

SOUTHEAST RANGE COMPLEX COOPERATIVE CONCEPT

POSITION PAPER

Prepared by



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

December 28, 2016

THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
Pete Gandy, Chairman
Kay Rasmussen, Manager

Sponsored by
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THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

December 28, 2016

Dear Sir / Madam:


The Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) Committee supports the concept of formalizing a Southeast Range Complex Cooperative. The DSI is comprised of approximately 25 community and separated military leaders, to include representation from the seven Military Affairs Committees from the communities that surround Eglin AFB. The mission of the DSI is to support and promote the local military installations, missions and their positive economic contributions to the tri-County area of Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, while advocating for shared installation and community infrastructure. This paper identifies the DSI's advocacy position as it pertains to the Cooperative concept.

As an issues focused advocacy group the DSI interfaces at the local, state and Federal levels on topics of regional and national concern. With today's technology, the military services have greater capabilities than ever before. These technological advancements are global and the United States' test and training ranges are experiencing threats as technology and community encroachment grows. The complexity of range management has also become more challenging with the addition of remotely piloted vehicles and cyber security needs.

The DSI has held a protective position advocating for military ranges for twenty years. As newer weapons systems, missiles and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to the national security of the United States. The current Department of Defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness. The proposed Southeast Range Complex Cooperative concept is an overarching umbrella encasing previous and current DSI initiatives in support of our National security.

The DSI is in full support of a Southeast Range Complex Cooperative to provide a strategic plan for increased coordination and synchronization of missions among military services. Continued support of this Cooperative is vital to our military readiness and superiority. The DSI exists to support our military and pledges to provide assistance as needed.

Respectfully,


Pete Gandy
Chairman


Kay Rasmussen
Manager

Enclosure

Background

The **Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County** (EDC) chartered the **Defense Support Initiative** (DSI) in 1996 to support and promote local military installations and their missions. The DSI leverages community leadership and expertise from across a three-county region of Northwest Florida; Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties housing Eglin Air Force Base.

The 2015 *Florida Defense Handbook* reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties **exceeded \$10,007,000,000**; accounting for more than 85,000 jobs.



With today’s technology, the military services have greater capabilities than ever before. These capabilities enable identifying targets and employing destruction of targets at longer distances with increased efficiency. These technological advancements are global and the United States’ test and training ranges are experiencing threats as technology and community encroachment grows. The complexity of range management has become more challenging with the addition of remotely piloted vehicles and cyber security needs.

In May 2016, the Senate Armed Services Committee released a report with the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act suggesting the Defense Department develop a strategic plan to identify and prioritize resource requirements for national test and training range infrastructure improvements and encroachment mitigation. The committee cited “the critical role our national assets of test and training ranges play in providing full-spectrum readiness critical for all of our Services.”

The House of Representatives concurrently released an NDAA report recognizing the critical role the Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB) plays in the United States’ military superiority. Twenty-One MRTFB facilities exist among the Services. Eglin AFB offers 1 of the 7 locations for the Air Force test facilities. The House Committee on Armed Services has requested a comprehensive assessment of MRTFB projected requirements to support current and future operations.

Each military service relies on ranges to provide realistic test and training capabilities. Existing ranges—land, air and sea—are vulnerable to the growth of civilian communities and the threat of cyber attacks. Protecting military ranges and accomplishing joint force coordination encourages joint training as a united defense vital to our national security.

The critical importance of protecting and providing for realistic training opportunities has been realized. As a result, range cooperatives have been established across the United States. For example:

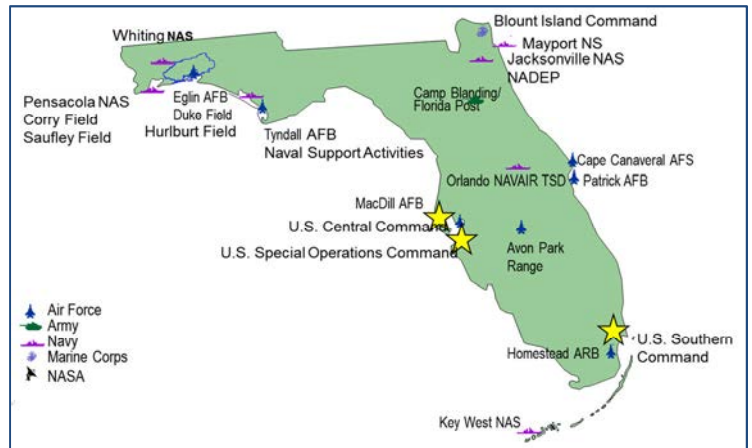
- In the late 1990's, the **Chesapeake Regional Ranges Cooperative (CRRC)** was established to provide test and training support to joint operational forces throughout the Chesapeake region in Maryland and Virginia.
- The **Joint Gulf Range Complex** ties together resources for utilization of the service branches along the Gulf Coast. Encompassing a water range of 123,000 sq miles and airspace of 134,000 sq miles, it is recognized as a unique national test and training asset by all DOD services.
- Circa 2002, the CRRC forged a relationship with the Joint Gulf Range Complex with the Air Force Air Armaments Center, the Air Force 46th Test Wing, the Navy's Coastal Systems Station Panama City, and the Army Aviation and Missile Command forming the **Joint Atlantic and Gulf Regional Ranges Cooperative** increasing the cross-service use of testing and training ranges.
- The **Joint Atlantic & Chesapeake Ranges Cooperative (JACRC)**, formerly known as CRRC and established in 2006, is an alliance of test and training ranges, facilities and federal agencies in Maryland, Virginia and Rhode Island. Through a Memorandum of Agreement, JACRC collaborates in supporting the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation and interoperability requirements of DoD acquisition managers; and in supporting all phases of Warfighter Readiness Training and Joint Forces Warfare Experimentation. The JACRC partnership is comprised of seventeen organizations.
- The **Littoral Warfare Training Complex (LWTC)** is centered at the combined Cherry Point/Oceana TACTS range. The Large Area Tracking Range is a Global Positioning cooperative tracking system used at four ranges: the Southern California Offshore Range, the Littoral Warfare Training Complex in the Virginia Capes, the Pacific Missile Training Facility, and the Atlantic Underwater Test and Evaluation Center.
- The **Southwest Defense Range Complex (SDRC)** is a consolidation of research, development, testing, evaluation, and training linking 12 bases in 5 states (California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona). The SDRC focuses on the use of communication technology to transfer information across greater distances with increased efficiency, and the ability to use resources to their maximum with decreasing defense budgets.

