



Fort Cavazos Region Veterans Inventory Initiative

Quarterly Report, October-December 2024

An assessment of the intentions, educational level, skills, employment desires, and suggestions to improve the Central Texas region's "Quality of Place" for Soldiers leaving military service at Fort Cavazos, Texas.



Quarterly Report: 1st Quarter, FY 2025

(October-December 2024)

A. BACKGROUND: Operation Economic Transformation is the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce (GKCC) plan to identify, measure, and capitalize on new and emerging economic development opportunities present in the Central Texas region. In April 2006, the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce (GKCC) employed TIP Strategies, Inc. to conduct a study to identify, measure, and capitalize on the new and emerging economic development opportunities present in the Central Texas region. The results of their study were published in 2007.

One key recommendation from the study was to regularly administer a survey for veterans separating from military service at Fort Cavazos to capture insightful information regarding their skills and desired career fields post separation for all Soldiers and Spouses. In July 2006, the following parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to routinely inventory the intentions, educational level, skills, and employment desires of separating Soldiers in order to improve the Fort Cavazos regional "Quality of Place":

- Fort Cavazos Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP)
- Workforce Solutions of Central Texas - Board
- Workforce Solutions of Central Texas - Service Centers
- Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce
- Heart of Texas Defense Alliance
- Texas Veterans Commission

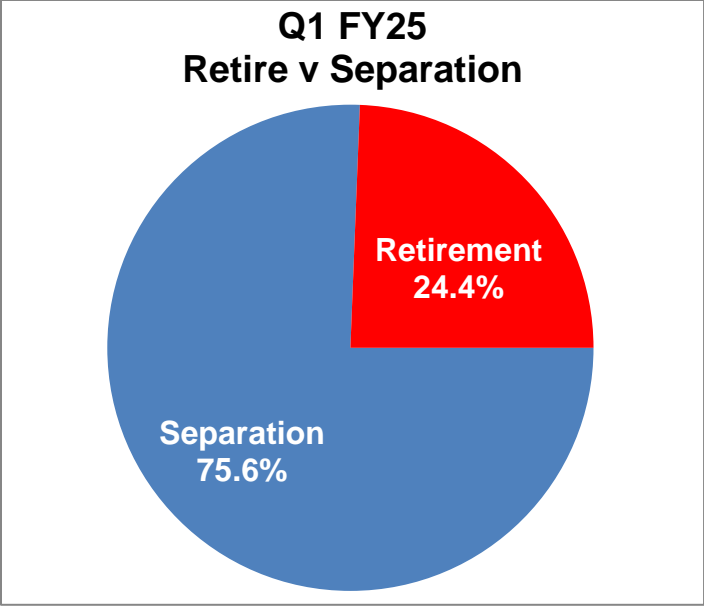
Data is collected via a voluntary digital ten-question survey administered during either the Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP) workshop or installation final clearance¹. The purpose for the collection and analysis of this data is threefold:

1. Develop and retain the region's skilled and motivated Military Veteran Workforce;
2. Foster innovation and entrepreneurship; retain existing businesses, and attract new business to the region; and
3. Align the efforts of the participating agencies to enhance options for current and future/potential residents.

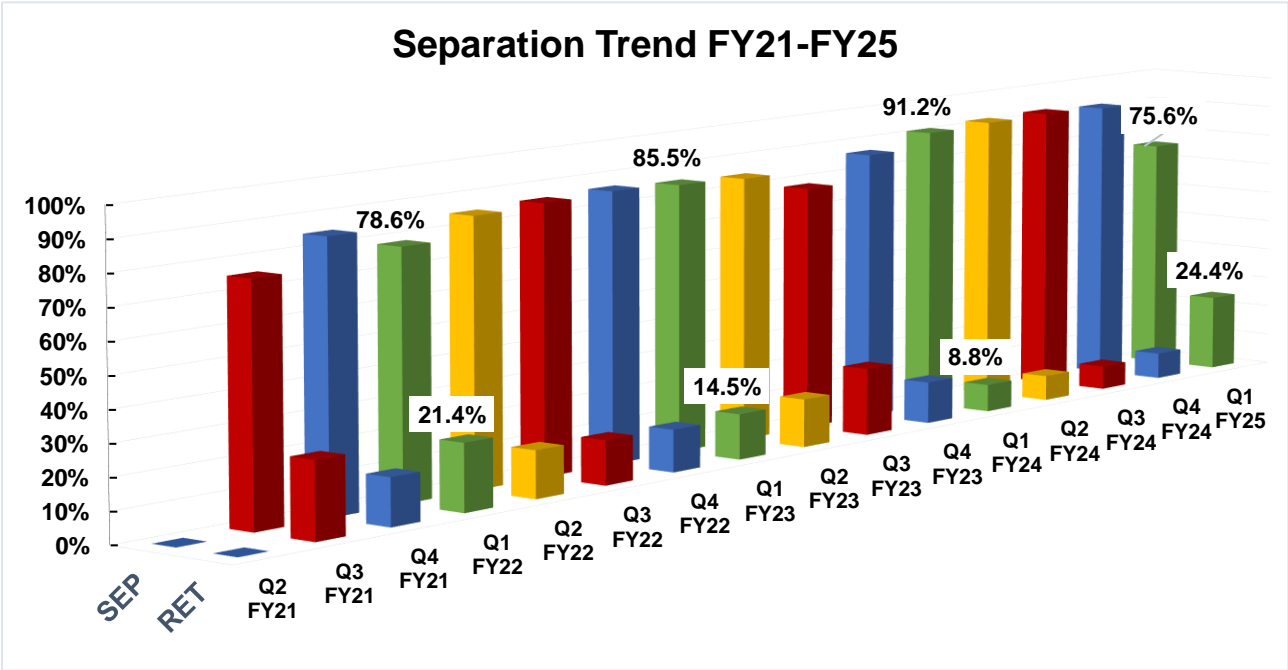
B. DEMOGRAPHICS

1. For the 1st Quarter FY 2025 (October-December 2024), 201 Soldiers completing their military service responded to the survey with the results depicted below. Although down from the previous quarter, this number indicates a return to normal response rates comparable to pre-COVID Pandemic rates. This quarter 49 of 201 (24.4%) transitioning soldiers are retiring with the remainder separating from service as seen in the chart below.

¹ Retiring Soldiers may participate in TAP up to two years prior to their retirement date, while non-retiring Soldiers may participate up to one year in advance. Effective November 2012, all Soldiers separating from the military are required to attend the TAP seminar and will provide the opportunity for more Soldiers to participate in the optional Veterans Inventory Initiative survey.

