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MILITARY PRIORITIES POINT-PAPER

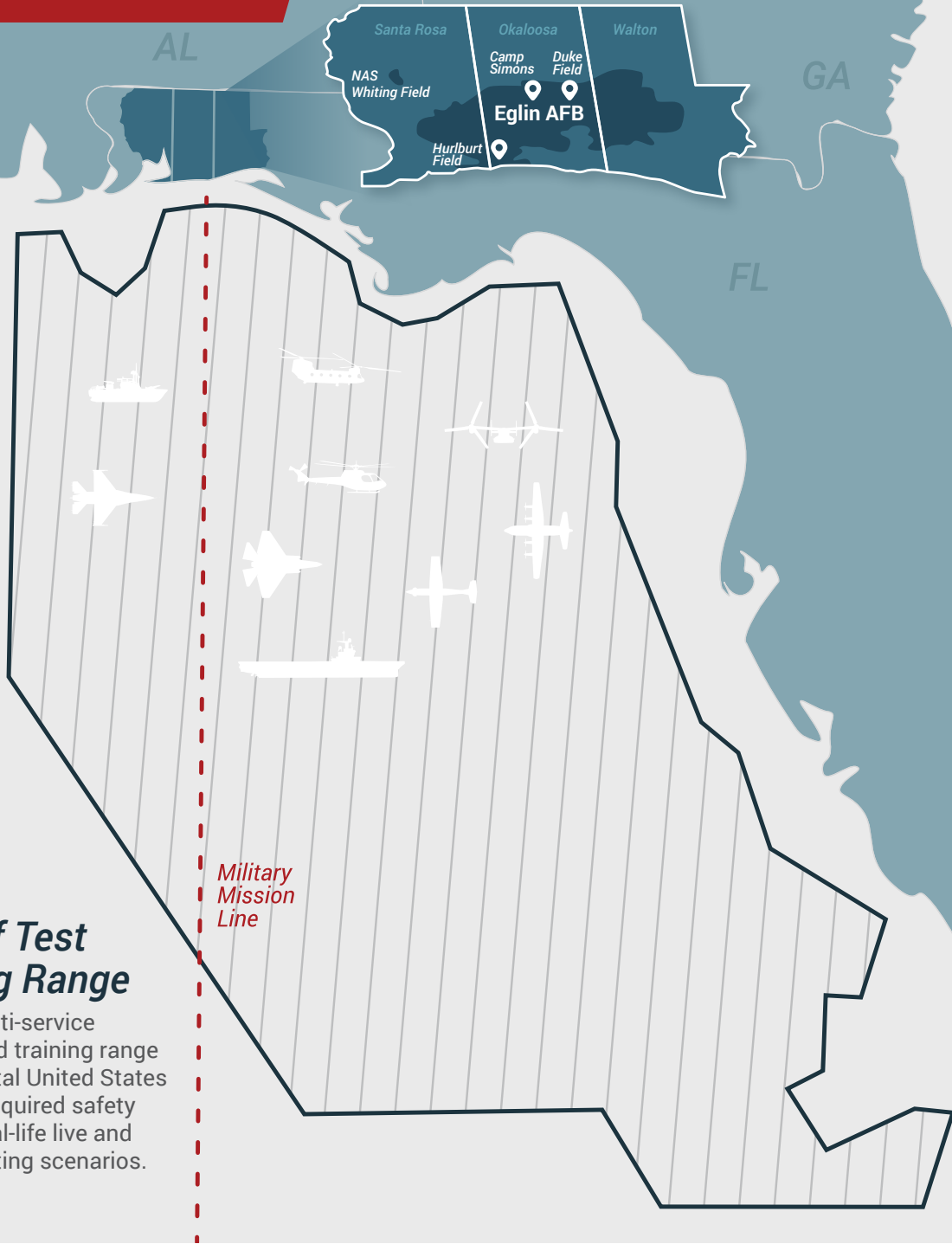
DoD's effectiveness and survivability in near-real-world combat conditions is dependent on military readiness capabilities, capacity and support infrastructure vital to complex training and execution situations ensuring our nation's security against adversaries; today and tomorrow.

