

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Tucson-Phoenix area among best in U.S. for defense-industry jobs

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The Tucson-Phoenix corridor ranks as the best place in the country for defense-industry jobs outside of Washington, D.C., and Virginia, according to employment Web site ClearanceJobs.com.

Numerous military installations and companies such as Honeywell, Raytheon, General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin contribute to the state's ranking, according to ClearanceJobs.com.

"Security-cleared contractors specializing in systems engineering have their pick of quality jobs in Phoenix and Tucson," said Evan Lesser, director of ClearanceJobs.com.

"In particular, mechanical and software engineers with military-systems backgrounds are in continual demand. The higher the clearance level, the higher the salary they can command."

The number of intelligence jobs in the state has doubled since 2001, Lesser said in a report, which also listed Sargent Controls & Aerospace, MER Corp., Vacuum Optics, Airtronics, Boeing and Kutta Consulting as adding to the area's hiring potential.

The average security-cleared salary in the Phoenix/Tucson is \$61,491, according to the report.

www.clearancejobs.com