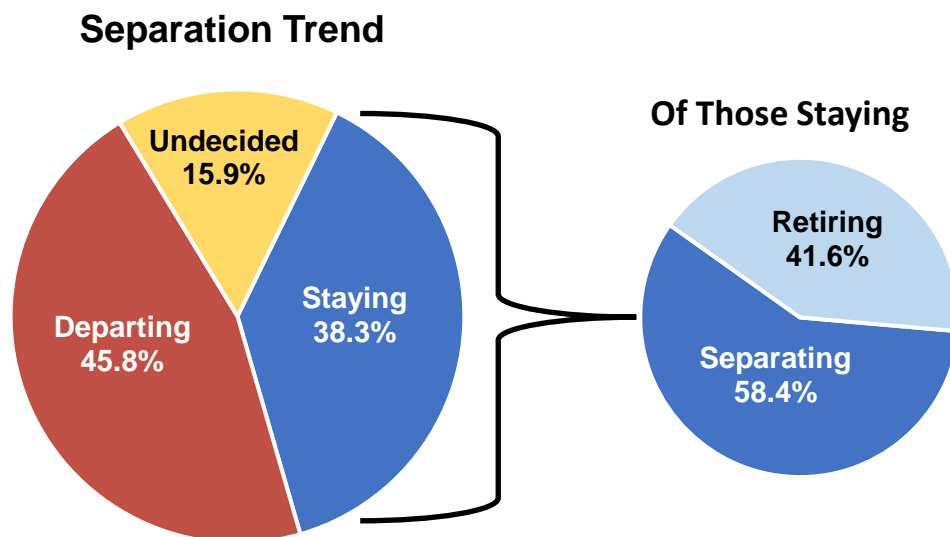


2. The Veterans Inventory Initiative has collected data on Soldiers separating from the service at Fort Cavazos since FY 2007 and reports have been based on responses from a total of 51,984 separating and retiring Soldiers. The amount of those separating from the service during the timeframe of January 2021 through December 2024 has fluctuated between 73%-92%, while the amount retiring has fluctuated between 8%-27%. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, data was not available for 3rd QTR FY20, 1st QTR FY21, and 2nd QTR FY21.



C. INTENTION TO STAY IN THE REGION: The respondents were surveyed regarding their intentions on remaining in the region (within 30 miles of Fort Cavazos – generally equating to the Killeen-Temple-Fort Cavazos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) when their service ended. For this quarter, we received a total of 201 respondents in the following categories.

1. 77 of 201 (38.3%) respondents indicated they intended to stay in the region.
2. 92 of 201 (45.8%) respondents indicated they would not stay in the region
3. 31 of 201 (15.9%) respondents indicated they are undecided on staying.
4. The 38.3% (77 of 201) of those staying in the MSA represent two demographics: those retiring 41.6% (32/77) and those separating 58.4% (45/77). The second chart below represents the percentages of those separating and those retiring since each group represent a different demographic seeking employment in the MSA.

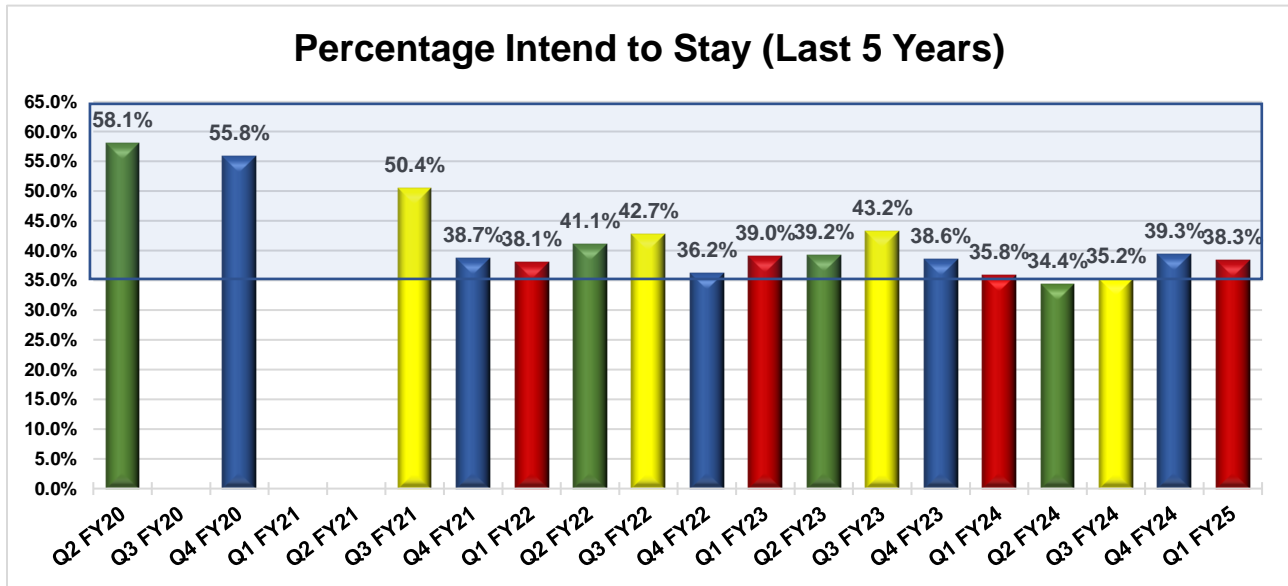


5. The survey also asks respondents that do not intend to remain and those undecided if a job available in the area would change their response. Of those two categories, 50.8% (63 of 124) indicated they would stay in the area if desirable employment were available. This represents an untapped source of recruitable talent.

D. DEMOGRAPHICS OF THOSE INTENDING TO STAY IN THE REGION:

1. When analyzing data of Soldiers' intentions on remaining in the Killeen-Temple-Fort Cavazos MSA over the last five years, the graph below indicates that the historical percentage of Soldiers intending to remain in the area averaged 39.6% ranging between 27.9% and 58.1%. With the onset of COVID we saw an increase in the percentage remaining in the MSA for 2nd QTR FY20 (58%) and 4th QTR FY20 (54%). These two spikes are likely a combination of impacts from the COVID19 pandemic and a decreased number of surveys processed. However, the pre-COVID average is 30.1% and the post-COVID average is 41.4% for those remaining which indicates an increase for those staying. Time will tell if this increase is an enduring change. It is also important to note that the numbers, according to the Retired Army Personnel System, show a continual increase in retirees remaining in the region throughout the past five years.

2. This quarter (FY25 1st QTR) 38.3% (77 of 201) of our separating service members are deciding to call Central Texas home. Of the reasons for staying, the #1 reason this quarter was the Central Texas quality of life at 50.6% (39/77).



