



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

October 26, 2020

Fifth Generation FTU Optimization
EIS Project Manager
AFCEC/CZN
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9835

Dear FTU EIS Management Team:

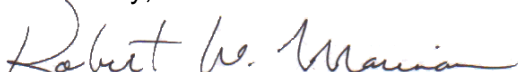
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and in support of the Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the Defense Support Initiatives Committee respectfully submits our support for Alternative 1 to permanently relocate the F-22 Formal Training Unit at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, and Alternative 2 for the beddown of an additional F-35 Formal Training Unit Squadron at Eglin AFB, Florida.

The DSI is a long-standing and accomplished military issues advocacy group sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County. It is comprised of 25 community and business leaders, including retired military personnel, defense contractors and representation from the seven Military Affairs Committees from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties surrounding 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.

The F-22 FTU mission based at Tyndall AFB was temporarily relocated to Eglin AFB following the devastation caused by Hurricane Michael in October 2018. The F-22 and support T-38 aircraft have been utilizing the F-35 infrastructure at Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing for the past 24 months. To achieve full optimization of both the F-22 and the F-35 FTU missions, the F-22 needs to be permanently relocated to Langley, and the F-35 5th generation FTU needs to be optimized at Eglin AFB with a second squadron beddown following the relocation of the F-22 FTU.

Our nation's security is reliant on the future of these combined training missions. The DSI believes the combined actions of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 are required in order to optimize the utilization of training, airspace, and range capabilities and capacities for maximum growth of both of these fighters' areas of expertise. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns; 850-714-3565, Bobmar422@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,


Robert Marinan, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
Chairman