

Critical Need

Timely implementation of the Air Force Gulf Range Enhancement program is critical to countering the growing gap in the ability of the Nation's Major Range Test Facility Base to provide the Department of Defense test and evaluation required capabilities.

- Fielding advanced technology capabilities of 5th and 6th generation aircraft and long range standoff air armament
- Development of future technology for next generation air armament, including hypersonic strike weapons

The Gulf Range Enhancement plan's implementation will enhance the operational readiness of operational forces that rely on the Gulf's MRTFB range complex.



DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

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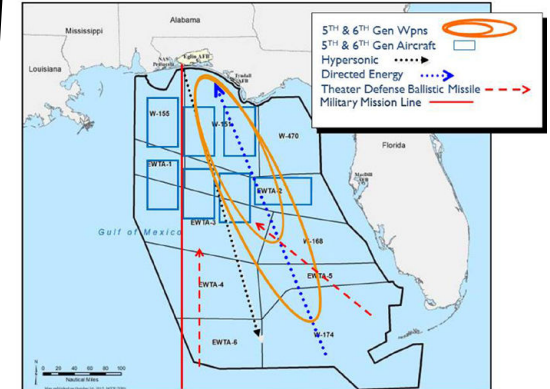
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Defense Support Initiatives Gulf Range Enhancement Advocacy Summary

Range Solutions for Next Generation Air Armament Test and Training

Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range



Major Range and Test Facility Base

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 of the Nation's Test and Evaluation (T&E) capabilities deemed critical to maintaining our Nation's military technological superiority.



The MRTFB supports the development of rapid response solutions to technology related issues experienced by warfighters engaged in conflict. The MRTFB is collectively regarded as a “national asset.”

The MRTFB consists of Army, Navy, and Air Force managed test ranges—one of which is managed by the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range

The Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) connects test & training capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from Key West to Northwest Florida.

- 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 shoreline access and interconnected radars
- 2 launch areas

The training area contains multiple live-fire bombing ranges, including Pinecastle Range, Avon Park Air Force Range and the Eglin Bombing Range, supporting simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises.

The EGTTR is managed by Eglin Air Force Base with a primary function to support research, development, test, and evaluation of conventional weapons and electronic systems. The EGTTR supports multiple users, which include DoD, other government agencies, foreign countries, and private companies.

The EGTTR provides offshore testing and training areas and opportunities supporting 5th and 6th generation weapons and aircraft activities.

Gulf Range Enhancement Plan

Weapons' testing is the major factor in determining Range requirements. Limited infrastructure is a contributor to the lack of interoperability testing. There is a growing need to equip ranges for capabilities and capacity to ensure the best training environment for the best cost.

Military installation valuations include:

- Current and future mission capabilities
- Impact on operational readiness
- Joint war-fighting training
- Diversity of training areas
- Ability to accommodate future total force requirements

The Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) plan is an approved United States Air Force program with four phased increments to improve instrumentation capabilities of the MRTFB in Florida.

The DSI strongly supports the GRE Plan and advocates for its required infrastructure to provide current and realistic test and training scenarios for our warfighters.