

**State of Florida  
Legislators**

**Northwest Florida  
Gulf of Mexico Oil Drilling  
Regional Position Package**

March 2010

*Presented by*



**THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVE**

For

**Okaloosa – Santa Rosa – Walton Counties**

c/o The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida  
Post Office Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549  
850-362-6467 [www.florida-edc.org/defense/htm](http://www.florida-edc.org/defense/htm)



**THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVE**  
of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties

March 1, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

The **Defense Support Initiative** (DSI), sponsored by the Economic Development Council servicing Okaloosa County, Florida is comprised of 25 community leaders representing the community-based military and defense support organizations from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties. These three counties serve as home for NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Duke Field and, beginning in 2011, the US Army 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne). The DSI joined forces with Escambia and Bay Counties in 2006 to form a separate five-county **Northwest Florida Defense Coalition** to support and enhance Northwest Florida's military installations, missions and national security strategies. This merger extended the support umbrella to include NAS Pensacola, Tyndall AFB and Naval Support Activity Panama City.

The Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex is, by any measure or standard, a national test and training treasure and asset. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in the national security of the United States. It is a unique feature possessing unique test and training capabilities and is highly regarded by the Department of Defense and all the military services.

Many organizations in Northwest Florida have consistently fought to keep offshore or near-shore drilling from the Eastern military mission line waters of the Gulf. The Military Mission Line defines a testing and training range that is crucial to the operation of the military in Northwest Florida and is a critical national asset. The military installations in Northwest Florida provide a yearly economic impact of over \$17.5 billion and with 220,000 direct and indirect jobs. The offshore drilling proponents argue that only \$2.2 billion may be generated from the awarding of offshore drilling leases in state waters. As you can see, this proposition does not make fiscal sense; much less military, tourism or environmental health sense.

Past federal policies are in place protecting a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of the line. This packet provides 12 resolutions and proclamations from the Northwest Florida region supporting these protective policies and opposing activity in the Gulf of Mexico that would adversely affect the military missions and economic health of the region. Thank you for your consideration.

