



## DSI Top Priorities

### Military Mission Line

Permanent Moratorium Protection

### Gulf Range Enhancement Plan

### EGTTR Maximization Plan

Threat Simulators

Hypersonic Advancement

### Weapons Technology Integration Center

350 Spectrum Warfare Wing

McKinley Climatic Laboratory

Transportation Infrastructure



The EGTTR provides areas of opportunities enabling multi-service test and training 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  
 Hurlburt Field Ex Officio  
 One Okaloosa EDC Management



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# 2024 Military Priorities Summary

*DoD's effectiveness and survivability in near-real-world combat conditions is dependent on military readiness capabilities, capacity and support infrastructure; today and tomorrow.*

Santa Rosa – Okaloosa – Walton Counties, Florida



## Defense Support Initiatives

One Okaloosa EDC originated the Defense Support Initiatives Committee 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. Eglin installation supports Air Force, Army, and Navy test and training units and support organizations.

## 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

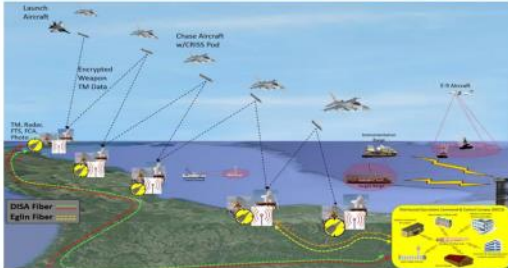


Federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range with a buffer zone since 1983. The 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act defines the Military Mission Line restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration east of the line. The Military Mission Line moratorium protecting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

## EGTR Maximization Plan

The Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (managed by 96th Test Wing, Eglin AFB) is the largest asset in the Department of Defense's structure and is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments and other technologies. It provides airspace, land, water, and electromagnetic environments to conduct multi-service air-to-surface, air-to-air, and surface launched operations. The EGTR must be configured to support rapid response solutions for war-fighters engaged in conflict. The 96TW Plans/Programs office conducted a 2020 EGTR Maximization Study documenting future mission requirements, solutions and recommendations.

## Gulf Range Enhancement Plan



The Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) plan is a modernization program to expand instrumentation within the EGTR and along Florida's west coast. The GRE plan replaces aging Range Support Aircraft, provides advanced threat emitters, and provides resilient telemetry relay infrastructure. 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 2022.

## Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range

The Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (aka Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range, EGTR) connects military ranges and capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from NW FL to Key West. As the largest military range in the continental U.S., it includes DOD controlled air-space, land ranges, and shoreline accommodating water-to-land transitions, high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, air-to-ground targeting, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing, space launches, and more. EGTR is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments, and for training in realistic combat-surrogate conditions. Its expansive size supports large-footprint weapons that cannot be tested on other land-based ranges, and supports the ability to execute multiple missions simultaneously in the maritime, air, and land spaces. Its tremendous capabilities, make it an integral part of DoD's Training Resources Strategy. Eglin AFB, in NW Florida, is 1 of 10 Air Force Materiel Command host bases. Eglin's primary functions are to support research, development, testing and evaluation of weapons and electronic systems and warfare, and to support multi-service air and ground test and training of operational units. Protection and enhancement of the EGTR is necessary to ensure these capabilities and our security.

## Weapons Integration Center

Technology's rapid advancement is changing the character of war in the air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace domains. The complexity of today's and all future warfare drives the need for more advanced weapon systems that are agile; adapt to situations in a complex, multi-domain environment; and perform multiple roles while executing its primary mission. WTIC will provide the necessary secure capabilities with ultra-high-speed networks and workspaces.

## McKinley Climatic Laboratory



The McKinley Climatic Laboratory, built during World War II, produces realistic global environmental climatic testing conditions so that the U.S. Department of Defense may best develop weapons and weapon support systems. These simulations help ensure maximum reliability and operational capability of complex systems in the harshest environments.

## Transportation



80-90% of military personnel live in the communities surrounding the Eglin land reservation. These families experience long commutes upwards of 25 miles one way which is further aggravated by extreme traffic congestion on the limited roadways resulting in a one-way commute time of up to one hour. Highway 85 is the main north-south thoroughfare in Okaloosa County while Highway 98 is the east-west roadway across the Florida panhandle. Traffic congestion on these two main commute pathways results in negative impacts to local military missions and personnel.

