Named the Best State For Business three years in a row, North Carolina is the ideal location for the defense industry. Here are just a few reasons why:

- More than 29,000 STEM graduates annually
- 18,000+ veterans enter commercial workforce annually
- #1 manufacturing workforce in the Southeast
- 4th largest active military population
- The lowest corporate income tax in the US
- Incredible geography and diverse cultural and sporting events

With a strategic east coast location, North Carolina offers four international airports, two deepwater seaports, as well as extensive rail, highway and information technology systems.
THRIVING DUAL-USE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

North Carolina is home to a thriving technology network and workforce. Our IT sector is growing more than twice as fast as the national average.

- 2 of the nation’s top 5 metros for innovation
- Nation’s largest research park (RTP)
- #2 in the nation for percentage of women in the technology workforce
- 96% patent growth over recent 10-year period

Our state is home to hundreds of aerospace and automotive companies, and is the future home to Apple and Google engineering hubs.

Blue-chip companies doing defense-related work in North Carolina include:

- IBM/RedHat
- Pratt & Whitney
- CISCO
- SAS
- GE Aviation
- Collins Aerospace
- Honeywell
- Northrop Grumman
- Raytheon
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- General Dynamics
- BAE Systems
- RTI International
- General Motors
- Defense Systems
- AWS

DOD/INDUSTRY/ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

North Carolina is fortunate to have a vast military presence and a world-class education system that work hand-in-hand on a variety of partnerships.

Our Military Presence Includes:

- Ft. Bragg
- Camp LeJeune
- Seymour Johnson Airforce Base
- USCG Aviation Logistics Center
- Navy Fleet Readiness Center-East
- Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point
- Marine Air Station Cherry Point, NC

The North Carolina Education System Boasts:

- 53 colleges and universities, 58 community colleges, and 10 HBCUs
- 29,000 STEM graduates and award 160,000+ post-secondary degrees and certificates each year.

North Carolina universities leverage dual-use technology to partner with US military commands.

Partnerships include:

- United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)
- National Security Agency (NSA)
- 82nd & XVIIIth Airborne Corps
- Many others

EXPANSIVE COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE

North Carolina is committed to supporting its military. The Military Affairs Commission and the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs have direct access to the governor and state legislators. They work to advocate for NC military bases, service members, their families, and the diverse industries that support them.

Additionally, NC does not tax military retirement and the state provides matching funds for NC companies that win federal small business innovation contracts.

North Carolina also has numerous private and public partnerships which include:

- NC Department of Commerce Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation
- NC Biotechnology Center
- NC Military Business Center
- NC Defense Technology Transition Office
- Defense Alliance of North Carolina
- Plus, many others

JOIN OUR RANKS!

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