Pennsylvania plays a vital role in supporting America’s military and defense infrastructure. From Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, the state’s military installations support a diverse set of activities that are critical components of our nation’s military infrastructure, including logistics, distribution, advanced manufacturing, electronics, leadership education, and refueling and repair.

Pennsylvania is the workplace of more than 56,000 Department of Defense (DoD) employees, including civilians, active duty service members, reservists of all branches, and Army and Air National Guard members. Civilians make up 90% of Pennsylvania’s full-time DoD workforce.

This research estimated the total impacts of Pennsylvania’s major military installations on the state’s economy. Through direct, indirect, and induced effects, Pennsylvania’s major military installations generated $4 billion in labor income and $11 billion in total economic output in 2016, resulting in 55,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the state. Typically, each installation is among the largest and most established employers in its county and a major source of high-quality jobs for Pennsylvania workers.

Each installation has its own competitive assets and challenges, and collectively Pennsylvania’s major military installations share several important characteristics:

- The ability of the state’s installations to recruit and retain career federal workers over many decades is a critical competitive advantage and a major strength. DoD is an “employer of choice” across Pennsylvania.
- Local Defense Groups represent a major strength to enhance Pennsylvania’s military installations, regionally and statewide, and a critical opportunity for promoting each installation’s importance and impact to public officials and other stakeholders.
- Mutually beneficial installation-community partnerships and outreach efforts are critical strengths that also create opportunities for recruitment, community integration, and shared resources at both regional and state levels.
- State and local officials have worked hard to enhance local installations, but support for Pennsylvania’s military sector has been inconsistent across installations and over time.
- Pennsylvania has proven strength in defense logistics and the defense industrial base.

Pennsylvania’s military sector is critical to national security and to the state’s economic competitiveness, yet its importance is not widely understood. The state can more effectively promote and enhance Pennsylvania’s military sector by:

- Ensuring continued competitiveness of Pennsylvania’s defense workforce;
- Boosting the Local Defense Group network and its capacity;
- Strengthening the advocacy role of the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission; and
- Building on areas of strategic competitive advantage in defense logistics and the defense industrial base.

Visit the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission’s website at www.dced.pa.gov/pmcec to see the installation-specific reports and statewide report.