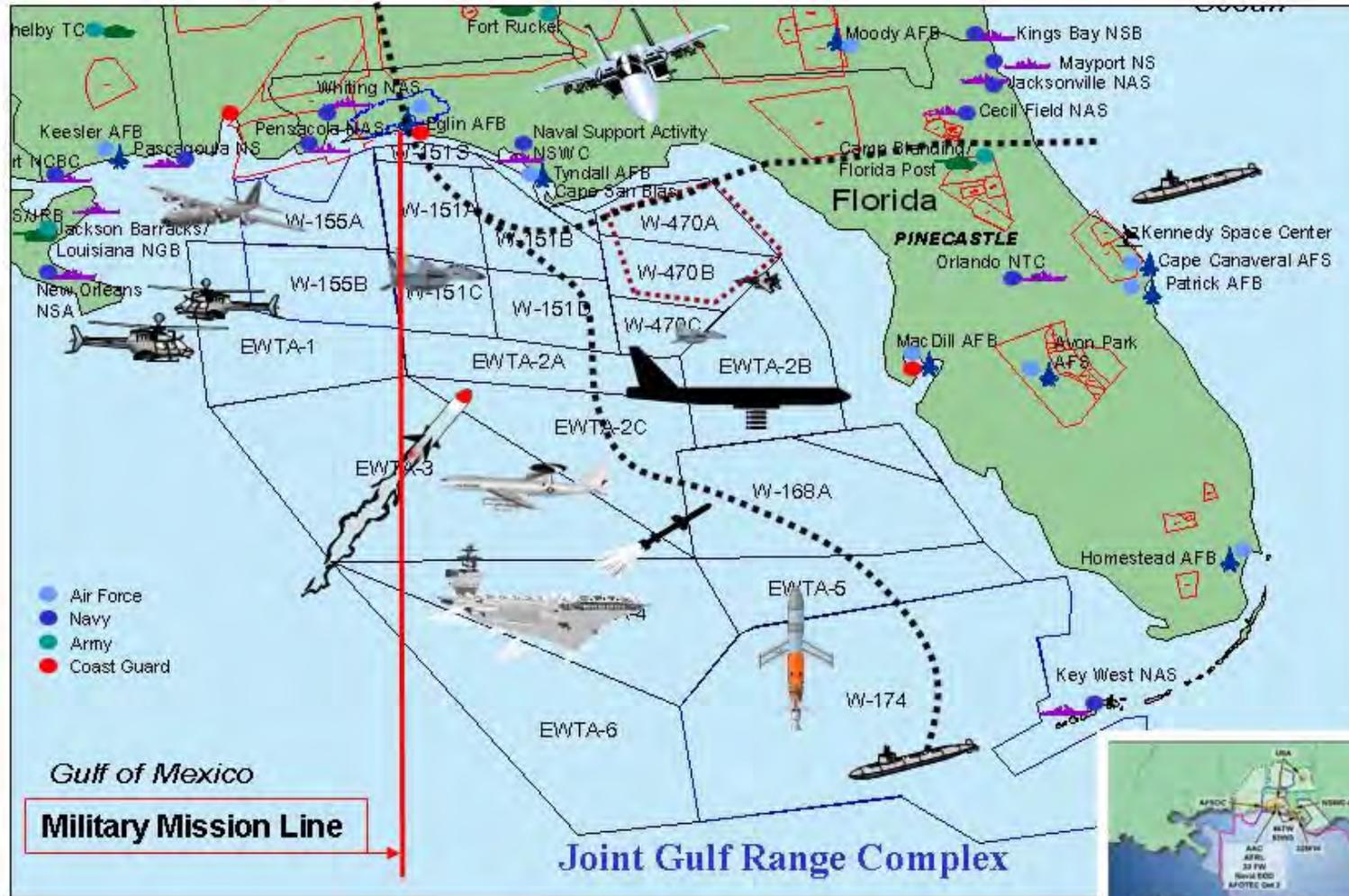
Respectfully Submitted,

  
Sam Burkett  
DSI Chairman

  
Kay Rasmussen  
Director of Defense & Economic Initiatives

Enclosure

# Military Operations in the Gulf



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**Bay Defense Alliance, Inc.**  
**Resolution Against Offshore Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico**  
**East of the Military Mission Line**

**Whereas** the Bay Defense Alliance is a community organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Bay County, Florida military installations and their missions in an era of military downsizing; and

**Whereas** a Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis completed in January 2008 by the University of West Florida Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development determined Department of Defense spending in the State of Florida directly and indirectly accounts for an estimated 732,300 jobs and over \$57 billion in estimated economic impact in 2007; and

**Whereas** the same Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis completed in January 2008 by the University of West Florida Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development determined Department of Defense spending in Bay County directly and indirectly accounts for an estimated 32,600 jobs and over \$2.4 billion in estimated economic impact in 2007; and

**Whereas** former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86° 41' line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the "Military Mission Line") are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile flights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing, and training;

**Now, therefore** be it resolved, that the Bay Defense Alliance strongly opposes the idea of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line, in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of the Interior's Mineral Management Services and the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing purposes.

BAY DEFENSE ALLIANCE



Tom Neubauer, President  
September 5, 2008



**RESOLUTION 2010-1**

***A RESOLUTION OF  
THE CRESTVIEW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters that would  
negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental  
health east of the Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce serves to represent the interests of businesses in our area protecting and expanding the economic viability of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of North Okaloosa County Area with a large unincorporated area in proximity to Eglin Air Force Base, Duke Field, Hurlburt Field, and the surrounding ranges which make up the largest military installation in the world and recognized as a national security treasure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test and training treasures, as well as tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multifaceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or local economic drivers.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CRESTVIEW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT WE:**

