

Powering Growth  
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# The Role of Transmission in National Security

PJM

The PJM region includes national command, advanced cyber and intelligence, and surface and undersea warfare missions. It houses approximately 20% of U.S.-based military personnel and a \$117.8 bn industrial base.

## By the Numbers (FY24)

**\$44.3 bn**

Defense payroll  
spending

**\$117.8 bn**

Defense contract  
spending

**3.7%**

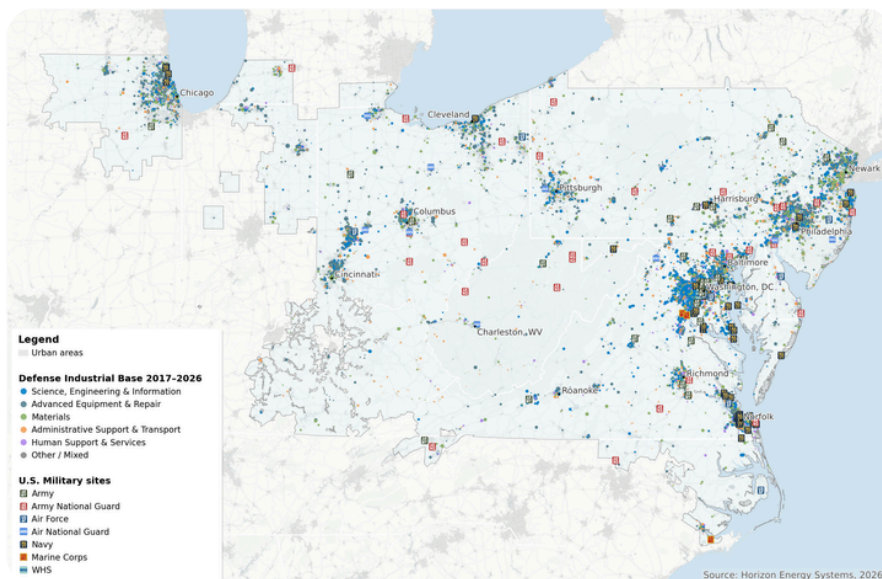
Defense spending as  
share of regional GDP

## Why Transmission Matters

**Missions and installations.** There are 75 major installations within the PJM region. They host missions such as national command (the Pentagon); cyber and intelligence; special operations; weapons system research and development; combat aviation; and naval fleet operations.<sup>1</sup>

**Defense communities.** There are approximately 530,000 active-duty, civilian, National Guard, and Reserve personnel supporting defense missions in PJM.<sup>2</sup> There are also approximately 419,400 military family members living in the region.<sup>3</sup> Military installations and their personnel rely on interdependent utility infrastructure located within defense communities. The military installations in Washington, DC,<sup>4</sup> for example, rely on civilian natural gas, telecommunications, and water systems, which depend on the commercial electric grid.

**Defense Industrial Base.** The DIB in the PJM region is concentrated in naval shipbuilding and modernization, weapons and ammunition, rocket propulsion, missile systems, and military electronics. These capabilities support nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines, advanced munitions, communications equipment, and air- and missile-defense technologies.



Horizon Energy Systems, 2026



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## What's At Stake

- Fort Meade in MD is one of the country's most important centers for cyber operations, intelligence, and military communications. It is home to U.S. Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, and the Defense Information Systems Agency, along with more than 120 other military and federal organizations. These organizations defend U.S. military networks, conduct cyber operations, and collect and analyze intelligence.
- Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia is the world's largest naval complex and a major hub for the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. It supports a large concentration of aircraft carriers, surface ships, and submarines. The installation also hosts numerous Navy and joint military commands, making it a central base for U.S. naval operations in the Atlantic and beyond.
- Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, OH, is one of the Air Force's most important centers for research, technology development, intelligence, and management of weapons systems. It hosts Air Force Materiel Command, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, and the National Air and Space Intelligence Center. Together, these organizations develop new aviation, space, cyber, and weapons technologies, and analyze foreign aerospace capabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Military One Source, <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, *Defense Spending by State: Fiscal Year 2024* (U.S. Department of Defense, November 2025), <https://oldcc.gov/defense-spending-state-fiscal-year-2024>.

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Military State Policy Source, <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>.

<sup>4</sup> Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, *Building Resilience Together: Community-Military Collaboration in Washington, D.C.* (April 2023)