



# SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 | [www.ssmcp.org](http://www.ssmcp.org)

**Executive Leadership Team:**

- City of Lacey
- City of Lakewood
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Pierce County

**Steering Committee:**

- City of DuPont
- City of Tacoma
- City of University Place
- City of Yelm
- Thurston County
- Nisqually Tribe
- Washington State Military Department

**Working Group Chairs:**

- Clover Park School District
- Pierce Transit
- Puget Sound Energy
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
- United Way-Pierce County
- Washington State Department of Transportation

November 7, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Collaborative Publically Engaged Scholarship, UWT Milgard School for Business and the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership – JBLM Regional Economic Impact Analysis

The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) is a partnership positioned to provide regional leadership to bridge military and civilian communities. Our regional partnership now consists of 53 organizations including most of the local jurisdictions throughout the South Puget Sound. SSMCP, through its partnership with Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), is invested in 17 communities that surround the installation. Local communities are economically intertwined with the influence of JBLM.

The 2010 Growth Coordination Plan (GCP) formed the basis for establishing SSMCP and its working groups. Following completion of the 2010 Growth Coordination Plan, SSMCP formed an Economic Development Working Group. The intent was to address regional economic development issues uncovered by the GCP.

A military installation like JBLM is a major employment center much like a large business (i.e. Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, etc...). Its impact is felt across the region. JBLM is the #2 employer in the state and #1 employer in Pierce County. Consider the impact on the region should JBLM close. Several billion dollars of economic activity would cease. Tens of thousands would leave the region. Hundreds of businesses in local communities would close.

Our proposed project, a JBLM regional economic impact analysis, quantifies the true economic impact of the JBLM workforce on the South Sound. This seems to be a perfect fit for UWT’s Milgard School for Business, Center for Business Analytics.

Attempts to secure grant funding for this project have been difficult. Department of Defense grant authorizing authorities are troubled with the linkage to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process and are unable to provide grant funds because of a conflict of interest. The State of Washington’s Office of Financial Management, who performed a similar study in 2004 a year prior to the last BRAC, has a focus on statewide military installation value and does not yet have an interest in the project mostly because a BRAC announcement is yet to be made.

Regardless of these difficulties, local communities and the region will benefit from a better understanding of JBLM’s economic impact. The partners of SSMCP will be able to use this analysis in strategic messaging to representatives of our federal delegations. Our federal representatives will be armed with current, relevant economic data which currently does not exist. SSMCP will be able to quantify the value of JBLM to the region and make a stronger case to support the Department of Defense’s decision to realign missions at JBLM.

Additionally, JBLM offers a diverse and qualified talent pipeline as well as leading edge transitional services such as the America’s Jobs Center at JBLM. Recent SSMCP surveys of the JBLM workforce indicate 59% of those service members transitioning off active duty into the civilian workforce choose to stay in the South Sound region. Many of these transitioning service members pursue higher education prior to entering the job market. There is an obvious linkage between UWT and these transitioning service members.

Completion of this project should initiate a strong partnership with SSMCP and the Milgard School of Business – Center for Business Analytics and MSBA students. Participation in SSMCP's economic development and higher education working groups will offer UWT students and faculty insights into community issues and allow interaction and collaboration with community leaders.

Sincerely,

COL(R) WILLIAM G. ADAMSON, USA  
Program Director, South Sound Military & Communities Partnership