

# MILITARY AND DEFENSE

## Supporting Florida's Veterans, Defense and Military Industry

### Why It Matters to Florida

From small, family owned industries to multi-national corporations, Florida wins when private-sector job growth aligns with employer needs. Florida's well-rounded military and defense industry creates highly-trained, highly-skilled workers each and every day. Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation at more than 1.5 million — 14 percent of the Sunshine State's population. In fact, nearly one in every 10 Floridians is a veteran and Florida's military and defense industry is the fourth largest contributor to Florida's economy.

### Florida's Competitiveness Agenda

Championing Florida's valuable veteran population by advocating for our state's military and defense industry and opposing cuts that disproportionately impact Florida's economy will allow Florida's 20 active military bases and three combatant command centers, and Florida's defense contractors to provide valuable high-wage jobs and grow Florida's economy.

In an effort to lead the nation in defense and cybersecurity, the Florida Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives and policies that protect Florida's businesses and strengthens Florida's defenses both on land and online.

### The Fight for Free Enterprise Continues

Florida's military and defense industry helps employ nearly 775,000 Floridians each year and contributes almost \$80 billion to our economy. Our state is also home to more than 20 military bases and three combatant command centers. The Florida Chamber will continue to support efforts to keep Florida the most military and veteran-friendly state by supporting efforts that protect from the next round of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure).

### ACT NOW:

Join our fight to protect our active military and defense industry. Florida wins when we stay the course toward free enterprise and support our state's veterans.



Doug Davidson, Past Chair for the Florida Chamber Foundation, stands with military figures at the Florida Chamber Foundation's Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit.

"Our country has invested in training America's service men and women in more than 100 occupational specialties across the spectrum of virtually every job. This presents a tremendous opportunity for Florida's private-sector businesses looking to fill jobs with trained professionals."

TRACY DUDA CHAPMAN  
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#### GET INVOLVED:

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