Prepared and Provided by

DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA – SANTA ROSA – WALTON COUNTIES
FLORIDA, USA

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

DSI FOCUS AREA



Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range

The largest multi-service military test and training range in the continental United States providing the required safety footprint for real-life live and virtual war-fighting scenarios.

DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

- ROBERT MARINAN
CHAIRMAN, LT COLONEL USAF RET
- KAY RASMUSSEN
MANAGER

CONTACT

- 📍 P.O. BOX 4097
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32549
- ☎ 850.362.6467
- 🌐 MILITARYFRIENDLYNWF.COM

BACKGROUND

The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County (Doing Business As One Okaloosa EDC) originated the **Defense Support Initiatives** committee as a military issues advocacy group for local military installations and their missions across the three-county region housing Eglin Air Force Base (EAFB)—Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. EAFB supports Air Force, Army and Navy test and training units, and hosts major organizations for numerous development programs, operational units, military schools and various Federal agencies.

The U.S. military's task is to ensure American military superiority and to protect Americans against challenges to our national security. The

Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB) is a designated set of Department of Defense (DoD) facilities, ranges, and their associated workforce that provide the foundation, or base, for the Nation's Test and Evaluation (T&E) capabilities deemed critical to maintaining our Nation's military readiness. Concurrently, the MRTFB supports the development of rapid response solutions to technology related issues experienced by warfighters engaged in conflict. The MRTFB is regarded as a "national asset" consisting of Army, Navy, and Air Force ranges—one of which is managed by the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; the **Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR; aka Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range)**.

The EGTTR is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments, and for training in realistic combat-surrogate conditions; those expected in an actual conflict.

The EGTTR connects ranges and capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from NW Florida to Key West. It includes 180,000 square miles of DoD controlled air-space, 724 square miles of adjacent land ranges, and 17 miles of Gulf shoreline accommodating water-to-land transitions, high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, air-to-ground targeting, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing, space launches, and other activities. The EGTTR is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments, and for training in realistic combat-surrogate conditions. The EGTTR size supports use of large-footprint weapons that cannot be tested on other land-based military ranges, as well as the ability to execute multiple missions simultaneously in the maritime, air, and land spaces. Due to its tremendous capabilities, the EGTTR complex is an integral part of DoD's Training Resources Strategy.

Eglin AFB is home to the **Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC)** and is one of ten Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) host bases. A critical part of the MRTFB, the **96th Test Wing (96TW)** is the installation host wing, and the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and Air Force Special Operations Command systems. The wing provides expert development, evaluation and validation of the performance of systems throughout their lifecycle to ensure the warfighter has technologically superior, sustainable and safe systems. Protection and enhancement of the EGTTR is necessary to ensure these collective capabilities.

EGLIN MRTFB ACTIVITY



Stakeholder Requirements

AIR FORCE

- 96TH TEST WING
- AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY
- AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION CENTER
- 53RD WING
- AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER – ARMAMENT DIRECTORATE
- AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
- 919TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
- 325 FIGHTER WING
- 33D FIGHTER WING
- 20TH SPACE CONTROL SQUADRON
- AIR FORCE – OTHER

ARMY

- 6TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION
- 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)
- ALABAMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
- ARMY – OTHER

NAVY

- NAVY SCHOOL EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
- NAVY – OTHER

JOINT

- UNITED STATE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
- JOINT – OTHER

TOP PRIORITIES

- 1** Permanently Sustain the Military Mission Line Moratorium
 - ▶ *Implement Eastern Gulf Anti-Encroachment Buffering*
 - 2** Fund and Implement Gulf Range Enhancement Plan
 - 3** Fund the Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range Maximization Plan
 - 4** Fund 350 SWW MILCON Infrastructure Requirements
 - 5** Fund Weapons Technology Integration Center MILCON
 - 6** Expand Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field Privatized Housing
 - 7** Support Child Development Center Facilities
 - ▶ *Avoid Negative Mission Impact*
-

