

Community Perceptions

A majority of Steilacoom residents like their military neighbors

80% “Generally Supportive” of Service Members



★ Compared to Active Duty Perceptions: Two years ago, we asked JBLM service members to rate the supportiveness of their community towards JBLM and the military.

71% of Responses were positive:

37% “Very Good”

34% “Good”

Top Reasons Steilacoom Residents Said they Value JBLM

1. Increased **SECURITY: 40%**
2. JBLM’s effect on **ECONOMY: 20%**



Perceived Negatives of JBLM

1. Effect on **TRAFFIC CONGESTION 60%:** “Significant Issue”
2. Noise from **MILITARY AIRCRAFT 40%:** “Significant Issue”
3. Noise from **FIRING RANGES 40%:** “Significant Issue”



The “JBLM Traffic” Myth



This survey highlighted an ongoing citizen belief that JBLM is the primary cause of the traffic congestion on I-5 in Pierce and Thurston Counties.

The Facts: I-5 has not been widened through JBLM since 1975, and is inadequate to meet today’s demand. Between 1970 and 2010, the population of Washington State increased 97 percent, Pierce County grew by 95 percent, and Thurston County grew by 228 percent.

Population Growth 2000-2010:

- Military on-base population increase: **4,611**
- Military off-base pop. increase estimate: **10,759**
- Civilian Pierce and Thurston pop. increase: **128,577**

Population growth in Pierce and Thurston counties is projected to continue at a similar pace through 2040. SSMCP, along with regional partners, is working to improve Transportation in the region.

Over \$500 million in I-5 improvements are currently underway

For Updates:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/default.htm



MISSION

To foster effective communication, understanding, and mutual benefit by serving as the most effective point of coordination for resolution of those issues which transcend the specific interests of the military and civilian communities of the South Sound region.

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2015 Community & Business Survey Results

Steilacoom

SSMCP 2015 Community Survey



Joint Base Lewis McChord & the South Sound:

Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) is an over 86,000 acre military installation in the South Puget Sound, nestled among two counties and 17 cities and towns, and bisected by Interstate 5. JBLM is the third largest employer in the state of Washington, and an economic driver for the state.

SSMCP: The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership, a regional partnership of governments and organizations in Pierce and Thurston Counties, works to improve outside knowledge of the military's direct and indirect impact on the region and the State, as well as increase coordination between military and civilian counterparts.

2015 Community and Business Survey:

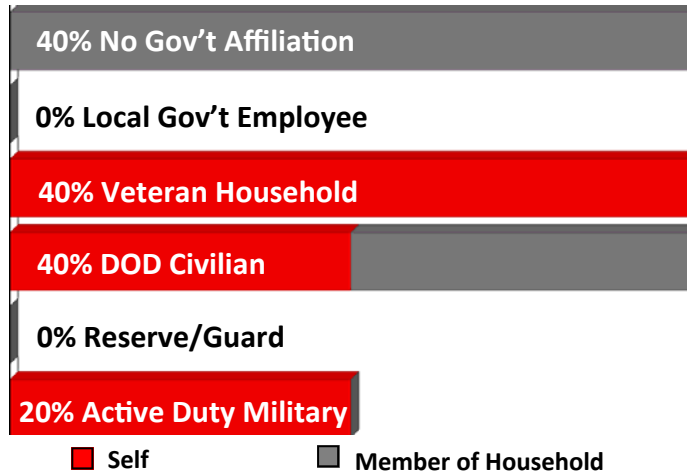
In previous years, SSMCP conducted Needs & Preferences surveys of active duty service members on JBLM-over 70% of whom live off-base in local communities. In 2015, SSMCP looked outside the base and asked community members and businesses about their perceptions, knowledge, and interaction with the military presence in the South Sound. The survey was conducted by **Elway Research, Inc.**

Steilacoom, Washington: Of the respondents to SSMCP's 2015 survey covering Pierce and Thurston Counties, less than 1% identified as Steilacoom residents. This subset of the data is not statistically valid. For full survey, please visit ssmcp.org

This information provides a snap-shot of community relationships with JBLM.

Military-Connected Respondents in Steilacoom

2 in 5 of Steilacoom Households surveyed were Veteran-connected.



The percentages in this graph total more than 100% due to overlap in households.

Of Steilacoom Participants with Children:

A

50% Rated Local Schools an "A" for integrating military children

50% had no opinion



Steilacoom Citizens Interact with JBLM

40% of Steilacoom Participants have accessed JBLM's Website



0% have attended a JBLM Meeting



80% have visited JBLM



Steilacoom Residents feel positive to neutral about having JBLM nearby

40%

Very or Mostly Positive

40%

Neutral

20%

Very or Mostly Negative

Joint Base Lewis McChord

40% of Steilacoom Respondents felt JBLM does ENOUGH to minimize any negative impact on surrounding communities.



- 0% Felt the Base should be doing MORE

Community Support



- 100% of Steilacoom Respondents felt the community should do MORE to support veteran hiring programs