

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2015

Washington Military Alliance Responds to Army Downsizing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Washington State – Yesterday, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced its intention to reduce the size of the Army across the nation by 40,000 active duty troops over the next two years. Locally, Joint Base Lewis-McChord will lose 1,250 troops across multiple units along with an unknown number of civilian personnel and military contractors.

The Washington Military Alliance (WMA) - which includes local economic developers, industry associations, and community partnership organizations ([learn more here](#)) - is poised to work closely with the state to mitigate the economic impacts of this downsizing.

“Although today’s announcement is South Sound Army specific, the effects of this reduction will be felt in communities across the state. The Washington Military Alliance is importantly focused on acting as a common voice for stakeholders in this community”, said Rich Hadley, Co-Chair of the WMA. “We appreciate the Governor for convening this group in 2012 and am grateful to all the participants that make our work possible.”

Additionally, the WMA applauds Governor Inslee for convening an eleven agency Subcabinet on Military Downsizing to prepare a state response plan in anticipation of the Army’s announcement today.

“The Washington Military Alliance appreciates the hard work being done by the agency directors and the governor. This Subcabinet will help our members create a local coordinated response to Army cuts at JBLM, making transition as smooth of a process as possible,” says Kristiné Reeves, Executive Director of the Washington Military Alliance.

To serve members of community affected by the downsizing announcement, the WMA has launched a resources page for affected personnel and the business community surrounding the base. Visit <http://wamilitaryalliance.org/downsizingsupport/>

The military and defense sector plays a significant role in Washington’s economy. In 2013, DoD spending in Washington topped \$13.1 billion dollars and represented 3.2 percent of the state’s GDP. Washington ranks in the top ten states for military spending and is the 6th most military populated state. Of the 112,560 military personnel in Washington, over half reside in the South Puget Sound.

###

About the Washington Military Alliance

The Washington Military Alliance (WMA) is a coalition of partner organizations collectively dedicated to enhancing the strength and health of military and defense related activities throughout the state. The WMA provides a framework for collaboration in the state between local governments, military installations, defense community support organizations, industry associations, state agencies, and economic development organizations to coordinate activities and resources in support of Washington's Military and Defense sector and collect and disseminate economic information about its impact and fluctuations. For more information, visit us online at <http://wamilitaryalliance.org/>

CONTACT:

Kristiné M. Reeves

Executive Director Washington Military Alliance

Kristine.Reeves@WAMilitaryAlliance.org

Main: 206-256-6109

Direct: 206-256-6105