

Sociologic and economic impacts

What kind of development has occurred around similar projects that the USACE has built? Does the Army have any statistics on actual economic advantages conferred on host communities?

From previous projects, the economic result from reserve centers has been mixed according to location. Employees and units training at the facility may provide added business to local restaurants, hotels, gas stations and other businesses. The 88th Regional Readiness Command in Fort Snelling, MN, reserve center opened in 1996. According to their Public Affairs Office, approximately 80 percent of their reservists are from the local community so there is not a large economic benefit to hotels in the area but there is an economic benefit with the reservists living and working in the immediate community. . Primary economic impact will benefit restaurants, barbershops during training weekends, and businesses offering dry cleaning/alterations to uniforms. Traditionally, the military also procures support services from the local market such as grounds maintenance, janitorial cleaning services, building maintenance and repair, meals catering, etc. According to the number of full-time personnel working at a new reserve center, the local housing market could see an increase in home purchases, home building or apartment leases.

Additionally, the reservist's pay filters back to the community through increased spending and provides intangible community benefits due to an increased standard of living for the reservists and personnel working at the Reserve Center.

U.S. Army Reserve and Army Reserve National Guard soldiers are local residents who work in either the public or private sector. They are only "soldiers" when they are training on drill weekends and two weeks of annual training, and when mobilized to protect the public from natural and man-made disasters when called upon by the Governor, or to augment the active force in times of war.