

## **Executive Summary**

The annual economic impact of the military community on South Carolina is **\$34.3 billion**. This translates to **254,095 jobs** that are supported (either directly or indirectly) by the military community along with **\$14.6 billion in labor income** for South Carolinians.

The Palmetto State is home to **eight major military installations** and numerous other facilities throughout the state supporting **68,493 Department of Defense personnel**, of all branches of Service and components. **69%** of service members are active duty and **31%** are Reserve Component (Guardsmen and Reservists). Importantly, this is the **10<sup>th</sup> highest** density of service members in the nation. There are another **17,579** service members who serve just across the border at Fort Gordon, Georgia, with many living in South Carolina.

Additionally, **\$3.2 billion in Department of Defense (DoD) contracts is currently being executed among 671 firms** within South Carolina and the five -county region in Georgia surrounding Fort Gordon, the **28<sup>th</sup> highest** amount of DoD contracts in the nation.

There are **63,882 military retirees** among the state's **397,649 Veterans**, making South Carolina the state with the **8<sup>th</sup> highest number of military retirees**. In addition, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides South Carolina's Veterans with **\$4.9 billion in VA-funded** compensation and pension, among other benefits.

The strategic importance of South Carolina's military community as part of the broader United States military is critical. South Carolina's military community provides a variety of resources that the nation regularly draws from for training, combat, and support services. These include:

- Force generation for the long-term sustainability of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Active defense of Continental United States (CONUS) with ground, air, sea, and cyber forces.
- Direct support of combat operations with ground, air, sea and cyber forces
- Strategic transportation
- DoD contractors producing weapon systems for the nation and supporting ongoing military activities.
- Domestic and state emergency support operations