3. Military retirees residing in the MSA. While the Veterans Inventory Initiative only surveys the intent of Soldiers departing the service, we are able to more accurately track the disposition of the retiring population using data from the Retired Army Personnel System (RAPS), which is based on the actual retired Soldiers' zip code. According to RAPS, the cities of Belton, Gatesville, Harker Heights, Nolanville, Salado, and Temple experienced retiree growth rates larger than the MSA overall growth of 91.0% for the period December 2007 to March 2024.

	DECEMBER 2007	March 2024	% GROWTH 2007 – 2025
KILLEEN	7,569	14,234	+88.1%
COPPERAS COVE	3,001	4,460	+48.6%
HARKER HEIGHTS	1,699	3,648	+114.7%
TEMPLE	1,058	2,508	+137.1%
KEMPNER	845	1,489	+76.2%
BELTON	792	1,990	+151.3%
LAMPASAS	342	561	+64.0%
GATESVILLE	327	682	+108.6%
NOLANVILLE	224	690	+208.0%
SALADO	202	540	+167.3%
FLORENCE	62	99	+59.7%
MSA	16,121	30,901	+91.7%
Other	66,734	126,385	+89.4%

4. In the latest estimate from March 2024, more than 141,657 retirees, survivors, and their families, remained within the Fort Cavazos area. While this number usually continues to grow each quarter with transitioning Soldiers remaining in the region and others moving into the region due to Quality-of-Life factors. Current estimates now show over 482,426 people are

supported by Fort Cavazos locally and outside the MSA in the Fort Cavazos area of responsibility. Below are some key data points to provide additional insights into the growth rates locally:

a. In addition to these indicators of economic stability for the Killeen-Temple-Fort Cavazos MSA, the Texas Comptroller also stated in the June 2024 economic report that Fort Cavazos's economic impact was \$39.1 billion statewide. The report states that Fort Cavazos is responsible for 59,695 direct jobs and total employment of 173,730 jobs throughout Texas. Fort Cavazos is the largest single site employer in the state of Texas.

b. In a November 2024 Military Times survey of Best for Vets, Central Texas College was ranked #1 for Texas Community Colleges, #8 for Texas Colleges & Universities, and #63 out of 304 institutions nationwide. This recognition highlights CTCs commitment to supporting our military-connected students with the best resources, programs, and services while demonstrating dedication to helping veterans succeed both in higher education and beyond. <https://bestforvets.militarytimes.com/>

c. In January 2024, GoBankingRates identified Killeen as the most affordable of the fastest growing cities in the nation. Analyzing both affordability and growth data, researchers at GoBankingRates considered one-year and five-year population changes, median household incomes, average rent, average home values, and overall cost of living ranked Killeen as the #1 location. https://kdhnews.com/news/local/study-killeen-ranks-as-the-most-affordable-fast-growing-city-in-nation/article_d6eb32ee-b64d-11ee-ab4d-ef333f3dec63.html in the 18 January 2024 KDH Edition.

d. In August 2023, SmartAsset ranked Killeen as the #1 location for first-time homebuyers out of 185 metropolitan areas across the US. Killeen offered the best combination of affordability, available inventory, growth potential, and relaxed competition. https://kdhnews.com/business/study-ranks-killeen-market-as-the-best-place-for-first-time-homebuyers/article_58f1039c-37df-11ee-8830-8b76cf38ab45.html in 11 August 2023 KDH Edition.

e. In July 2023, the City of Killeen was ranked #2 for the lowest cost of living in Texas according to a study by Texas Real Estate Source. Ranking is based on several factors including city annual property tax, utilities, home price, transportation, clothing, groceries, and leisure costs. https://kdhnews.com/news/killeen-ranks-second-in-state-for-lowest-cost-of-living/article_7b6cf888-1dd4-11ee-8470-e36489b84a80.html in 8 July 2023 KDH edition.

f. Texas A&M-Central Texas is in the Top 100 of Online Masters Programs according to the Killeen Daily Herald. Texas A&M University-Central Texas received five awards for its online graduate programs from the U.S. News and World Report rankings for the best online programs. https://kdhnews.com/news/education/a-m-central-texas-recognized-for-masters-programs/article_16ecbf5a-37d8-11ea-ae48-8f18eb44f4aa.html in January 2019

g. Central Texas College designated a Top 10 Military Friendly School by Viqtory based on a survey of academic results of over 1800 schools which ranked CTC as the #6 Community College in the nation. https://kdhnews.com/copperas_cove_herald/ctc-named-a-top-military-friendly-school/article_21231d28-a0c4-11ec-8074-2355915fcb92.html in May 2022.

h. Killeen ranked number #101 out of the top 125 metro areas to live based on the U.S. News and World Reports study, "125 Best Places to Live in the USA." The study compared 125 metro areas in the U.S. based on quality of life and the job markets of each area, as well as

value and desire to live in the area, <https://patch.com/texas/across-tx/u-s-news-where-killen-ranks-best-places-live> in April 2019.

i. According to CNN Money, the City of Killeen has nearly closed the home ownership gap between black and white resident homeowners with only a 14.5% difference. This makes Killeen the lowest racial homeownership gap in the country, and the area supports integration that many of the larger cities lack https://money.cnn.com/2018/04/17/news/economy/killeen-texas-homeownership/index.html?section=money_news_economy&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2Fmoney_news_economy+%28CNMoney%3A+Economy+News%29 in April 2018.

