairs' Division of Emergency Management, creating a state capability to ensure rapid response versus reaching out to neighboring states for support (KRS Chapter 39A.245)
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
 - Requires the Finance and Administration Cabinet to set aside a minimum of 3% of the value of all state contracts for good and services for service-disabled-veteran-owned small businesses. (KRS Chapter 45A)
- Employment at Veterans' Nursing Homes
 - Permit the Executive Director of the Office of Kentucky Veterans' Centers to contract to hire licensed nursing staff at the state veterans' nursing homes and exempt nursing contracts from the definition of "personal service contracts". (KRS Chapter 45A)
- Student Loan Repayment for Nurses
 - Creates a student loan repayment program for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who will be employed by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs
- Military Spouse Unemployment Benefits
 - Prohibits disqualification for unemployment benefits for a worker who leaves a job to follow a military spouse who has been reassigned to another military base or duty location that is 100 miles or more from the worker's home.
- Termination or suspension of select services without fees
 - Allows service members who receive orders requiring relocation (for a minimum of 90 days) to terminate or suspend select services without penalty fees or proper notice (KRS 367.550)
- Federal Peace Officers U.S. Mint Fort Knox
 - Grants Kentucky peace officer powers to the United States Mint Police under specified conditions. (KRS 61.365)
- Right to Drill or Parade with Arms
 - Permits veteran service organizations and reenactment participants to drill or parade with arms. (KRS 38.440)
- Stolen Valor
 - Establishes the offense of misuse of military status and makes it a Class A misdemeanor when used for the purpose of direct or indirect monetary gain, and with intent to defraud, obtain employment, or be elected or appointed to public office. (KRS 434.444)
- Armed Forces Protected from Dishonest Insurance Marketing and Sales Practices
 - Authorizes regulations to protect service members of the US Armed Forces from dishonest insurance marketing and sales practices. (See KRS Chap 304.12-257)
- Liability Insurance on State Active Duty

- Authorizes The Adjutant General to purchase liability insurance for members called to state active duty. (See KRS 38.490)
- Employer Must Grant Military Leave
 - Requires employer must grant leave for National Guard active duty or training. Re-employment rights. (See KRS 38.238)
- Legal Representation against Guard Members or Businesses
 - Grants Attorney General representation for Guard member on duty who does any act in line of duty causing civil court action. (KRS 38.240)
- Peace Officer Powers on State Active Duty
 - Entitles Guard members on state active duty deemed peace officers if Governor specifies in executive order. (KRS 38.480)
- Guard Members Exempted From Tolls
 - Permits going to or returning from authorized duty in uniform or written order. (KRS 38.430; 600 KAR 2:020)
- Immunity from Arrest on State Active Duty
 - Immunity from Guard member arrested, except in case of a felony, going to, at, or returning from state active duty. (KRS 38.480 (2))
- No Discrimination against Guard Members or Businesses
 - Prohibits depriving a Guard member employment or obstruct business or profession based on Guard membership or prevent from enlisting by threatening job action. (See KRS 38.460)

XIV. Department of Defense (DOD) Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO)

Kentucky does an excellent job working with DSLO to prioritize the needs of military personnel and families in Kentucky.

During 2026, the Department will focus on eleven priorities for warrior development, readiness, and military family well-being where states can make significant contributions:

Ensuring Military Family Agility, Opportunity and Stability

- **Military Exigency Clause in Family Leave Laws (New)**
 - States can ensure family leave laws include provisions for military-specific needs like deployments, training, and transitions. This enables readiness by reducing family stress during critical mission periods.
- **Military Spouse Employment Preference (Approved 2024)**
 - Military spouses in the civilian work force have a 20% unemployment rate, which adversely impacts military family economic security. States can assist in bolstering military families by enacting state laws that permit state and local governments and private industry to offer hiring and procurement references for military spouses, recognizing the need to combat military spouse unemployment rates and supporting the financial well-being of military families.
- **Military Community Representation on State Defense Councils (Approved 2024)**
 - The unique needs of military families may go unheard without representation on state-level advisory bodies focused on the defense community. States can establish statewide military

defense-focused councils that consider military family readiness and dedicate one or more seats to members of the military community.

