

Powering Growth  
and Affordability

# The Role of Transmission in National Security

SPP + MISO SOUTH

MISO South and SPP anchor the nation's nuclear deterrence, global mobility, and depot-and-munitions infrastructure. The region houses 7% of U.S.-based military personnel and a \$11 bn defense industrial base.

## By the Numbers (FY24)

**\$9.9 bn**

Defense payroll  
spending

**\$11 bn**

Defense contract  
spending

**1.7%**

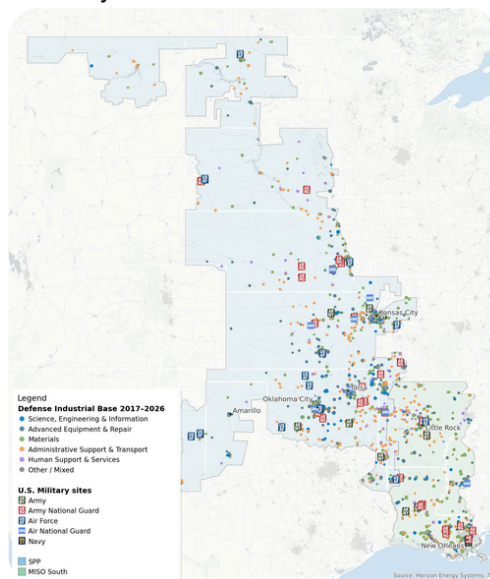
Defense spending as  
share of regional GDP

## Why Transmission Matters

**Missions and installations.** There are 35 major installations that host global mobility and force deployment; depot maintenance, logistics, and munitions missions. A north-south corridor from Ellsworth AFB in SD, through Offutt AFB in NE, to Barksdale AFB in LA maintains strategic deterrence, long-range bomber and global strike capabilities.<sup>1</sup>

**Defense communities.** There are approximately 173,300 active-duty, civilian, National Guard, and Reserve personnel supporting defense missions in MISO South and SPP.<sup>2</sup> There are also approximately 167,800 military family members living in the region.<sup>3</sup> Military installations and their personnel rely on interdependent utility infrastructure located within defense communities. Fort Riley<sup>4</sup> in KS, for example, relies on drinking water and natural gas infrastructure that could fail during power outages.

**Defense Industrial Base.** The DIB in this region is concentrated in aircraft maintenance and aerospace manufacturing, munitions production, and military shipbuilding. The region maintains and upgrades bombers, tankers, and other military aircraft while producing bombs, warheads, specialized munitions, aircraft components, and vessels for the Navy and Coast Guard.



Horizon Energy Systems, 2026



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## What's At Stake

- Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, LA, is a major center for long-range bomber operations and U.S. nuclear deterrence. It is home to the 2nd Bomb Wing, which operates the B-52H Stratofortress and trains aircrews to conduct conventional and nuclear strike missions. It also hosts the headquarters of Air Force Global Strike Command, which oversees the Air Force's bomber and intercontinental ballistic missile forces.
- Offutt AFB in Nebraska is a major command, intelligence, and reconnaissance hub and is home to the 55th Wing and U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). The 55th Wing operates specialized RC-135 aircraft that conduct worldwide intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and electronic intelligence missions, while USSTRATCOM oversees key elements of U.S. strategic deterrence and nuclear command and control.
- Red River Army Depot near Texarkana, TX, is a major Army facility for repairing, rebuilding, and upgrading military vehicles and their components. It supports combat systems including the HIMARS, MLRS, and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The Depot also rebuilds vehicle tracks, road wheels, engines, and other parts. Its core role is extending the life of existing Army equipment and returning worn or damaged systems to service.

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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> Flint Hills Regional Council, *Flint Hills: Military Installation Resiliency Study & Action Plan* (September, 2022).