**OPPOSE ANY FEDERAL OR STATE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD ENCROACH UPON THE GULF SHOULD THEY HAVE ANY POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON TEST AND TRAINING CAPABILITIES, TOURISM OR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. THE CRESTVIEW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS RESPECTFUL OF PAST FEDERAL POLICIES THAT HAVE SUPPORTED A MILITARY MISSION LINE RUNNING SOUTH INTO THE GULF, WITH OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING RESTRICTED TO THE WEST OF THIS LINE.**

**Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Jones, President of the Board  
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Harris  
Executive Director



**RESOLUTION 2009 – 5**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING IN STATE WATERS OFF THE COAST OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA.**

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a business organization representing 1,000 businesses in southern Okaloosa and Walton Counties, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber supports the missions of all military bases in the state of Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber promotes tourism for its members in the Destin Area, and

**WHEREAS**, military related business, industry and missions represent nearly \$5 billion in economic impact and nearly 19,000 jobs in our community and those missions would be greatly jeopardized by offshore drilling in state waters, and

**WHEREAS**, tourism is a \$60 billion industry in the state of Florida and would be jeopardized by offshore drilling in state waters, and

**WHEREAS**, the military has a \$60 billion economic impact in the state of Florida and would be jeopardized by offshore drilling in state waters, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber previously passed Resolution 2009 – 3 on June 30, 2009, opposing offshore drilling as it relates to the federal American Clean Energy Act of 2009 and any drilling within forty miles of the Northwest Florida Coast including the Destin Dome,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce adamantly opposes Florida House Bill 1219 passed at the end of the 2009 Legislative Session, and opposes any offshore drilling in state waters.

**SO RESOLVED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2009.**

Karen McCarthy  
Chairman of the Board

**ATTEST:**

Shane A. Moody, IOM, CCE  
President and CEO

*Building a World-Class Community One Business at a Time*

4484 Legendary Drive, Suite A | Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 837-6241 | Fax (850) 654-5612 | [www.DestinChamber.com](http://www.DestinChamber.com)



**RESOLUTION 2009 – 3**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING AS IT RELATES TO THE DESTIN DOME AND THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2009.**

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce is a business organization representing nearly 1,000 members in the Destin area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce is fully cognizant of the need to explore for new energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce understands the need to search for newer, cleaner alternative forms of energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce supports becoming less dependent on foreign oil; and

**WHEREAS**, the preservation and conservation of its natural resources is critical to Northwest Florida's environment and economic future; and

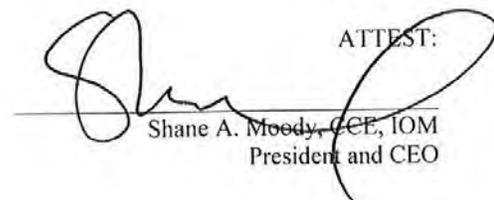
**WHEREAS**, the Destin area is largely dependent upon the tourism industry, making our natural resources, our beaches and the Gulf of Mexico vital to our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction of oil wells within the Destin Dome or within forty miles of our pristine coastline would be detrimental to tourism in our area, and therefore detrimental to our economy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors opposes any oil well construction and off-shore drilling within forty miles of the Northwest Florida coast, including the Destin Dome.

**SO RESOLVED THIS 30th DAY OF JUNE 2009.**

  
Karen McCarthy, Chairman of the Board

  
ATTEST:  
Shane A. Moody, CCE, IOM  
President and CEO

*Building a World-Class Community One Business at a Time*

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**The Defense Support Initiative**  
of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties

*A resolution of the tri-county Defense Support Initiative opposing any federal or state proposals that would negatively impact military missions conducted in the Gulf of Mexico.*

**WHEREAS**, the Defense Support Initiative (DSI) sponsored by the Economic Development Council servicing Okaloosa County, Florida represents the community-based military and defense support organizations from Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County and Walton County. These three counties serve as home for NAS Pensacola, Naval Education and Training Command, NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Duke Field and, beginning in 2011, the US Army 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne). In addition, immediately to the east of Walton County sits Bay County, host community for Tyndall AFB and Naval Support Activity Panama City.

