



Tacoma & Pierce County

- 18 FTE
- 1,600+ Business Members

Our focus is to build a healthy local economy by being the voice for business; uniting, advocating, and supporting economic growth in Pierce County.

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

Mission: The Chamber’s mission is to lead the way to exceptional business and community growth so that Tacoma-Pierce County is a vibrant community where economic growth is encouraged and sustained.

Snapshot of Defense in Pierce County

Pierce County’s defense landscape is centered around Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the state’s largest military base. Together with Camp Murray, service contracts to the two bases are important to the county’s defense contractor ecosystem, which includes several major construction contractors. **Defense contracting has an annual total economic impact of \$1.7 billion in Pierce County**, making it a valuable contributor to the county economy. The Tacoma Pierce-County Chamber of Commerce supports the county’s contractors by offering business assistance to new and aspiring defense contractors.



JOBS SUPPORTED BY DEFENSE CONTRACTS
8,600

2012 – 2014 average, direct and secondary



DEFENSE CONTRACTS VALUE PER CAPITA \$1,139

FY 2015



DEFENSE PERSONNEL
45,200 Active Duty
7,400 Civilian Dept of Defense

Based in Pierce County



OCCUPATIONS

Office and Administration **891**
Management **640**
Construction and Extraction **529**
Business and Financial Operations **262**



DEFENSE CONTRACTORS
217

Companies, 2015



TOP CONTRACTORS

1. U.S. Oil Trading
2. Orion Marine Contractors
3. SAFE Boats International
4. City of Tacoma
5. Evergreen Fire Alarms
6. American Construction Co

Top contractors by defense contracts amount, FY 2015



INDUSTRIES

Other Construction **\$387.5 M**
Aircraft Manufacturing **\$211.2 M**
Petroleum and Coal **\$116.8 M**
Administration and Employment Services **\$42.0 M**

Top industries by defense contracts revenue, 2012 – 2014 average

Sources: Office of Management and Budget, 2016; Washington State Department of Revenue, 2015; Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2015, 2016; Washington State Employment Security Department, 2016; Department of Defense, 2016; Community Attributes Inc., 2016.

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

950 Pacific Ave., Suite 300, Tacoma, WA 98401 | 253.627.2175 | www.tacomachamber.org

Joint Base Lewis–McChord

Joint Base Lewis–McChord, located southwest of Tacoma, was formed in 2010 when Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations were implemented, combining McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis. Today, the base is a training and mobilization center for all service branches. The Air Force embarks on combat and humanitarian airlifts from Joint Base Lewis–McChord’s McChord Field with the C-17 Globemaster III. The base is a regular source of construction contracts, and recent years have seen Washington companies implementing green design practices on the base.



Photos courtesy of Tacoma–Pierce County Chamber Military Impact Brochure. Defense contractors in Pierce County benefit from the proximity of U.S. military installation Joint Base Lewis–McChord, located near Tacoma.

Maritime Operations

SAFE Boats International, an aluminum boat manufacturer, is one of several maritime defense contractors based in Pierce County. SAFE Boats is a leading supplier to military, federal, state and local law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies throughout North America and around the world.

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Tacoma–Pierce County Chamber Support for Defense Contractors

The military and defense sector is a major focus for the Chamber, with strategic actions to strengthen the sector continually at the forefront of the organization’s overall objectives. The Chamber facilitates communication between the civilian business community and defense installations that affect the entire region, creating collaboration between Washington State organizations and agencies.

Engage the Military Community

The Chamber promotes, facilitates and supports veterans. It helps transition veterans from military to civilian employment within the community. For business owners, this opens the door to highly skilled, organized and disciplined workers. Through an array of resources, the Chamber’s work has benefited more than 172,000 veterans and servicemembers. In addition, the **Chamber’s Military Affairs Committee** conducts the Military Affairs forum from September to May, featuring speakers and information regarding the defense industry and business community.

Lead Events to Support Business Growth

Three times each month, the Chamber hosts a meeting of the **Small Business Roundtable Series**. These events center on a variety of topics, and serve the dual purpose of networking for professionals throughout Pierce County. Through the **Boots to Business** program, the Chamber works directly with veterans to help them start their own businesses.

Connect Companies with Defense Partners

The Chamber publishes the **Military Impact Brochure**, a comprehensive resource of commands in the area. It includes contact information for naval and public affairs officers and a roster of who can be contacted on the public side. The brochure also showcases the Chamber’s programs and focus on veteran-owned businesses.