Southeast Range Complex Cooperative

Since 2012, the Princi and Spectrum Groups have partnered with Enterprise Florida and the Florida Defense Support Task Force to monitor Florida's military and defense infrastructure interests, and to advocate for military installation and mission expansion efforts.

On November 3, 2016 the Florida Defense Support Task Force sponsored a Southeast Range Complex Initiative stakeholders' conference in Orlando, Florida. The Princi Group in partnership with the Spectrum Group facilitated the conference.

Attendees from the Navy, Air Force, and Army communities, including active and reserve components, convened at the conference. The discussion revolved around the increasing challenges ranges are facing as technology evolves and improves.



Conference Discussions Points

- Multi-service stakeholders' discussion of open-air ranges in the Southeast U.S.
- Possibility of creating a SE Range Complex support initiative
- Sustainment and expansion of test and training capabilities

Identified Concerns (not inclusive)

- Test and training ranges are threatened by technology and community encroachment
- Munitions can travel longer distances and quicker
- Range management is more challenging with the addition of remotely piloted vehicles
- Apparent lack of coordination between services
- Apparent lack of coordination between test and training
- Increased cyber threats
- Lack of Live, Virtual, and Constructive (LVC) simulation capabilities
- Funding differences between test and training
- Competition may exist between test and training range utilization
- Service ranges are in close proximity of each other but may not have interoperability

Identified Goals (not inclusive)

- Sustainment of existing ranges
- Enhanced test and training capabilities well into the future
- Decreased redundancies
- Joint cooperation and coordination among services
- Unified and realistic threat emitters/scenarios with LVC simulation technologies

Proposed Solutions (not inclusive)

- Develop coordinated Southeast Range plan among services
- Enhance FAA coordination and partnership
- Expand joint services’ combined utilization of ranges
- Enhance integration of quality LVC simulation capabilities
- Expand synchronized efforts among range managers
- Expand integrated use of multiple adjacent ranges to support single exercises and joint training

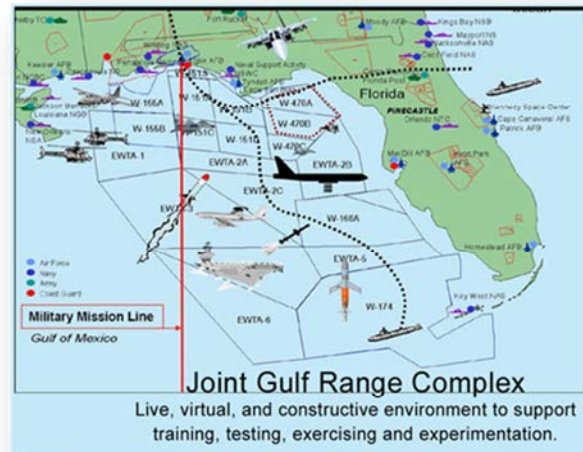
DSI Position

The tri-county Defense Support Initiatives committee has held a protective position for military ranges for twenty years. As newer weapons systems, missiles and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to the national security of the United States.

The DSI advocates for these range encroachment and buffering protective initiatives:

- Eglin Joint Gulf Range Complex
- Gulf Region Airspace Strategic Initiative
- Landscape Initiative
- Military Mission Line Moratorium
- Northwest Florida Greenway

The Southeast Range Complex Cooperative concept is an overarching umbrella encompassing multiple activities in support of our National security; to include previous and current DSI initiatives. Current Department of Defense ranges and the MRTFB need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.



The DSI fully supports the concept of a Southeast Range Complex Cooperative to provide a strategic plan for increased mission coordination and synchronization among military services. Increased coordination and synchronized efforts are required to enable long-range test and training and joint-service collaboration. Utilization of ranges for integration of enhanced Live, Virtual, and Constructive (LVC) simulation capabilities is also required to ensure the best training possible consistent with global technological advancements. In closing, enhanced and expanded joint utilization of military ranges and facilities is necessary to maintain our nation’s security.

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