

KC Chamber Military Positions

Approved by the Chamber Board of Directors December 17, 2018

NATIONAL SECURITY

The KC Chamber supports stable funding for Military Services at a level that maintains the end strength necessary to ensure our forces' readiness and lethality; efforts to increase the quality of life for Service members and their families, including more opportunities for spousal employment and better connection to jobs for those who transition out of the military; and investments in infrastructure and capacity at our region's installations and within the defense industrial base.

- Promote a Congressional Budget agreement for Fiscal Years 2020-2022 that supports adequate spending for National Security and precludes the risk of potential budget cuts in either National Security or Domestic funding, during this final segment of the Budget Control Act.
- Promote adequate funding and an efficient procurement process for planned military construction projects, including hospitals, housing, training facilities, and utility infrastructure through the annual Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies appropriations.
- Support the continued modernization and possible expansion of the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Whiteman Air Force Base, and Fort Riley Army Base.
- Support funding for expanding, maintaining and modernizing our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, and protect the critical role of the Kansas City National Security Campus in that program.
- Support the construction of joint DOD/VA medical facilities in Kansas to ensure accessible, timely and quality healthcare services for those serving (and their families) and those who are eligible for veterans' health benefits.
- Advocate with Congress and Department of Defense for a formal agreement between the US Army and US Air Force that would enable Fort Riley to conduct Total Force, combined arms training at Smoky Hill Military Reservation, which is owned by the US Air Force and operated by the Kansas National Guard.
- Create a strategic marketing effort to increase the location of space and cyber related technology companies to support the expansion of roles played by the military in our Region for next generation program initiatives, such as the Administration's proposed Space Force.
- Communicate to the business community and the Department of Defense, the proactive military-friendly actions by the States of Missouri and Kansas to support families, specifically actions that facilitate the employment of military spouses, military family benefits for in-state college tuition, and the other military family initiatives.
- Support reciprocity of professional licenses between the states for military spouses, including expedited issuances of new licenses.
- Ensure that K-12 schools that serve high percentages of military-connected students adopt rigorous academic standards and provide a well-rounded educational experience.
- Support better state and regional efforts to identify and retain transitioning Service members by connecting them with jobs in the region and ensure access to educational and training benefits.
- Advocate for and support the US Chamber's Hiring Our Hero's program.
- Communicate to the Business Community the importance of supporting our Guard and Reserve Members through the Kansas and Missouri Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program and encourage employers to sign and prominently display the ESGR Statement of Support in their offices.