



## DSI Top Priorities

### Military Mission Line

Sustainment of Moratorium Protection

### EGTTR Maximization Plan

Gulf Range Enhancement Plan

Spectrum Warfare / Electronic Combat Range

### On-Base Housing

### Childcare Development Center

### Road Capacity Improvements

### Eglin's NexGen Strategic Plan

Weapons Technology Integration Center



The EGTTR provides areas of opportunities enabling multi-service test and training, and 5th and 6th generation development activities supporting our nation's security.



## DSI Committee Members

Retired Military Personnel  
 Defense Contractors  
 Tri-County Military Affairs Committees  
 Tri-County Commissioners  
 Eglin Complex Ex Officio  
 One Okaloosa EDC Management



Sponsored by  
 The Economic Development Council  
 of Okaloosa County, Florida  
 dba One Okaloosa EDC

Post Office Box 4097  
 Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549  
 USA

850-362-6467  
 800-995-7374  
 Kay@oneokaloosa.org

Printing by Florida DEO

[www.oneokaloosa.org](http://www.oneokaloosa.org)



## Defense Support Initiatives

# 2022 Priorities Summary

*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.*

Santa Rosa – Okaloosa – Walton Counties, Florida



## Defense Support Initiatives

One Okaloosa EDC originated the Defense Support Initiatives Committee in 1996 to support local military installations and missions, and their resultant economic impact. As a military advocacy group, the DSI leverages community leadership and expertise from across the three-county region of Northwest Florida housing the Eglin Complex; Okaloosa - Santa Rosa - Walton Counties.

## Military Facilities Include

### Eglin Air Force Base

96th Test Wing, Eglin's host wing, is the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems

### Hurlburt Field

Headquarters for Air Force Special Operations Command conducting global special ops

### Duke Field

919th Special Operations Wing, the only Air Force Reserves Special Operations Unit

### Camp Simons

Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), elite forces conducting special operations

### Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal School

Jointly staffed school for detection and disposal of conventional surface and underwater ordnance

### NAS Whiting Field

Training Air Wing Five, fixed wing aviation and helicopter training; the busiest Naval air complex



## Military Mission Line

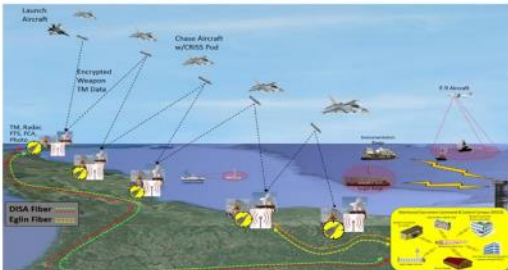


Federal policies have protected the Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range since 1983 to provide a buffer zone. The 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act defines the Military Mission Line restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration east of the line. The Military Mission Line moratorium protecting the EGTR from encroachment by incompatible energy sector activities expires 30 June 2022.

## EGTR Maximization Plan

The Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range is the largest asset in the Department of Defense's MRTFB structure and is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments. It provides airspace, land, water, and electromagnetic spectrum environments to conduct air-to-surface, air-to-air, and surface launched operations. The EGTR provides a realistic military operationally representative environment. The entire EGTR 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. The 96th Test Wing Plans and Programs office conducted a 2020 EGTR Maximization Study documenting future mission requirements, possible solutions and recommendations. There is no single solution to maximize the EGTR; it will require a system-of-systems.

## Gulf Range Enhancement Plan



The Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) is a modernization program to expand critical instrumentation within the EGTR and along Florida's west coast. GRE is part of the EGTR MAX plan replacing aging Range Support Aircraft, providing advanced threat emitters for an Electronic Combat Range, and providing resilient telemetry relay infrastructure with dual pathways of land and underwater based fiber. It also improves secure and encrypted data relay/transmission capabilities to support required autonomous and hypersonic platforms.

## Tri-County Economic Impact

Santa Rosa Okaloosa Walton



Economic Impact	\$10.8 Billion
Total Defense Spending	\$4.9 Billion
Jobs	Over 89,555
Source: Florida Military & Defense Economic Study 2022	

In addition to direct military economic benefits, \$1.5 Billion were awarded to private sector defense contractors in the tri-county region in 2021.

## Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range

The EGTR provides military range capabilities across the eastern Gulf; from NW FL to Key West. It includes 180,000 square miles of DoD controlled air-space, 724 square miles of adjacent land ranges, 3,200 square miles of airspace over adjacent land, 17 miles of Gulf shoreline, inter-connected radars to track test/training assets, and designated launch areas. Due to its tremendous capabilities, it is an integral part of DoD's MRTFB and Training Resources Strategy.

Multi-service basing and test and training utilization are of paramount importance in mission capabilities. Air, land and sea test and training areas associated with the EGTR can host large and complex joint exercises simultaneously.

Eglin AFB, in northwestern Florida, is one of ten Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) host bases. As a critical part of the MRTFB, Eglin's primary functions are to support research, development, testing, and evaluation of conventional weapons and electronic systems and warfare, and to support multi-service air and ground training of operational units. Protection and enhancement of the EGTR is necessary to ensure these capabilities.

## On-Base Housing

Eglin AFB is experiencing a critical housing crisis which is effecting military readiness and retention. Eglin AFB has documented a 415 housing deficit from the last housing requirements market analysis with a majority of that in the junior non-commissioned officer category. At its peak, Eglin had upwards of 2,400 on-base military housing, but that has dwindled to 747 due to caps placed on housing through the military housing privatization initiative. Currently, there are more than 275 on the wait list for on-base housing with the wait time averaging up to 10 months. Availability of off-base rentals and short term lodging is almost non-existent.

## Childcare Development Center

There is an identified deficit in quality & quantity of daycare centers. There are two CDCs located on Eglin's main base with approximately 400 children on the waiting lists. 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 required commute time to the CDC on Eglin Main; a 19-mile drive on congested roadways. Those that work on the north end of the Eglin Test and Training Complex may experience multiple trips to Eglin's main base to access affordable childcare resulting in commute times up to 3-4 hours. In addition to being a family priority, the inadequate facility challenge also negatively impacts military readiness and retention.



## Eglin NexGen Strategic Plan

Eglin AFB needs adaptive, resilient, right-sized and fiscally sustainable infrastructure to assure combat readiness. The majority of Eglin's infrastructure is not suitable for modern mission requirements and is beyond cost-effective life-cycle repair. Combined with existing repair authorities, updated authority language to completely replace a facility when more cost effective will greatly increase opportunities for consolidation into right-sized facilities and the disposal of unneeded facility space. This will avoid unnecessary costs, and generate realized cost savings. The 96th Test Wing developed an infrastructure investment strategy (NexGen Eglin) for required future capabilities.