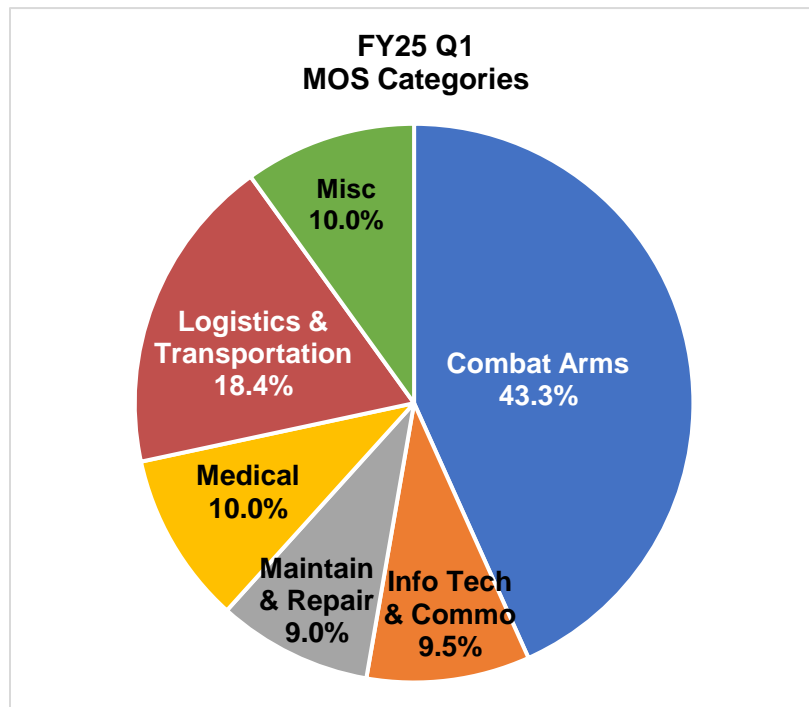
j. According to the Texas Association of Realtors, Bell County ranked eighth out of ten for the total number of residents coming from out of state. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, this is the fourth straight year for an increase in residents moving to Texas from out of state, https://kdhnews.com/news/local/report-bell-county-among-top-destinations-for-new-texas-residents/article_7d7b52b2-0fa9-11e8-823c-67e0a141d1d4.html in February 2018.

k. The Killeen unemployment rate was 3.9% compared with the Texas unemployment rate of 4.0%, <https://www.deptofnumbers.com/unemployment/texas/killen/> in April 2024.

l. In 2017, the Texas Transportation Commission approved the designation of 25 miles of US highway 190 in Bell County as a section of the new Interstate 14 which is part of the Interstate Highway System, and part of the new national Fort-to-Port strategic transportation system linking military facilities to deployment seaports, in 2017 and IH-14 expansion continues across Texas with ongoing expansion west from Copperas Cove and east from Temple. <http://www.gulfcoaststrategichighway.org/>

m. The American Defense Communities (ADC) designated Fort Cavazos as one of the eight “Great American Defense Communities” across the United States for providing continuous support to its service members and their military families, <http://www.hrmffa.org/images/Hampton-Roads-VA-GADC-2017-press-release.pdf> in January 2017.

E. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITIES: Departing Soldiers represent over 100 different Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). All of the 201 responses to the MOS question recorded can be grouped into six (6) general areas: Combat Arms (43.3%), Maintainers & Repairers (9.0%), Logistics & Transportation (18.4%), Intelligence, Information Technology & Communication (9.5%), and Medical (10.0%). The other represented series of job classifications are quantified within the ‘Miscellaneous’ category representing (10.0%) of Transitioning soldiers.



COMBAT ARMS

1. Traditionally, Combat Arms has been the largest group. As operations have ended in Afghanistan and forces reduced in Iraq-Syria, we have seen an increase in operational deployments to Europe and other locations in response to world events. Many transitioning Soldiers will not be combat veterans of the Iraq/Afghanistan campaigns but will have deployed for non-combat operations. Therefore, in addition to the skills listed below, these Soldiers will likely have a broad leadership skillset and staff planning skills (soft skills) that would be a tremendous asset to any organization.

2. Soldiers in combat arms comprise 43.3% (87/201) of 1st QTR FY25 transitioning population. The top seven categories are shown below along with officers and warrant officer transitions.

Infantry (30)	Member or leader who employs small arms/heavy anti-armor weapons in support of combat operations. Operates both mounted and dismounted to close with and destroy the enemy. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel.
Combat Engineer (15)	Member or leader who supervises or assists traveling over rough terrain in combat situations. The combat engineer needs to be an expert in mobility, counter-mobility, survival, and general engineering. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel. Duties may include construction or repair to build bridges, roads, airfields or other facilities.
Field Artillery (7)	Member or leader who employs indirect fire artillery and rocket systems. Loads and fires artillery and rocket systems to include setting fuses and charges on a variety of munitions, including high explosive artillery

	rounds, laser-guided projectiles, mines, and rocket assisted projectiles. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel.
Aviation (11)	Member or leader who operates, employs, and maintains Army manned/unmanned aircraft to support operations. Includes a range of positions from flight operations, aircraft maintenance, air traffic control, and others. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel.
Cavalry Scout (6)	Member or leader who performs reconnaissance, security, and other combat operations to gather information about enemy positions, equipment, personnel, and activities. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel.
Air Defense (6)	Member or leader who operates and employs surface-to-air weapons and detection systems to defeat threats including manned/unmanned aircraft, rockets, missiles, and other threats while protecting friendly personnel, equipment, and critical assets. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel.
Armored Crewmember (4)	Member or leader who operates and employs armored tanks and assault vehicles to rapidly overwhelm and destroy enemy personnel, equipment, and positions. Employs, operates, and maintains assigned weapons, equipment, and personnel.
Warrant Officers (2)	Warrant Officers are the technical and subject matter experts in their respective field. Warrant Officers this quarter included: C-12 Aircraft Pilot (1) and Aviation Maintenance Technician (1).
Officers (6)	Leaders who plan, organize, and lead troops and activities in military operations. Manages enlisted personnel and equipment. Commands units to accomplish assigned objectives. Officers this quarter included: Infantry (1), Armor (3), Air Defense (1), and Field Artillery (1).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. This group includes not only traditional information technology and communications skills but also includes Soldiers in the military intelligence field because of their data collection, analysis, and dissemination skills.

2. Soldiers that work in the Information Technology and Communications field comprise 9.5% (19/201) of 1st QTR FY25 transitioning population. The top six categories are shown below along with officer and warrant officer transitions.

Information Technology Specialist (3)	Member or leader who is responsible for maintaining, processing, and troubleshooting military computer systems and operations. Responsible for highly sensitive information and possesses technical skills and aptitude for programming and computer languages.
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Multichannel Transmission Communications (1)	Member or leader who installs repairs, and operates radio, satellite, and multichannel transmissions, security devices, and power generators to ensure reliable and timely communications. Analyzes systems and diagnostics to isolate faults and ensure continuous communications.
Signal Support System Specialist (2)	Signal support systems specialists are responsible for battlefield signal support systems and terminal devices. Signal support specialists are part of the Army Signal Corps (USASC), which handles communications and information systems support for the combined armed forces.
Satellite Communications (1)	Member or leader responsible for all technical aspects of satellite equipment installation, operations, configuration, and alignment in order to keep lines of communication up and running. Installs, operates, and maintains ground terminals, systems, and networks
Intelligence Analyst (2)	Member or leader who uses information derived from all intelligence disciplines to determine changes in enemy capabilities, vulnerabilities, and probable courses of action. Analyzes, assesses, processes, and distributes intelligence information.
Nodal Network Operator (1)	Member or leader responsible for installing, operating, and performing field-level maintenance on Internet Protocol-based high-speed electronic communication systems; working with integrated network control centers; performing network management functions, re-engineering communication assets; maintaining communications security and other equipment associated with network communication operations.
Miscellaneous (3)	Other military skills in this area transitioning this quarter are: Telecommunications Ops Chief (1), Electronic Warfare Specialist (1), and Human Intelligence Collection (1).
Warrant Officers (1)	Warrant Officers are the technical and subject matter experts in their respective field. Warrant Officers this quarter included: Information Services Technician (1).
Officers (5)	Leaders who plan, organize, and lead troops and activities in military operations. Manages enlisted personnel and equipment. Commands units to accomplish assigned objectives. Officers this quarter included: Signal (4) and Counter Intelligence (1)

