

Jacksonville Military Overview

Military Presence.

Northeast Florida's strong military presence has a significant economic impact on the region that provides stability and diversity within the local community. Area military installations such as Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, Kings Bay Naval Base, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Naval Aviation Depot Jacksonville and Marine Corps Blount Island Command provide employment to more than 50,000 active duty, reserve and civilian men and women. Of the personnel who exit the military each year, more than 3,000 choose to remain in the region, providing a steady stream of highly skilled and disciplined workers for area businesses. Fully 1 of every 4 Jacksonville residents has a tie with the military.

Total County Impact (in Millions)	
County Economic Impact (Gross Regional Product)	\$11,922.7
Employment	108,901 Jobs
Sales Activity	\$10,205.9
Consumption	\$4,955.4
Capital Investment	\$671.5
Direct Defense Spending (in Millions)	
Procurement	\$791.8
Salaries	\$827.6
Pensions & Transfers*	\$1,242.2
Total	\$2,861.7

Military installations in Northeast Florida and vicinity:

- Naval Air Station Jacksonville
 - Total Acreage of Installation: 24,629
 - Military Personnel: 12,548

- Civilian Personnel: 7,070
 - Buildings Owned: 643
- Naval Station Mayport
 - Total Acreage of Installation: 3,400
 - Military Personnel: 13,000
 - Civilian Personnel: 444
 - Buildings Owned: 643

- Kings Bay Naval Base
 - Total Acreage of Installation: 16,994
 - Military Personnel: 5,244
 - Civilian Personnel: 2,063
 - Contractors: 1,672
- Camp Blanding Joint Training Center
 - Total Acreage of Installation: 73,000
 - Military Personnel: 888
 - Civilian Personnel: 1
 - Buildings Owned: 570
- Fleet Readiness Center Southeast
 - Military Personnel: 3,000
 - Civilian Personnel: 1,000
 - Contractors: 1,000
- Marine Corps Blount Island Command
 - Total Acreage of Installation: 1,235
 - Military & Civilian Personnel: 942
 - Buildings Owned: 20
- VA Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic.
- The Jacksonville Vet Center, Readjustment Counseling Services, Department of Veterans Affairs

Florida Military Friendly Guide. This Guide is produced by Enterprise Florida and provides an overview of the State of Florida's support of the military.

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>

State of Florida Support to Military Veterans. www.FloridaVets.org The State of Florida has earned a reputation as the most veteran friendly state in the nation. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs is the premier entry point for Florida veterans and military families to access earned services, benefits, and support. Below is a selected overview of Florida initiatives;

- No state income tax. While this applies to all Florida residents, having no state income tax significantly enhances the value of military retirement and all income.
- Florida Veterans Benefits Guide. <http://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=198104> The Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide is an annual publication designed to bring you the

- latest information on federal and state benefits in a concise, easy to read format. The guide, which is a primary tool in our arsenal to advocate for our state's veterans, is produced by the Florida Veterans Foundation
- "V" for Veteran Designation on Driver License. Florida's veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or identification card.
 - Veterans Florida is a non-profit corporation created by the State of Florida to help veterans fully transition to civilian life in the Sunshine State. They connect veterans to employers, grant funds to employers to hire and train veterans, and educate veterans on how to open their own businesses in Florida.
 - Free Benefits Counseling. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has Claims Examiners co-located with the VA Regional Office in Bay Pines, each VA Medical Center and many VA Outpatient Clinics. Assistance with claims is free and covers all state and federal veterans' programs. FDVA, through its Bureau of State Approving Agency, also evaluates and approves secondary and post-secondary education programs so Floridians can take advantage of federal veterans' educational programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For more information, call (727) 319-7440.
 - County Veteran Service Offices. Information on current federal, state and local veterans' programs, entitlements and referral services is also available in Florida through a network of County Veteran Service Offices. The counselors are trained and accredited annually by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. All services are provided free of charge.
 - Women Veterans' Coordinator. The Sunshine State is home to more than 160,000 women veterans. Many women veterans may not be aware of their eligibility for the full range of federal and state benefits. Watching over women veterans' issues in Florida is a State Women Veterans' Coordinator. For more information, call (727) 319-7440 or visit www.FloridaVets.org.
 - Employ Florida Vets. Employ Florida Vets is the state's online job portal that provides employment services to Florida veterans. <https://www.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/>
 - Waiver of Fees from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and Florida Department of Health. Recent state regulations waives the initial licensing and application fees for military veterans and spouses. For example, the waiver includes professional licenses for contractors, real estate agents, certified public accountants and others. For health related licenses, the VALOR (Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response) provides an expedited process for honorably discharged

veterans with an active license in another state, with most licensing fees waived.

