

## Community Perceptions

### A majority of Tacoma residents like their military neighbors

**47.9%** "Very Supportive" of Service Members

**35.9%** "Generally Supportive"



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

#### 79% of Responses were positive:

**40%** "Very Good"

**39%** "Good"

#### **Top Reasons Tacoma Residents Said they Value JBLM**

1. JBLM's effect on **ECONOMY: 51%**
2. Increased **SECURITY: 17.5%**
3. Use of Base **FACILITIES: 8.7%**
4. Because they are **GOOD NEIGHBORS: 8.7%**



#### **Perceived Negatives of JBLM**

1. Effect on **TRAFFIC CONGESTION 45.9%: "Significant Issue"**
2. Noise from **MILITARY AIRCRAFT 16.7%: "Significant Issue"**
3. Noise from **FIRING RANGES 7.2%: "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](http://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

Tacoma

# 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. 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.**

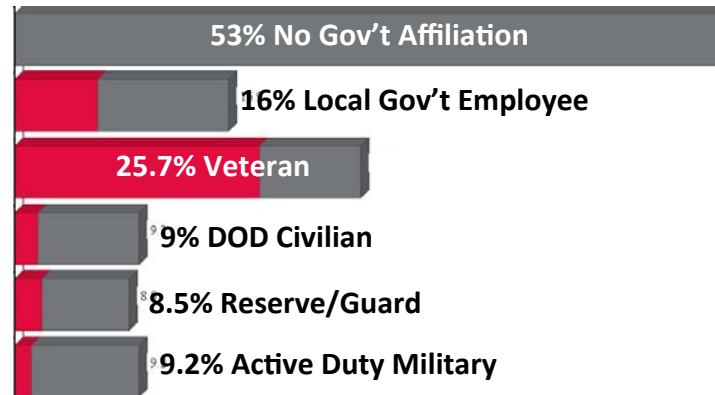
## Tacoma, Washington:

Of the respondents to SSMCP's 2015 survey covering Pierce and Thurston Counties, **26.3%** identified as Tacoma residents. Percentages may be rounded. For full survey, visit [ssmcp.org](http://ssmcp.org).

**These results provide a snap-shot of community relationships with JBLM.**

## Military-Connected Respondents in Tacoma

Over **1/4** of Tacoma Households surveyed were Veteran-connected, and about **half** had some government affiliation.



■ Self      ■ Member of Household

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

## Of Tacoma Participants with Children:

**A** 14.3% Rated Local Schools an "A" for integrating military children

**B** 29.5% said B

19% said C

3.8% said D or F

33.3% had no opinion



## Tacoma Citizens Interact with JBLM

**20.4%** of Tacoma Participants have accessed JBLM's Web-site



**7.5%** have attended a JBLM Meeting



**74%** have visited JBLM



Tacoma Residents feel largely positive about having JBLM nearby

**74.5%**

Very or Mostly Positive


**17%**

Neutral

**6.5%**

Very or Mostly Negative

## Joint Base Lewis McChord

- Nearly **55%** of Tacoma Respondents felt JBLM does ENOUGH to minimize any negative impact on surrounding communities. 
- 22.7%** Felt the Base should be doing MORE

## Community Support



- 61%** of Tacoma Respondents felt the community should do MORE to support veteran hiring programs