MAINTAINERS/ REPAIRERS

1. This group is comprised of Soldiers who maintain a variety of military equipment including weapons systems, vehicles, generators, specialty equipment, communications, and other types to ensure the operational capability of the equipment.

2. Soldiers that work in the field of Maintenance/Repair comprise 9.0% (18/201) of 1st QTR FY25 transitioning population. The top seven categories are shown below along with officers and warrant officer transitions.

Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics (6)	Member or leader responsible to supervise and perform maintenance and recovery operations on light and heavy wheeled vehicles, associated trailers, material handling equipment, and select armored vehicles. Inspects, services, maintains, repairs, and replaces automotive systems subsystems including electrical systems.
Power-Generation Specialist (2)	Member or leader responsible to supervise and perform maintenance and repairs on power generation equipment, internal combustion engines, and associated equipment in mobile and stationary power plants.
M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer (1)	Member or leader responsible for maintenance on the suspension, steering, hydraulic, auxiliary power, fire suppression, and gas systems of M1 Abrams tanks. Will diagnose and troubleshoot any malfunctions.
Radar Repairer (2)	Member or leader responsible for field and sustainment level maintenance for ground surveillance radars, associated equipment, and meteorological equipment.
Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer (1)	Member or leader responsible for maintenance and repairs on the range of Bradley fighting vehicles including anti-aircraft and similar systems. Maintains the fire control system, engines, suspension, steering, and controls.
Stryker Systems Maintainer (1)	Member or leader responsible for maintenance and repairs on the Stryker family of vehicles. Keeps the vehicles and the operating systems running smoothly.
Miscellaneous (4)	Other military skills in this area transitioning this quarter are: Artillery Mechanic (1), Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor (1), Allied Tradesman (1), Fire Control Repairer (1), and Computer Detection Systems Repairer (1).
Warrant Officers	Warrant Officers are the technical and subject matter experts in their respective field. Warrant Officers this quarter included: N/A.
Officers (1)	Leaders who plan, organize, and lead troops and activities in military operations. Manages enlisted personnel and equipment. Commands units to accomplish assigned objectives. Officers this quarter included: Maintenance & Munitions Materiel Officer (1).

MEDICAL

1. This group provides preventive, routine, and emergency medical treatment, limited primary care & health protection & evacuation from a point of injury or illness. Includes select types of specialty care.

2. Personnel in this group make up 10.0% (20/201) of 1st QTR FY25 transitioning population. The top three categories are shown below along with officers and warrant officer transitions.

Combat Medic (8)	Member or leader who provides emergency medical treatment, limited primary care, force health protection, evacuation in a variety of operational and clinical settings from point of injury or illness through the continuum of military health care. Serves as a first responder and triages illnesses and injuries. Trains other Soldiers in lifesaver/first responder courses and provides care on base while not deployed.
Orthopedic Specialist (1)	Member or leader responsible to assist in prevention, examination, and treatment of pain and injuries to bones, joints, & muscles, prep patients, and assist orthopedic surgeons with procedures in the operating room.
Practical Nursing Specialist (1)	Member or leader who supervises or performs preventive, therapeutic, and emergency nursing care procedures under supervision of a physician, nurse or NCO.
Miscellaneous (4)	Soldiers with various medical specialty MOS including: Operating Room Specialist (2), Optical Laboratory Specialist (1), and Medical Logistics Specialist (1).
Warrant Officers	Warrant Officers are the technical and subject matter experts in their respective field. Warrant Officers this quarter included: N/A.
Officers (6)	Leaders who plan, organize, and lead troops and activities in military operations. May provide general and specialty medical care. Medical Officers this quarter included: Internist (1), Dietician (1), Physician Assistant (1), Critical Care Nurse (2), and Nuclear Medical Scientist (1).

LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION

1. Logistics & Transportation is frequently the second largest transitioning group. This group plans, coordinates, and sustains military units and operations with equipment, supplies, ordnance, while providing Soldiers with food, water, ammunition, petroleum, repair parts and other services.

2. Personnel in this group, make up 18.4% (37/201) of 1st QTR FY25 transitioning population. The top categories are shown below along with officers and warrant officer transitions.

Motor Transport Operators (4)	Member or leader who supervise and operate wheeled vehicles over all types of terrain to safely transport cargo, troops, and provide advanced mobility on all missions. Manages loading, unloading, and distribution.
Automated Logistical Specialist (5)	Member or leader responsible for supervising and performing accountability management or warehouse functions to maintain equipment records and parts. perform maintenance management and warehouse functions in order to maintain equipment records. Responsible for the quality and accuracy of performance, cost, and parts data through improved data management.

Unit Supply Specialist (8)	Member or leader primarily responsible for supervising or performing tasks involving the general upkeep and maintenance of all Army supplies and equipment. Receives, inspects, inventories, loads and unloads, stores, issues, and delivers all supplies and equipment. Secures and controls weapons and ammunition in security areas.
Petroleum Supply Specialist (11)	Member or leader who supervise and manage the reception, storage, and shipping of bulk or packaged petroleum-based products. Performs quality assurance, dispenses and distributes petroleum products for vehicles, aircraft, and ancillary equipment.
Food Service Specialist (3)	Prepare and service food in both in the field and at home station, as well as ordering, inspecting food supplies, and keeping the kitchen safe and sanitary.
Ammunition Specialist (2)	Member or leader responsible to receive, store, and issue conventional ammunition, guided missiles, large rockets and other ammunition related items. Performs maintenance, modification, destruction and demilitarization on ammunition and explosive components. Performs stock control and accounting of ammunition.
Miscellaneous (2)	Soldiers with various medical specialty MOS including: Cargo Specialist (1) and Transportation Management Coordinator (1),
Warrant Officers	Warrant Officers are the technical and subject matter experts in their respective field. N/A.
Officers (2)	Leaders who plan, organize, and lead troops and activities in military operations. Manages enlisted personnel and equipment. Commands units to accomplish assigned objectives. Officers this quarter included: Quartermaster (2).