Northeast Florida Military Support Organizations

City of Jacksonville. The Military Affairs and Veterans (MAV) Department is the lead element for the City of Jacksonville's military outreach. The MAV team functions within the following three priorities:

- First, we are an advocate for the expansion of military infrastructure, personnel, and jobs within the City of Jacksonville and throughout Northeast Florida. The department team works closely with military, business, community, and elected leaders at the local, state, and national levels to deliver a compelling message that Jacksonville is the most "Military and Veteran Friendly City in the United States" and that Jacksonville is strategically important to the security posture of the nation.
- Second, the MAV department is committed to delivering timely and competent services to our large and growing Veteran community. MAV staff is ready to assist Veterans, their survivors and their caregivers who seek access to pensions, healthcare, disability ratings, GI Bill, and other earned benefits.
- Third, the MAV department sponsors and promotes city-wide events to publically recognize the service and sacrifice of the military men and women serving at area installations, and the large and growing Veterans population in Jacksonville and across Northeast Florida.

Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce works closely with and supports Jacksonville's military. Navy Captain (ret) Aaron Bowman is the point person for Chamber military activities. The Chamber sponsors events honoring the military and the Military Issues Committee facilitates active liaison between the Northeast Florida business community and military commands headquartered in the region for the purpose of promoting the continued viability of existing military activities. Terry West, VyStar Credit Union, is the Military Issues Committee Chair.

Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville with a mission to honor and empower wounded warriors who incur service-connected wounds, injuries and illnesses (physical or physiological) on or after September 11, 2001.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). ESGR is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation. Established in 1972, ESGR operates via a network of hundreds of volunteers within 56 Field Committees throughout the United States.

Operation New Uniform. Operation New Uniform is a nonprofit organization, headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, committed to the professional success of veterans after service.

Children of Fallen Patriots. Children of Fallen Patriots is headquartered in Jacksonville their mission is to provide college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. They are dedicated to serving the families of service members from all branches of the armed forces who have died as a result of combat casualties, military training accidents, service related illnesses, suicide, as well as other duty-related deaths as ruled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The vision of Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation is to ensure that every child of a fallen patriot receives all necessary college funding. Jacksonville University partners with Children of Fallen Patriots to assist children of deceased service members to attain their college education.

K9s for Warriors. K9s for Warriors is headquartered in Jacksonville and they are dedicated to providing service canines to our Warriors suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. Their goal is to empower them to return to civilian life with dignity and independence.

Five Star Veterans Center is a nonprofit corporation that opened in 2012. Our goal is to get homeless veterans mentally and physically healthy so they can return to work, reunite with their families and successfully regain control of their lives. Toward this end, we offer safe and secure housing, food and other support. The Center's Mission Statement: The Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center puts military veterans who are experiencing homelessness back to work by providing safe and secure housing with wraparound services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness.

Jacksonville Military Veterans Coalition. Northeast Florida business, civic, and community leaders partnered with the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department to establish the Jacksonville Military Veterans Coalition (JMVC) in April 2012. The JMVC currently has almost 400 organization partners and maintains a web site www.coj.net/jobsforvets to provide military veterans who are interested in working for Northeast Florida businesses a "one stop" resource that provides information on:

- Northeast Florida businesses with employment opportunities for veterans
- Northeast Florida universities and vocational schools with educational opportunities for veterans
- Northeast Florida intern opportunities for veterans
- Northeast Florida career fairs
- Transition from military to civilian life resources
- Military 101 for employers with an overview of the United States military
- Best practices forum for employers
- Success stories of military members transitioning to civilian life
- Overview of Jacksonville as a community

Northeast Florida Military Veteran College Network. Earn Up is an initiative led by the JAXUSA Partnership to increase the college attainment rate to 60% for Northeast Florida by 2025. One of the three priority populations for this initiative is military veterans. As part of the Earn Up initiative, the Northeast Florida Military Veteran College Network (NFMVCN) was created to enhance collaboration between Northeast Florida universities and colleges, and provide better support to the military community. The College Network site <http://earnup.org/veteran-service-resources> provides sections on Veterans Resources, Veterans Benefits, and Training Opportunities. The NFMVCN establishes a forum for collaboration and sharing of best practices while also providing a regional group that will analyze (where appropriate) proposed or new veterans' initiatives for possible adoption by Northeast Florida universities and colleges. Goals of this Network include:

- Quarterly meetings to discuss new initiatives and collaboration opportunities
- Establishment of a NFMVCN web page on the JAXUSA Partnership/Earnup.org web site that will provide a summary of the NFMVCN members' veterans' programs and other pertinent information
- Review of new veterans' initiatives
- Assistance to Northeast Florida universities and colleges when these institutions need additional expertise regarding veterans' issues

- Decrease barriers that prevent veterans from attaining their college
- Share best practices
- Develop and implement a Northeast Florida university and college orientation program for local military installations
- Other initiatives developed by the NFMVCN