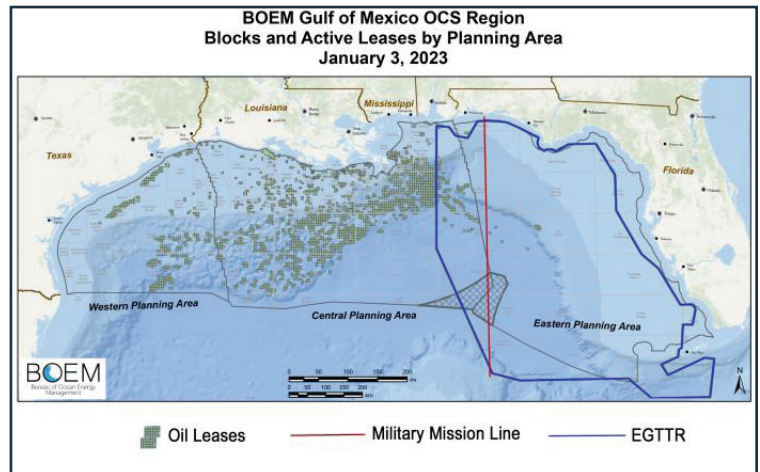
FEDERAL REQUESTS

Military Mission Line

The Egin Gulf Test & Training Range (aka Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range, EGTR) is the largest military range in the continental United States. Compromising the size, capability, or utilization of the EGTR assets could directly result in military mission failure. Energy and oil drilling structures along with associated exploratory activities anywhere east of the Military Mission Line (MML) are incompatible with military activities, would adversely impact military readiness, and would compromise **military readiness**.

Federal policies have protected the EGTR since 1983 providing an encroachment buffer zone. The 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, Public Law 109-432, Section 104, codified the MML preventing oil and natural gas drilling and exploration in the eastern Gulf. The MML moratorium **protected the EGTR** from encroachment by incompatible energy sector activities.

The DoD 2018 Congressional report, *Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico*, documents the presence of oil and gas infrastructure in the eastern Gulf of Mexico as being incompatible with defense industry test and



training activity, and with the safety of oil and gas personnel and infrastructure.

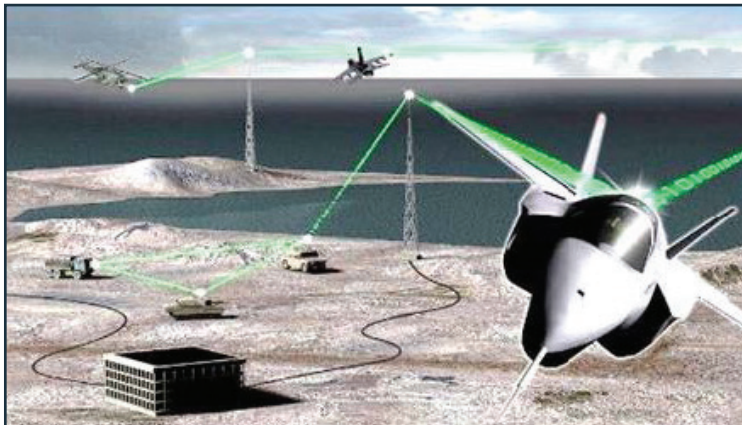
While the Congressional GOMESA moratorium was set to expire June 30, 2022, a September 2020 Presidential Executive Order extended moratorium protection to June 30, 2032. An Executive Order can be rescinded at any time by any sitting President and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, Title V, Subtitle B, Section 50251 removes the 2020 protection and allows for energy leases and development within the Eastern Gulf; specifically wind turbines. Any infrastructure developments within the EGTR encroach upon our national military capabilities and places our national security in jeopardy.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Support permanent sustainment of the Military Mission Line via the American Shores Protection Act, 118th Congress H.R. 583.

Gulf Range Enhancement Plan

The Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) is a modernization program to expand critical instrumentation coverage further southward into the Gulf of Mexico and Florida's west coast using land, water and airborne assets enhancing instrumentation, test capability and capacity of the EGTR. The GRE plan is an approved United States Air Force project [funding in **Program Element (PE) 0604759F, Major T&E Investment**] with phased increments to improve infrastructure capabilities of the MRTFB in Florida (i.e. EGTR). The GRE project grew out of a 2012 Air Force Long Range Stand-Off Weapons study to identify where future large footprint weapons could be tested. While the study found that no existing U.S. range had all the capabilities needed, the EGTR was the most cost-effective range for modernization. GRE improves capabilities by replacing aging **infrastructure** with a dual pathway of land and underwater based fiber. The plan also improves secure and encrypted data relay/transmission capabilities and capacities with connection to underwater fiber. Recent advancements in hypersonic test capabilities by Russia and China pose a clear and present threat to the national security of the United States. The



2023 National Defense Authorization Act requires DOD to test, evaluate and qualify **hypersonic capabilities** and related technologies. This requires full-scale, operationally relevant, live-fire joint service capabilities to simulate various realistic conditions. The GRE Plan supports these requirements and satisfies all constituent requirements.

