ARIZONA

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**Southwest Defense Alliance Releases Economic Study; Nearly 3 Million Jobs from Inter-related Bases and Training Facilities in the Region**

Los Angeles. Today, the Southwest Defense Alliance--a non-profit, non-partisan public benefit corporation, released an economic study covering military bases and training facilities in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. The study examined federal government spending and national defense investments across the Southwest region of the US over a 5-year period through 2009, the most current data available.

The results of the study showed that these defense investments support more than 2.8 million jobs in the Southwest states and increase regional economic output by more than $1.5 trillion. In addition, the study found increased regional personal earnings of more than $461 billion cumulatively, and the generation of more than $23 billion in state taxes.

“The numbers contained in this report should serve as a reminder to our public policy makers and all of our communities in the Southwest about the vital role our nation’s Armed Forces play in our local and state economies,” said Ashley Hall, Chairman of the Southwest Defense Alliance and Retired US Army Brigadier General.

The Southwest Defense Alliance is comprised of civic leaders, government representatives, and former military and defense officials who work to maintain the viability of the military and training facilities in the six Southwestern States.

“The report provides a sobering reminder that the integrated network of bases in the Southwest plays a critical role in the national defense, and plays an equally critical role in the jobs and economies of the communities in the region,” said Jon McQuiston, Kern County Supervisor.

Key findings and a state-by-state breakdown from the report include:

* Between 2005 and 2009, the Federal government spent over $705 billion in national defense investments across the Southwest region of the United States
* These investments in national defense directly and indirectly supported over 2.8 million jobs in the Southwest region in 2009. They also increased regional economic output by $1.5 trillion cumulatively over the five years, and increased regional personal earnings by $461 billion cumulatively
* National defense investments also generated more than $23 billion in state taxes cumulatively between 2005 and 2009
* Between 2005 and 2009, national defense investments accounted for the following:
* Arizona

- An average of 300,000 jobs per year

- $136 billion in increased economic output and $44 billion in increased personal earnings cumulatively

- $2 billion in increased state taxes cumulatively

* California

- An average of 1 million jobs per year

- $570 billion in increased economic output and $180 billion in increased personal earnings cumulatively

- $12 billion in increased state taxes cumulatively

* Nevada

- An average of 53,000 jobs per year

- $28 billion in increased economic output and $9 billion in increased personal earnings cumulatively

- $307 million in increased state taxes cumulatively

* New Mexico

- An average of 119,000 jobs per year

- $61 billion in increased economic output and $20 billion in increased personal earnings cumulatively

- $2 billion in increased state taxes cumulatively

* Texas

- An average of 1 million jobs per year

- $513 billion in increased economic output and $160 billion in increased personal earnings cumulatively

- $2 billion in increased state taxes cumulatively

* Utah

- An average of 104,000 jobs per year

- $43 billion in increased economic output and $13 billion in increased personal earnings cumulatively

- $756 million in increased state taxes cumulatively

The Southwest Defense Alliance will conduct a series of briefings and community forums in the six states covered by the report. Lawmakers, public policy experts, and the community will have the opportunity to provide additional information to the Alliance as well as comment on the report’s findings.

“The Southwest Defense complex is critical to our national security. The release of this report assessing the jobs and economic value to the region serves as a reminder of how critical these bases and training facilities are to our communities and our states,” said Pete Wilson, Honorary Chairman and former Governor of California. “I encourage local, state, and federal lawmakers to use this data to conduct your own planning process and support efforts to maintain this irreplaceable national asset.”