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Miscellaneous group includes others not in one of the broader categories above or a few who failed to indicate their specialty. They are traditionally lower density military occupation specialties Personnel in this category provide unique functions and represent 10.0% (20/201) of the 1st QTR FY25 transitioning population.

Military Police (5)	Member or leader who protects lives and property on Army installations by enforcing military laws and regulations, traffic control, crime preventing, and emergency response. Conducts force protection, anti-terrorism, area security, police intelligence, corrections, and includes Military Working Dog handlers.
Human Resources Specialist (3)	Member or leader who performs and supervises specific human resources functions in a personnel office at various organizational levels. Member or leader who is responsible for financial management duties such as budgeting, disbursing and accounting for government funds.
Chemical, Biological, Radiological, & Nuclear Specialist (5)	Member or leader who protects against the threat of CBRN weapons of mass destruction and decontaminates hazardous material spills or accidents. Employs advanced equipment and coordinates defense systems against CBRN weapons.
Financial Management Specialist	Member or leader responsible for accounting, finances, budget reporting, and disbursing of government funds.

(2)	
Miscellaneous (3)	Soldiers with various specialty MOSs including: Working Dog Handler (1), Public Affairs (1), Contracting Specialist (1) and No Response.
Warrant Officers	Warrant Officers are the technical and subject matter experts in their respective field. Warrant Officers this quarter included: N/A.
Officers (2)	Leaders who plan, organize, and lead troops and activities in military operations. Manages enlisted personnel and equipment. Commands units to accomplish assigned objectives. Officers this quarter included: Military Police (1) and Human Resources Officer (1).

F. DESIRED POST- MILITARY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT:

1. Respondents are asked to indicate the type (or types) of post-military employment they desire. If married, they can indicate their spouse's employment preferences as well. In order to standardize input for ease of analysis, the survey provides 14 broad categories conforming to industry categories found in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The choice "other" is offered when a specific desired category is not provided. Because this survey is voluntary and can be taken up to a year before the date of separation during the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program, it may be very possible that at the time of the survey, the majority just did not know what area of employment he/she would prefer. For this 1st QTR FY25 report, of those who did respond to this question (201 Soldiers), the top five desired categories of post-military service employment are below². There were 118 responses for the spouse preference of their desired employment categories and the top five are depicted below as well.

SOLDIER

1. Skilled Trades: 56
2. Information Technology: 43
Business/Professional Services: 43
3. Medical/Healthcare: 39
4. Public Safety: 33
5. Construction: 32

SPOUSE

1. Medical/Healthcare: 38
2. Education/Training: 23
3. Business/Professional Services: 18
4. Public Safety: 11
5. Information Technology: 6
Skilled Trades: 6

2. Employment: The Labor Market & Career Information Department (LMCI) of the Texas Workforce Commission provides a monthly snapshot of the area economy within the Texas labor market using statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is broken down by industry profiles, and graphs the top ten groups consisting of seventeen different industries.

a. This list can be compared to the Veteran's Inventory Initiative list of top desired employment after the service. The following list indicates the top ten industry profiles for the

²Employers desiring to hire Fort Cavazos veterans should contact Fort Cavazos Soldier for Life -Transition Assistance Program (formerly known as ACAP) directly through TAP Mr. Adrian B Thompson: at (254)288-0827; adrian.b.thompson.civ@army.mil; or by posting their opportunity and company website URL on the TAP website (<https://www.armytap.army.mil>).

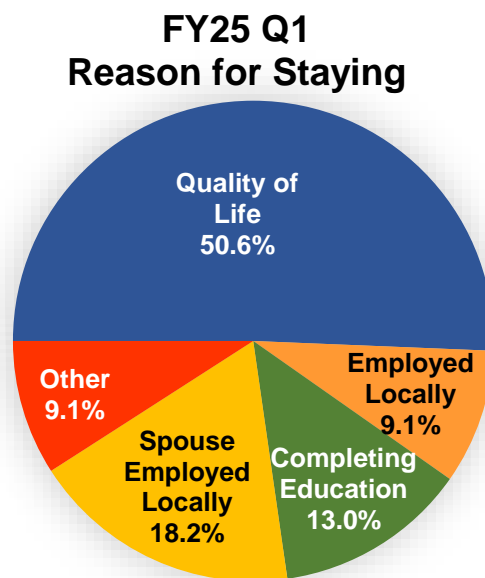
Employers may place a job posting via "Work in Texas" (www.workintexas.com) - a statewide, internet-based job-matching system through Workforce Solutions of Central Texas (WFSCCT) (254) 200-2020. The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) staff work closely with the Central Texas Workforce Business Services including job development, direct referrals, and military skills-civilian occupations matching. tvcemployment@tvc.texas.gov (512) 463-2333

Killeen-Temple MSA according to the monthly Texas Labor Market Information - <https://texaslmi.com/EconomicProfiles/MSAProfiles> for more info.

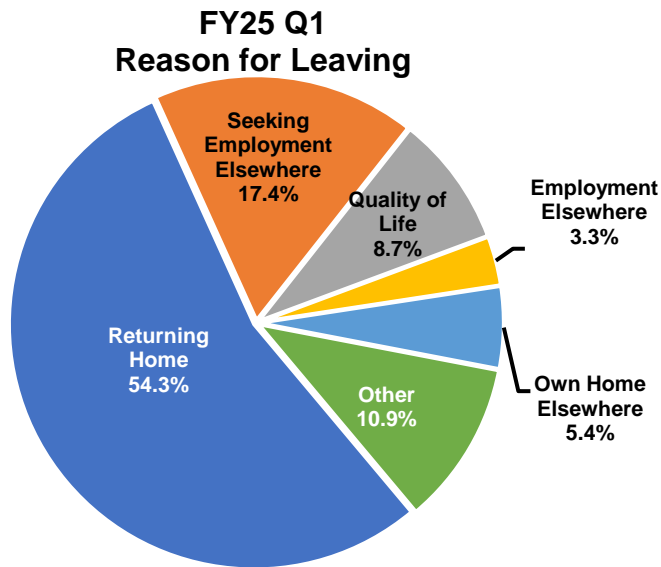
b. This list can be compared to the responses above for Soldiers' top desires for employment when retiring from their service in the military. We will continue to monitor and compare these reports in the future.

