Military & Defense Sector

Governor Inslee’s top priority is to create an economic climate where innovation and entrepreneurship can continue to thrive and create good-paying jobs in every corner of our state. The Military and Defense sector, as Washington’s second largest direct public employer, just behind the State itself, and a key industry that cuts across many sectors in Washington, helps create the backbone for a strong economy through our diverse defense missions and military installations, our pioneering companies, and our military friendly communities.

How do we define the military and defense sector:
- Infrastructure (Missions, Installations & Workforce)
- Industry (Suppliers & Contractors)
- Partnerships (Public, Private & Social Organizations)

Impacts of military installations and defense related assets:
As the second largest public employer in Washington employing nearly 136,000 active duty, reserve, guard and civilian personnel, home to over 670,000 veterans including 75,000 retirees and nearly 91,000 military families; Washington’s military and defense community supports over $14 billion dollars in annual procurement supported by over 1,000 businesses across the state, representing nearly 4% of the state’s GDP.

What’s next?
Top 3 Items to Focus on in 2014
- Coalesce the Sector (by three primary sub-groups)
- Communicate the Sector (in-state/out-of-state)
- Address challenges and opportunities for growth with focus on base realignment and closure (BRAC)

Communication and Coordination
Working to ensure that defense communities and the public infrastructure that enables the military to meet its mission needs must be a high priority and requires a broad strategic perspective that must take into account the needs of the military, defense, public, private and social sectors. Through coordinated stakeholder engagement we will have significant impact on Washington’s military and defense sector and the people who live in our communities. For more information on how we can work together contact Kristiné M. Reeves, 206.256.6105.

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Mission Statement:
Support and inform statewide sector specific economic development efforts by strengthening state and federal collaborations that support military & defense infrastructure, military & defense industry and public, private and social sector partnerships in all communities across the state.