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex is, by any measure or standard, regarded as a national test and training treasure and asset. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in the national security of the United States. It is a unique feature possessing unique test and training capabilities and is highly regarded by the Department of Defense and all the military services. It cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

**WHEREAS**, the DSI understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures. However, sacrificing a key lynchpin in our national security cannot be a part of the effort.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Defense Support Initiative that:**

The DSI strongly rejects any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on these test and training capabilities.

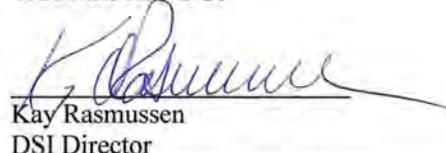
The DSI urges all federal and state policy makers to be mindful of the need for a strong national defense whenever considering expansion of allowable activity in the Gulf of Mexico. The DSI is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

**ADOPTED on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Sam Burkett  
DSI Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Kay Rasmussen  
DSI Director

---

Sponsored by The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida  
Post Office Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549 ~ 850-362-6467  
[www.florida-edc.org/defense.htm](http://www.florida-edc.org/defense.htm)



## **RESOLUTION**

***A resolution of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters, that would negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental health.***

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, serves as Okaloosa County's primary economic development and business advocacy organization committed to the continual growth and diversification of its economy. The EDC's primary objectives are 1) existing industry diversification, retention and expansion, 2) development of a technically skilled and available workforce, and 3) recruitment of targeted industries all supporting the continual development of quality of place.

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Council represents all of Okaloosa County and its nine municipalities which are host communities for Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and Duke Field collectively housed on the largest military installation in the world and known as the Department of Defense's national security treasure.

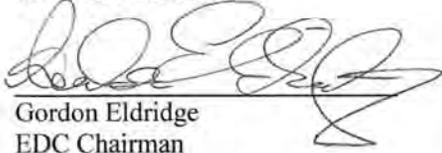
**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test and training treasures, and tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry, and the availability of sand renourishment from the continental shelf.

**WHEREAS**, the EDC understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or local economic drivers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the EDC opposes any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on test and training capabilities, tourism or coastal environmental health. The EDC is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

**ADOPTED on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County Board of Directors.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Gordon Eldridge  
EDC Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Larry Sassano  
EDC President

P.O. Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547  
850-362-6467 ~ [www.florida-edc.org](http://www.florida-edc.org)



**EMERALD COAST MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
**P.O. Box 116, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0116**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MILITARY MISSION OVER DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO**

**WHEREAS, the test and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset providing critical airspace for the research, development, acquisition, test and evaluation mission at Eglin Air Force Base; and**

**WHEREAS, the test and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico also provide critical training airspace for Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, and Naval Air Station Pensacola; and**

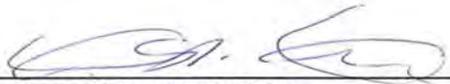
**WHEREAS, the military sector is the key economic driver in Northwest Florida; and**

**WHEREAS, current proposals to drill for oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico may threaten these critical national security components; and**

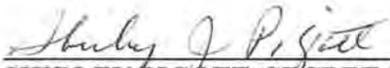
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council is opposed to any offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico that may in any way endanger the ability of the military installations in Northwest Florida to execute their current missions or expand their missions as necessary for our national security.**

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.**

**EMERALD COAST MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLIFF LONG, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SHIRLEY PIGOTT, SECRETARY**



## Florida's Great Northwest

### RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO EAST OF THE MILITARY MISSION LINE

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is home to seven military installations, including Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Duke Field, Hurlburt Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City and Tyndall Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the defense industry has a \$15 billion annual economic impact on Northwest Florida and employs more than 70,000 employees in the region; and

WHEREAS, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86° 41' line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the Military Mission Line) are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile flights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing and training; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida's military installations all conduct training missions in this vast test range and protecting this significant air and sea space is vital to the region's present and future economic success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Florida's Great Northwest, as follows:

1. Florida's Great Northwest, while not opposed to the exploration of alternative energy resources, strongly opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing.
2. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to all elected officials representing Northwest Florida within the Florida Executive and Legislative branches and the United States Congress.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2009.