The project was approved in 2014 with a need date of 2019. Funding profiles were originally proposed using FY12 cost data. However, this antiquated funding baseline will not provide adequate funding in today's market. Constrained budgets and high operational ops tempo of recent years has resulted in delays in funding GRE implementation.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Fund the Gulf Range Enhancement, PE 0604759F/ Major T&E Investment, \$30M increase.

Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range – Maximization (EGTTR-MAX)

The Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range, the largest asset in the Department of Defense’s MRTFB structure, is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments. Missions are being pushed farther from land due to increased congestion and new technologies requiring longer flight paths and larger safety footprints. The 96TW Plans and Programs office conducted a **2020 EGTTR Maximization Study** documenting future mission requirements, possible solutions and recommendations.

The EGTTR-MAX plan provides for range capability requirements not covered through the Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) Improvement and Modernization (I&M) program. Additional major lines of effort include the Electronic Warfare (EW) upgrades for an **Electronic Combat Range (ECR)**, scoring for hypersonics and activities away from the shoreline line such as the Over Water Scoring and Surveillance (OWSS) project, range surveillance/clearance and other key technologies including replacement for current Range Support Aircraft (RSA) that are past their design life.

The 2018 Test Resource Management Center’s Strategic Plan, *Test and Evaluation: Enhancing Readiness of a more Lethal Joint Force*, identifies long-range flight test and autonomous systems test capabilities as **top needs**. Eglin AFB, with

the 96th Test Wing, the Air Force Research Lab and its Munitions Directorate, along with the 53rd Wing under the Air Force Operation Test & Evaluation Center is uniquely positioned with nearly 40 organizations that represent a weapons’ entire lifecycle and utilization. This culture allows for synergistic collaboration in ways that would not be possible otherwise, aiding in the successful transition of required capabilities to the warfighter. The EGTTR provides a national capability for integrated test and evaluation of advanced military weapon systems. All U.S. military branches utilize the range’s air, land, water, and electromagnetic spectrum environments to conduct subsurface-to-surface, air-to-surface, air-to-air, and surface-launched operations. The 2021 RAND analysis identified the EGTTR as a priority for **national security infrastructure upgrades**.

The range has aging infrastructure and instrumentation that cannot keep pace with rapidly evolving modern electronic equipment. Increased demand must be supported by new instrumentation infrastructure to leverage the full EGTTR capacity and meet warfighter test and training needs. The entire EGTTR must be configured to provide a fully instrumented test capability with an operationally representative combat battlespace environment to meet advanced weapons and T&E requirements.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Fund \$97.55M in PE 0604256F, Threat Simulator Development, Project 0663321.

350 Spectrum Warfare Wing and Subordinate Group Headquarters

HQ USAF Program Guidance Letter 20-02 directs the activation of the 350 SWW temporarily at Eglin AFB. The 350 SWW was activated in 2021. In 2018 and 2019, the Air Force's Electronic Warfare/Electromagnetic Spectrum (EW/EMS) Enterprise Capability Collaboration Team (ECCT) assessed the Air Force's readiness to dominate in the EMS field. From that analysis, the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed the Air Force to **consolidate and modernize the EW /EMS Reprogramming Enterprise**. The Acting SecAF approved Eglin AFB as the sole candidate base for the 350 SWW permanent beddown.

The Wing is responsible for delivering electromagnetic spectrum capabilities to 69 United States and foreign electromagnetic warfare systems. Requires MILCON to support Mission Space, not generic office space. Squadrons will be performing their missions within space and SAP/SCIF requirements are critical to ensuring this site is a mission enabler.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Authorize and appropriate \$160M MILCON to construct mission essential SCIF space; Program Element 91211F, Major Military Construction.