G. REASONS FOR REMAINING IN THE MSA:

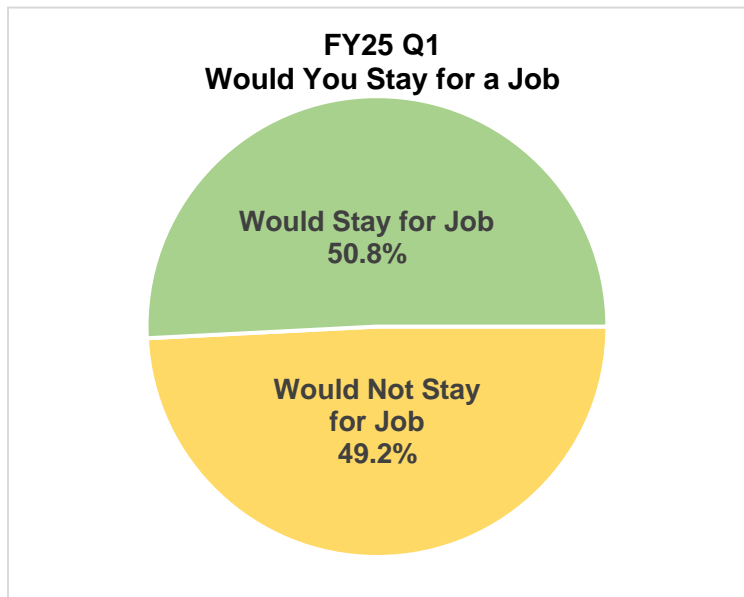
1. In 2013, the survey was revised to gain more clarity on the Quality-of-Life factors cited by separating Soldiers that impact their decision to remain in Central Texas or go elsewhere after their service ends. The majority of those completing the survey that identified they were staying in the area said it was due to Quality of Life. The second largest group staying was due to their spouse finding employment locally. The next largest groups staying have found employment locally, or completing education. With the addition of Texas, A&M-Central Texas to the MSA, the Soldiers and their spouses now have the opportunity to complete their Bachelors or Master's degree while remaining in an area with a lower cost of living compared to other areas with universities. We will continue to monitor this response for future quarters. The chart below depicts the respondent's reasons for remaining in Central Texas.



2. The reasons for those service members not staying in the MSA after separation are depicted below. The majority of those choosing to live outside of the MSA after separation wanted to return to their home of record, while the second largest group stated that they are seeking employment elsewhere. Returning home has been the primary reason for leaving the MSA since the inception of this survey. While returning to home of record is not something that can be improved for the area, available and desirable employment and the perception of the MSA quality of life are areas that can be improved.



3. There is an untapped resource in the pool of 201 service members in those who are leaving (92) or undecided (32) about remaining in Central Texas. Of these two categories, 50.8% (63 of 124) service members would stay in Central Texas for meaningful employment. This 50.8% represents a missed opportunity for the Central Texas labor market and a potential pool to recruit new industries seeking talent.

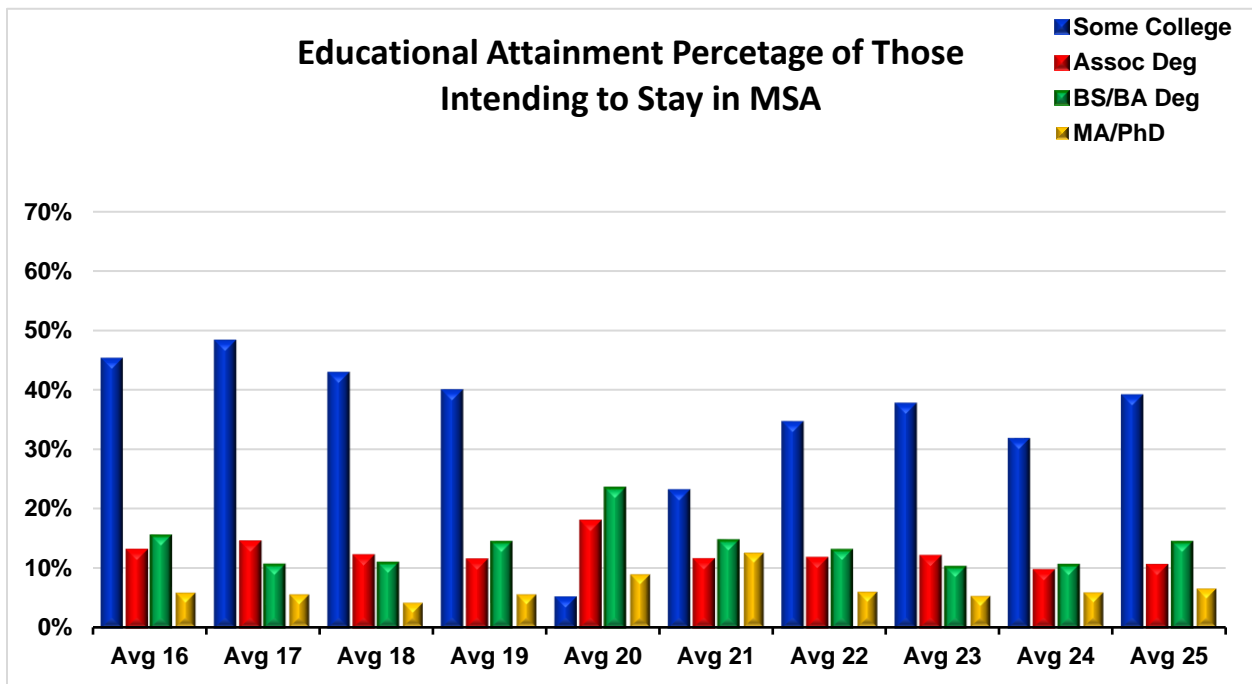


H. EDUCATION LEVEL OF THOSE REMAINING IN THE REGION: Respondents are asked to provide their highest level of educational attainment. All soldiers have a High School Diploma/GED. For this quarter, 55 of 77 (71.4%) of the respondents who intend to remain in the region have some level of post-secondary education:

- ❖ Some College – 30 (39.0%)
- ❖ Associates Degree – 8 (10.4%)

- ❖ Bachelor's Degree – 11 (14.3%)
- ❖ Masters/PhD Degree – 5 (6.5%)