- **Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts (Approved 2017)**
 - 35% of military spouses require an occupational license to work in their chosen profession. Licensure compacts create seamless licensure portability for all members of a profession, including military spouses and service members. By adopting licensure compacts, states can improve military family financial readiness.

Supporting the Warfighter on the Homefront

- **Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements (New)**
 - States have a valuable opportunity to facilitate improved local implementation of policies designed to support military-connected children and ensure families are empowered with the knowledge they need by clarifying requirements, enhancing communication efforts, and streamlining access to information on state and local education websites.
- **State Solutions for Military Homeschoolers (New)**
 - Military families homeschool their children at nearly twice the rate of civilian families and face unique challenges associated with military life. State policies that streamline homeschool requirements, expand access to educational resources such as extracurricular activities and sports, and clarify participation requirements for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) can contribute to greater stability for military families, which supports retention efforts.
- **State Support of Military Families with Special Educational Needs (Approved 2024)**
 - Highly mobile children, including military children, are more likely to experience recurring educational disruptions and challenges accessing special education services, particularly those who need access to special education and related services. States can assist military families by ensuring timely establishment of services upon relocation and reducing procedural burdens.
- **State Exemption for DoD Family Child Care Homes (Approved 2023)**
 - In many cases, in-home child care providers who live off a military installation must be licensed by both the state and the Defense Department, even when only caring for eligible DoD-affiliated children. By exempting in-home child care providers certified by the DoD from state licensure requirements, states can improve access to family child care for military families.
- **Open Enrollment Flexibility (Approved 2022)**
 - Military families can be disadvantaged in school enrollment options for their children due to military-directed moves. States can assist by increasing military-connected students' access to schooling options, allowing them to remain in their current school placement despite a relocation from temporary to permanent housing, and including them within existing enrollment prioritization systems.

Upholding Warrior Standards and Force Integrity

- **State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence (Approved 2023)**
 - Interpersonal violence is a pattern of harmful behavior in which one person uses various forms of abuse to assert power and control over another. States can further protect victims of interpersonal violence by enhancing statutes that increase accessibility to civilian

protection orders for victims and mandating reciprocal information sharing between military and civilian law enforcement authorities.

- **Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction (Approved 2022)**
 - Military installations subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction often handle juvenile offenses through the federal system, which has no established juvenile justice system. Adopting policies that facilitate concurrent jurisdiction between the state and military installation opens the door to the state juvenile justice system and resources, offering improved opportunities for rehabilitation tailored to address juveniles.

To accommodate the new priorities on this list, we consolidated several previous education issues and moved previously approved priorities to the emeritus status. The DSLO continues work on the emeritus issues on an ad hoc basis, or as requested by states:

- **Remote Driver's License and Vehicle Registration Renewal (Approved 2024)**
 - Forty-three states now allow Service members and their families to remotely renew driver's licenses and vehicle registrations when Service members are assigned out of state, and there is one more state with active legislation.
- **Legal Protections for Military Families (Approved 2024)**
 - Twelve states have included military dependent safeguards in other areas of law where veterans are protected.
- **Defining Armed Forces in State Policy (Approved 2023)**
 - Forty-three states have clearly defined "armed forces" in state policy, which includes the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard, and there are five more states with active legislation.
- **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting (Approved 2013)**
 - Federal law requires the Defense Department to request reports of child abuse and neglect involving military families when such incidents occur off a military installation. Thirty-six states have assisted military authorities by enacting state laws that require child protective service entities to report such cases to the military at the onset of their investigations.

State officials consistently seek validation from commanders on the importance of these issues. Our approach recognizes that effective policy implementation requires DoD and states to build solutions that work for both military families and state governments.