Weapons Technology Integration Center

The rapid advancement in technology is also changing the character of war, increasing the speed and complexity with multi-domain warfare, and the effects of contested actions in the air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace. This complexity drives the need for more **advanced weapon systems** that can operate at the speed necessary; adapt to situations in a complex, multi-domain environment; and perform multiple roles while executing its primary mission. The Weapons Technology Integration Center (WTIC) is a federal research laboratory providing modern, secure space that makes the transition to digital weapons research, development, test/evaluation and life cycle management a reality.

The Air Force Research Laboratory and its partners have identified the WTIC to be a weapons enterprise capability focused on **state of the art collaborative labs and secure space** for next-gen weapons development and testing. As directed by the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy, modernization of U.S. weapon

systems is required and at the speed of relevance. The WTIC achieves this goal with technologically advanced laboratory space that enables the digital transformation in weapon system RDT&E, with an end goal of delivering software updates in 28 hours and hardware updates in 1/10th the time of today. Additionally, enabling a collaborative, multi-disciplinary digital-engineering workforce across the weapons enterprise further enables rapid transition of technologies to the warfighter.

By supporting the WTIC MILCON, the Lab and other Air Armament Enterprise partners will continue to address the needs of newer weapons such as Long-Range Stand-off Weapons, Directed Energy Weapons, Hypersonic Weapons, and Swarming/Artificial Intelligence Weapons.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Authorize \$40M to complete Planning & Design (P&D); Program Element 91211F, Major Military Construction.

Housing Deficit

Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field are experiencing a **critical housing crisis** which is affecting military readiness and retention. Collectively, Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field will experience a combined personnel growth of approximately 4,000 in the next five years. The current housing privatization has Eglin Air Force Base capped at 747 on-base homes and Hurlburt Field capped at 404 new on-base homes. The 2022 Housing Requirements and Market Analysis identified a current need for Eglin at 1,475 and Hurlburt at 1,100; a combined deficit of 1,424. Availability of affordable rentals off base

are almost non-existent with long wait lists and averaging 10 months. Military members are forced to find affordable housing with a commute time of more than 1 hour one-way.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Amend language to authorize an increase for on-base housing through the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, multi-housing density units and other options.

Childcare Development Center

There is an **identified deficit** in quality and quantity of daycare centers in the Tri-County area of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties. In addition to being a family priority, the inadequate facility challenge also negatively impacts **military readiness and retention**.

Duke Field, Eglin Auxiliary Field 3, and Camp Simons, Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), are located on the northern section of the Eglin range and have an additional challenge with the commute time to the CDC on Eglin Main; a 19-mile drive taking an hour with road congestion.

Two private Montessori childcare facilities are under development adjacent to the Eglin range. In addition, both Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field have increased their current CDC facility capacities, increased wages and improved labor force recruitment and retention.

If both additional housing and another CDC were authorized and appropriated, these legislative

actions would address three issues simultaneously in the Tri-County area: 1) lack of affordable and suitable housing; 2) lack of roadway capacity; and, 3) lack of affordable and quality childcare.

Building a CDC on the Army cantonment site of Camp Bull Simons inside Eglin's active bombing range is considered an unacceptable risk by the 96th Test Wing and would encroach upon current and future munitions' testing requirements.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Support and submit legislation to authorize and appropriate needed funds to address the CDC shortfalls impacting military readiness. Congressional advocacy for the military construction of a third Child Development Center in Crestview FL.



DSI LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOB MARINAN, CHAIRMAN
LT. COLONEL, USAF RET.

850.714.3565
BOBMAR422@YAHOO.COM

KAY RASMUSSEN, MANAGER
EDC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

850.585.9518
KAY@ONEOKALOOSA.ORG

NATHAN SPARKS
EDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

850.585.0883
NATHAN@ONEOKALOOSA.ORG

BOB BLACK
COLONEL, USAF RET.

850.737.0651
ROBERT.E.BLACK5@GMAIL.COM

GORDON FORNELL
LT. GENERAL, USAF RETIRED

850.240.2585
GBFORNELL@COX.NET

JIM HEALD
COLONEL, USAF RET.

850.420.2739
WS075@ME.COM

JOHN WILCOX, PHD
SES USAF RET.

850.226.9295
JOHN.S.WILCOX@NGC.COM



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