Fred Leopold, Chairman

Kim Bodine, Secretary



## GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

...helping businesses help themselves

### A Resolution of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Opposing Offshore Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico

**Kathy Houchins**  
2008 Chair of the Board  
Breakers on Okaloosa Island

**Alan Gieseman**  
Chair-Elect  
White Wilson Medical Center

**Peggy Brockman**  
Immediate Past Chair  
Ideal Health For You

**Chad Hamilton**  
Treasurer  
O'Sullivan Creel

**Jackie Pilcher**  
Vice Chair - Community  
Rosewood Realty

**David Braithwaite**  
Vice Chair - Government  
Compass Bank

**Chris Sehman**  
Vice Chair - Membership  
Helen Back

**Bill Bubel**  
Vice Chair - Business  
Development  
Santa Rosa Mall

**Ginger Walker**  
Vice Chair - Special Events

Board of Directors:  
Clarke Bell  
Bobby Bess  
James Breitenfeld  
Lynn Dominique  
Diana Duffey  
Dr. David Goetsch  
Dick Marks  
Tammy McDaniel  
Jan Pooley  
Catherine Rodriguez  
Sandy Sims  
Vicki Story  
Vickie Warner  
Sabu Williams

**WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the 1,500 members and 1,260 businesses, requests of our elected officials specific actions and public statements to block further attempts to open the eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling.**

**WHEREAS, we oppose legislative attempts to enable oil drilling for the following reasons:**

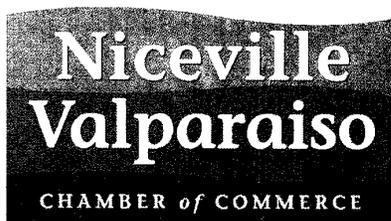
1. Drilling will produce no oil for a decade or more and then in insufficient quantities to impact supply/demand metrics that drive the cost of energy or impact domestic security.
2. Drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico will impair the military mission of bases in the region or will at the very least encourage review of alternative basing of certain military functions.
3. Alternative, sustainable and clean energy sources are the cure to the addiction to oil and the only environmentally healthy solution to issues facing the region and nation.
4. Tourism and the beauty of our coastline must be protected and preserved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce asks our elected Congressmen, Senators, and the Governor of the State of Florida to take action to block drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.**

**Adopted on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008 by the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce in Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, Florida.**

  
Kathy Houchins  
2008 Chair of the Board

  
David M. Braithwaite  
Vice Chair – Government Division



*The Center of Business*

**RESOLUTION 2010-1**

***A RESOLUTION OF  
THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters that would  
negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental  
health east of the Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce serves to represent the interests of businesses in our area protecting and expanding the economic viability of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce represents businesses in two municipalities along with a large unincorporated area in proximity to Eglin Air Force Base, Duke Field, Hurlburt Field, and the surrounding ranges which make up the largest military installation in the world and recognized as a national security treasure; and

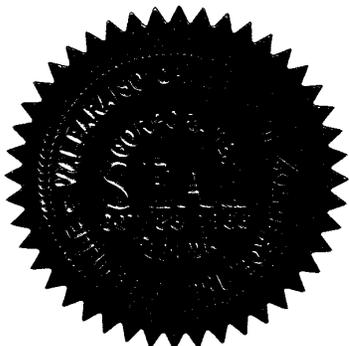
**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test and training treasures, as well as tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry; and

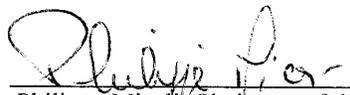
**WHEREAS**, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multifaceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or local economic drivers.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT WE:**