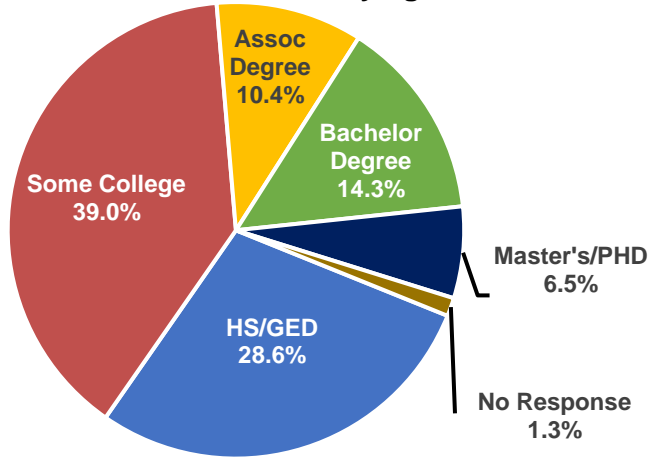
1. The data from almost 52,000 Soldiers separating over the last eighteen years indicates that for those Soldiers who intend to remain in the Killeen-Temple-Fort Cavazos MSA (both retirement eligible and non-retirement eligible), educational attainment for those completing the survey has remained stable for post-secondary degrees. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, there were less surveys processed in 2020 thru 2022. The chart below depicts average yearly education levels for those remaining in Central Texas for the last ten years. We will continue to monitor these results quarterly from those separating from the service.



Traditionally with the availability of Texas A&M Central Texas as an area university of distinction, the numbers of those Soldiers pursuing post-secondary degrees has been higher than before the opening of this area upper-level university. This data is further affirmation that those Soldiers leaving the service provide a solid foundation of education as well as real-world experience as future employees for the area.

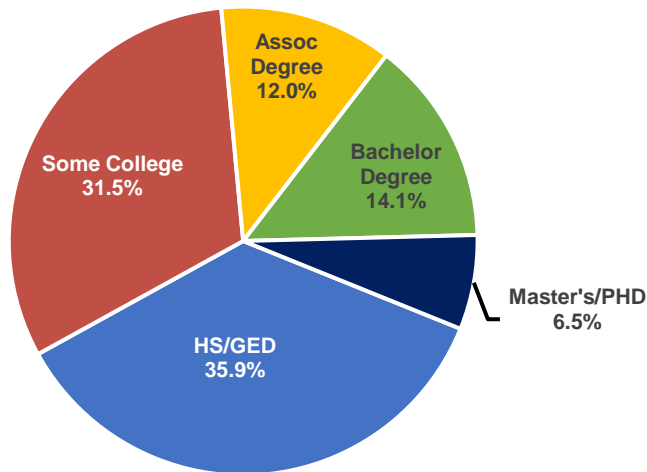
2. The chart below depicts the educational for those 77 service members who responded they are remaining in the MSA. The education level is diverse with 70.1% having at least some college or a degree. The remaining 29.9% all have a high school diploma or GED certification.

**FY25 Q1
Education Level - Staying**

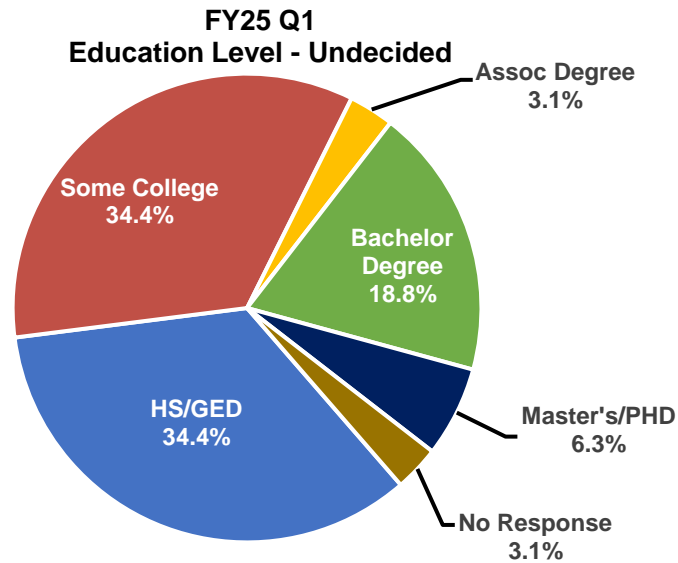


3. The graph below depicts the educational attainment levels for the 92 Soldiers who are not staying in the MSA and reflects lost opportunity for our area. The education level for those leaving is slightly less (6%) than those staying with 64.1% having at least some college or a degree. The remaining 35.9% all have a high school diploma or GED certification.

**FY25 Q1
Education Level - Leaving**



4. A third dynamic includes the Soldiers who are unsure if they will stay in the MSA or depart. This quarter 32 transitioning Soldiers indicated they were unsure if they would remain in the MSA or depart. This group represents both workforce and economic potential that may be influenced to remain in the MSA. Their educational attainment level depicted below is overall slightly lower (5.5%) than the group that stays and slightly higher (1.5%) than the group that is leaving. The chart below depicts this group's education level.



5. Anecdotally, businesses indicate they want to hire veterans. Educational attainment is a key variable in that process, given the current national unemployment rate. Due to extra benefits of health care, tuition assistance, housing and food allowances while in the service, the military remains a favorable career choice. However, the standards of recruiting continue to be more stringent, so candidates applying to the military with a GED are accepted on an exception to policy basis. When taking into account that Central Texas offers a low cost of living, has several post-secondary educational institutions within the Killeen-Temple-Fort Cavazos MSA where Soldiers are able to complete their degrees, and the fact that a large percentage of Soldiers separating from the service desire to remain in the area, the Killeen-Temple-Fort Cavazos MSA is a very desirable region for potential business partners to relocate to the area. This opportunity would also likely motivate many other Soldiers who have started their degree as indicated in the above graph to complete their education through the use of their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, with the potential of satisfying employment in the area after leaving the service.

6. Perceptions versus reality: As 98% percent of Fort Cavazos Soldiers either reside on-post or within 10 miles of Fort Cavazos in the communities of Central Texas, the survey choices reflect their perceptions of areas where improvements might further influence their decision to remain in the region when their military service ends. Quality of Life within the MSA is important to retaining Soldiers in the area after separating, as seen in the previous graph on page thirteen. In addition, Veterans ending their service at Fort Cavazos are clearly a talented and educated workforce worth retaining in the Central Texas region and their perceptions of the Quality of Life is important to be considered in future planning. While the Quality of Life is affected greatly by perception, bringing in larger industry and providing those employment opportunities is a strong way to make the Quality of Life in the MSA more desirable, helping to retain the Soldier and their family in the MSA.

7. Additional information not addressed in this quarterly report may be available for release to eligible entities. Requests for specific information should be addressed in writing to Executive Director, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance at 2916 Illinois Avenue, Killeen TX 76543.

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