



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Senator Anthony Broadman, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans:

During yesterday's Public Safety Subcommittee hearing, you requested information regarding law enforcement recruiting and the military. Specifically, you asked whether state and local law enforcement agencies that are facing recruiting challenges are actively recruiting military personnel, versus waiting for military personnel to initiate interest on their own.

Anecdotally, we know that some agencies are actively recruiting members of the armed services. The Marion County Sheriff's Office, for example, recruits at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and the Oregon State Police have sent recruiters to Camp Pendleton and other military installations. While we are not sure of the extent to which agencies are recruiting service members out of state, most of Oregon's agencies are small and presumably lack the resources to do so.

DPSST's annual Law Enforcement Staffing Survey includes a question about how agencies are promoting job openings, and some agencies have indicated that they have sought applicants from the armed forces. Military recruitment has not been specifically called out as a survey question in the past, however, so DPSST will update future surveys to gather more detailed data on the subject.

Lastly, DPSST surveys the demographics of each Basic Police class at the Oregon Public Safety Academy. In surveys dating back to 2023, 31% of respondents have indicated past military experience. This exceeds the national average of about 25%.

Yours respectfully,

Phil Castle
Agency Director