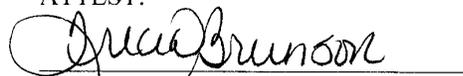
**OPPOSE ANY FEDERAL OR STATE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD ENCROACH UPON THE GULF SHOULD THEY HAVE ANY POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON TEST AND TRAINING CAPABILITIES, TOURISM OR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS RESPECTFUL OF PAST FEDERAL POLICIES THAT HAVE SUPPORTED A MILITARY MISSION LINE RUNNING SOUTH INTO THE GULF, WITH OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING RESTRICTED TO THE WEST OF THIS LINE.**

**Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010**



  
Philippe Miceli, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

  
Tricia Brunson  
President & CEO

## A Resolution Opposing Offshore Mineral Exploration

**WHEREAS**, the test and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset providing critical airspace for high priority missions for joint Department of Defense military installations and units located in Northwest Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, critical live-fire test and training opportunities take place in the eastern Gulf of Mexico that are incompatible with current mineral exploration and extraction processes and techniques; and

**WHEREAS**, waters along the Northwest Florida shoreline contain significant marine ecosystems that support both tourism and the fishing industries and are responsible for billions of dollars a year in local and state revenue while providing both an environmental and aesthetic value; and

**WHEREAS**, the emerald green waters and pristine white beaches are the main attractions for visitors coming to Okaloosa County; and

**WHEREAS**, tourism, hospitality and the defense industry are the largest employers in Okaloosa County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County, Florida is opposed to offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line.

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

*Bill Roberts*

**BILL ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN**



**ATTEST:**

*Don W. Howard*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DON W. HOWARD**  
**CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT**





## POLICY POSITION REGARDING GULF OF MEXICO OIL DRILLING

The Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex is a national Test and Training asset. As weapons systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this Test and Training Range becomes increasingly important to the national security of the United States. Its unique features cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

With this fact in mind, the TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Inc. opposes any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on military Test and Training capabilities. TEAM Santa Rosa EDC Inc. is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

TEAM Santa Rosa EDC Inc. understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures. However, sacrificing a key component of our national security must not be a part of the effort.

TEAM Santa Rosa EDC Inc. urges all federal and state policy makers to be mindful of the need for a strong national defense whenever considering expansion of allowable activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

ESTABLISHED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferd Salomon", is written over the text "ESTABLISHED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009." and extends below it.

Ferd Salomon, Chairman  
TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Inc.

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6491 Caroline Street • Ste. 4 • Milton, FL 32570-4592  
(850) 623-0174 • Fax (850) 623-5932  
[www.teamsantarosa.com](http://www.teamsantarosa.com)



**WALTON AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Guiding the power of business.  
Strengthening community.

63 South Centre Trail  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
PHONE: (850) 267-0683  
FAX: (850) 267-0603

95 Circle Drive  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435  
PHONE: (850) 892-3191  
FAX: (850) 892-9688

**Walton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Resolution against Offshore Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico  
East of the Military Mission Line**

**WHEREAS** the Walton Area Chamber is a membership organization of nearly 1,300 comprised of members representing businesses, industry and local governments; and

**WHEREAS** all military installations in the Northwest Florida, including Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlbut Field, Pensacola Naval Air Station and NAS Whiting Field, conduct training missions in this vast test range; and

**WHEREAS** former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86" 41' line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the "Military Mission Line") are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile nights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing, and training; and

**WHEREAS** the hospitality industry in Walton County is the largest sector of the local economy and relies on the pristine quality of the area beaches to attract tourists from all over the world and drilling in close proximity will threaten the sustainability of Walton County's primary attraction; and

**WHEREAS** protecting Walton County's beaches and waters from the threat of environmental impacts attributable to offshore activities, including physical disturbances caused by anchoring, pipeline placement and rig construction, the resuspension of bottom sediments and pollution from drilling and production discharges, preserves Walton County's economic and environmental interests.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes the idea of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line, in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of the Interior's Mineral Management Services and the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing purposes.

WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chair, John Forrester

Date: June 15, 2009

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### **Mission Statement**

To support and maintain the local military installations and their positive economic contributions to the tri-county area while maintaining and nurturing the relationships with the civilian communities that house them.

[www.florida-edc.org/defense.htm](http://www.florida-edc.org/defense.htm)