



# U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (SSC) Installation Snapshot

## Mission:

The U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (SSC) is a multi-service organization serving the entire Department of Defense (DoD) and is responsible for researching, developing, fielding, and sustaining food, clothing, shelters, airdrop systems, and Soldier support items. SSC also has the lead for soldier technology integration for the U.S. Army.

## Partners:

The SSC is an integrated DoD warrior focused installation consisting of several interdependent organizations from each of our military services. Synergistically, these organizations focus on missions that protect and sustain America's Warfighters. The proximity of the installation to many of our nation's finest academic institutions, medical research hospitals, high-tech industries, and other governmental agencies, allows SSC teams easy access to these organizations as well forming partnerships that ultimately benefit our military forces.

## Partnerships:

Working with academia, industry, and other governmental agencies is a force multiplier for the SSC team. SSC has more than 100 formal agreements with these groups in the form of Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA), Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and Memoranda of Agreement (MOA), to leverage technology and resources that result in a bigger bang for our taxpayer dollar. At the same time, these partnerships allow SSC to accelerate technology and get better products to our military faster.

## Facilities:

SSC has 124 buildings located on 174 acres in the Town of Natick and neighboring communities. Facilities include administration, laboratories, maintenance, storage, and housing areas. A self-contained city, SSC also has a shopette, cafeteria, barbershop, credit union, recreation center, and a travel office.

SSC also has several unique facilities allowing the researchers unparalleled capability to support America's troops. One of these facilities is a Climatic Chamber that allows researchers to generate worldwide extreme climatic conditions to test equipment, or to test human performance in extreme conditions, in a controlled environment. In addition, SSC has the following unique/specialized facilities: Altitude Chamber, Textile Facility, Combat Rations Production and Packaging Facility, Biomechanics Lab, 3-D Anthropometrics Lab, Camouflage Analysis & Demo Lab, Raincourt, Hydro-Environmental Chamber, Shade Room, Fiber Plant, Thermal & Flame Lab, and a Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Lab/Facility. SSC also has access to unique and costly instrumentations (MRI Machines) owned by the local Universities or Medical Facilities.

## On-Board Strength:

- SSC/Natick Garrison/Tenants: 1,957
- Civilian: 1048
- Military: 159
- Contractors: 750

## Economic Impact:

SSC generates more than \$135 million directly into the local economy through salaries, utilities, and local contracts. Estimated economic impact of this investment to the local community exceeds \$400 million.

## Total funding at SSC:

Approximately \$1.2 Billion (FY03)

## Relevance:

The SSC impacts the life of every single Warfighter, every single day. There are countless, and near daily examples, of warfighters surviving injuries due to SSC improvements in warfighter technologies and gear. In October 2003, several Soldiers visited SSC and told the workforce how the Interceptor Body Armor and the helmet saved their lives during combat in Iraq. Speaking to SSC teams, these troops also lauded the improvements in combat rations, shelters, and Soldier support items, all of which originate from the SSC.



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