Kentucky notes:

- Child abuse identification and reporting
 - Kentucky passed HB 453 (Johnson) in 2024, requiring the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to determine the military status of any parent or guardian subject to an investigation and to notify a Department of Defense family advocacy program of an investigation involving a member of the United States Armed Forces.
- Open enrollment flexibility
 - The Kentucky Department of Education is fully on board; our state law (HB 471, 2024 session) is among the best

DSLO Recent Emeritus Priorities:

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/state/KY/emeritus>

- Purple Star Schools program

- Officially began in Kentucky in 2021; adopted by state law in 2024
- Collegiate Program pending for the 2026 session (requires funding, must be done in an even-numbered year)
- Military Spouse Teacher Certification
 - The Kentucky Department of Education has an alternative teaching certification for veterans of Armed Forces to teach elementary, secondary and secondary vocational educational education levels. (KRS 161.048)
 - Kentucky is not a member of Troops to Teachers; only active in 22 states
- Veteran Hiring Protection
 - House Bill 164 passed in 2015
- Servicemember Licensure and Credit
 - House Bill 113 passed in 2017
- Virtual School Enrollment
 - Adopted by HB 471 in 2024; practice already in place by the Kentucky Department of Education
- In-State Tuition Continuity
 - House Bill 356 passed in 2019

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sarah Stein, Director, DoD Federal and State Legislative Resource Office, at 703-614-7128 or sarah.k.stein4.civ@mail.mil. Discussion Points, Best Practices, and the status of all of the DoD's priorities in each state can be found at <https://state.policy.militaryonesource.mil>.

XV. Conclusion

This report documented the nearly \$15.4 billion in direct payments in Kentucky in 2021-2022, through direct payrolls to military personnel and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians/contractors, through DoD contracts with companies around the state, and through retirement and veterans' benefits from the U.S. Veterans Administration. It also provided a detailed look at Kentucky's military community, from installations and major military units to community support to legislative support. Without a doubt, investment in military and veterans' activities provides a major economic benefit to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Steven P. Bullard, Executive Director

Questions or comments concerning this report should be directed to the KCMA Executive Director, at (502) 564-2611 or steven.bullard@ky.gov.

Appendix A: Biography of KCMA Executive Director



BRIGADIER GENERAL (RETIRED) STEVEN P. BULLARD

Steven P. Bullard, Brigadier General, U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard (Retired), works with and advises the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Kentucky Congressional Delegation on military matters. In his position as the Executive Director, he strives to maximize the Commonwealth's relationship with the Department of Defense, spur economic growth across the State, and improve the quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families. Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bullard was appointed as Executive Director, Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs; and Commissioner of Kentucky's State Council for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission on 16 August 2019.

As the Commissioner of Kentucky's State Council on the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), he advocates for the educational success of our military children. Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bullard is the Commonwealth's voice on circumstances pertaining to military children as they transition from one state/country to another, working to keep the educational process as seamless as possible. In addition, he serves on the MIC3 national executive committee as compliance committee chair.

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bullard is a member of the following: The Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs Executive Committee, Governor's Advisory Board for Veterans Affairs, the Kentucky Emergency Response Commission, and the Military Heritage Commission. He serves as co-chair of the State Advisor Council for the Association of Defense Communities.

Bullard served in the military for 33 years, with both Air National Guard and active duty Air Force assignments. During his career, General Bullard participated in Operations Desert Shield, Provide Promise, Restore Hope, Joint Endeavor, Joint Forge, Southern Watch, Bright Star, Coronet Oak, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

He held multiple leadership and staff positions, including Director of Mobility Forces and Joint Air Component Coordination Element (JACCE) staff for the Commander, 7th Air Force, Osan Air Base, South Korea; NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Senior Airfield Authority of Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan; and Chief of Operations for the Joint Intelligence and Operations Center, Headquarters, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Most recently, Bullard served as Chief of Staff for the Kentucky Air National Guard and Deputy Director of the Joint Staff of the Kentucky National Guard. He also has extensive experience in legislative affairs, representing the military and the manufacturing industry. He is the author of the book *Afghan Command, NATO/ISAF Senior Airfield Authority at Kandahar, Afghanistan 2006-2007*.

Appendix B: Statutory Authority of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs
Enacted July 14, 1992

154.12-203 Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs

(1) There is created the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs. The commission shall be a separate administrative body of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12.

(2) It shall be the purpose of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs to:

- (a) Address matters of military significance to Kentucky;
- (b) Maintain a cooperative and constructive relationship between state agencies and the military entities in Kentucky, as necessary to ensure coordination and implementation of unified, comprehensive, statewide strategies involved with, or affected by, the military;
- (c) Advise the Governor, the General Assembly, the Kentucky congressional delegation, and other appropriate government officials on all matters in which the military services and the Commonwealth have mutual interests, needs, and concerns;
- (d) Take action to promote and optimize state and Department of Defense initiatives that will improve the military value of Kentucky's National Guard, active, and reserve military force structure and installations, and improve the quality of life for military personnel residing in the Commonwealth;
- (e) (f) Coordinate, as necessary, the state's interest in future Department of Defense base closure and restructuring activities; Recommend state, federal, and local economic development projects which would promote, foster, and support economic progress through military presence in the Commonwealth; (g) Promote and assist the private sector in developing spin-off investments, employment, and educational opportunities associated with high-technology programs and activities at Kentucky's military installations;
- (h) Recommend to the Kentucky Economic Development Partnership the longrange options and potential for the defense facilities located in Kentucky;
- (i) Develop strategies to encourage military personnel to retire and relocate in Kentucky and promote those leaving the military as a viable quality workforce for economic development and industrial recruitment; and
- (j) Allocate available grant money to qualified applicants to further the purposes of paragraphs (a) to (i) of this subsection.

(3) The Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs shall consist of:

- (a) The Governor or a designated representative;
- (b) The secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development or a designated representative;
- (c) The adjutant general of the Commonwealth or a designated representative;
- (d) The executive director of the Office of Homeland Security or a designated representative;
- (e) The secretaries of the following cabinets or their designees:
 - (f) Finance and Administration; Justice and Public Safety; Energy and Environment; Transportation; Health and Family Services; Personnel; Education and Labor; Public Protection; and Tourism, Arts and Heritage; The Attorney General or a designated representative;
 - (g) The commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or a designated representative;
 - (h) The executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs or a designated representative;
 - (i) The chairperson of the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve;
 - (j) Kentucky's Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the United States Army;
 - (k) The chairperson of the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee and the chairperson of the House of Representatives Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Safety Committee;

- (l) The Chief Justice or a designated representative;
 - (m) The commander or the designee of the commander of each of the following as nonvoting, ex officio members: U.S. Army Cadet Command; U.S. Army Human Resources Command; U.S. Army Recruiting Command; 84th Training Command; One Hundredth Division (Institutional Training); 101st Airborne Division; Blue Grass Army Depot; Fort Campbell Garrison; Fort Knox Garrison; U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District; Adjutant General of the U.S. Army; U.S. Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley; First Army Division East; 1st Theater Sustainment Command; and Fifth (V) Corps; and
 - (n) Five (5) at-large members appointed by the Governor, who shall be residents of counties significantly impacted by military installations.
- (4) The terms of the five (5) at-large members shall be staggered so that two (2) appointments shall expire at two (2) years, one (1) appointment shall expire at three (3) years, and two (2) appointments shall expire at four (4) years, from the dates of initial appointment.
- (5)
- (a) The commission shall establish an executive committee consisting of the secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development, the adjutant general of the Commonwealth, the commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, and the five (5) at-large members. The chair and vice chair of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs shall be appointed by the Governor from among the members of the executive committee.
 - (b) The chair and vice chair of the commission shall also serve as chair and vice chair of the executive committee.
 - (c) The executive committee shall serve as the search committee for an executive director of the commission and shall have any other authority the commission delegates to it.
- (6) The commission shall meet one (1) time each year, and may meet at other times on call of the chair, to establish the commission's goals and to review issues identified and recommendations made by the executive committee. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the commission's business. Members' designees shall have voting privileges at commission meetings.
- (7) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses actually incurred in the discharge of their duties on the commission, subject to Finance and Administration Cabinet administrative regulations.
- (8) The commission may establish committees or work groups composed of commission members and citizens as necessary to advise the commission in carrying out its responsibilities, duties, and powers. Citizen members of committees or work groups shall not have a vote.
- (9) The commission may promulgate necessary administrative regulations as prescribed by KRS Chapter 13A.
- (10) The commission may adopt bylaws and operating policies necessary for its efficient and effective operation.
- (11) There shall be an executive director, who shall be the administrative head and chief executive officer of the commission, recommended by the executive committee, approved by the commission, and appointed by the Governor. The executive director shall have authority to hire staff, contract for services, expend funds, and operate the normal business activities of the commission.
- (12) The Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs and its executive committee shall be an independent agency attached to the Office of the Governor. Effective: July 15, 2024

END