



DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES
Okaloosa – Santa Rosa – Walton Counties

DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE CHARTER

The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County (EDC) is recognized by the State of Florida as the official representative and lead agency in the Okaloosa County area for base-community initiatives. The Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC) land range portion (724 sq. miles) overlays significant portions of three northwest Florida counties: Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton. The overwater portion of the ETTC range (134,000 sq. miles) extends from the panhandle counties' coast line at the North end to abutting the Florida Keys at the South end. The EDC originated the Defense Support Initiatives Committee (DSI) in 1996 to provide the EDC with a forum dedicated to preservation of the ETTC and its installations' contributions to National Defense. DSI membership was originally Okaloosa centric. In 2003, DSI membership was expanded to Tri-County representation including Santa Rosa (NAS Whiting Field) and Walton Counties in recognition of the economic implications of the ETTC to their counties.

Mission Statement

To preserve and promote the local military installations and ranges' military value consistent with the tri-county communities' economic and infrastructure goals.

Vision Statement

To ensure the health and growth of military installations and missions which reside on or near the ETTC in order to meet our Nation's current and future needs for Air Armament research, development, acquisition, test and evaluation, and providing for a joint operations range environment sustaining operational readiness of our Nation's air combat, special operations, and cyber forces.

DSI Leadership

As an EDC committee, the DSI is led by a nominated chairman that is supported by the EDC's DSI manager. The DSI Committee Chairman is required to be a current EDC investor and serves in a two-year voluntary position. The DSI manager is responsible for the efficient operation of the committee and will utilize the DSI Steering Group as the leadership working group. The Steering Group consists of the below identified members:

- DSI Chairman
- DSI Immediate Past Chairman
- EDC Executive Director
- EDC Associate Director / DSI Manager
- EDC Military Advisor
- EDC Military Consultant
- Others as identified by the EDC Executive Director and DSI Chairman

Steering Group Duties

The objective of the Steering Group is to provide a leadership assistance role for the committee and offer subject matter expertise in the decision-making process. This includes, but is not limited to, nominating chairman candidates, suggesting speakers and/or relevant topics, overseeing the selection and acceptance process for DSI members and military command unit liaisons, reviewing advanced notification of proposed meeting speakers, and providing guidance in the development of official position papers.

Committee Membership

The DSI Committee is led by a volunteer Chairman and meets on a monthly basis. Generally speaking, DSI members represent the highest ranking manager / official of EDC investors in good standing*. Members are expected to be actively engaged and provide a minimum of 50% meeting attendance.

As a military issues advocacy group, membership is by Steering Group review and approval for specified individuals based on criterion below. Stand-in or substitute proxies are not permitted.

- Previous active duty military service, and/or
- Possesses current state and national military legislative knowledge/relationships, and/or
- Maintains current strong local, state and/or federal DoD military mission contracts

- Nominated Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee representatives:
 - Meet the requirements stated above
 - Is an active chamber MAC member
 - Is nominated by the respective Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Membership will be reviewed by the Steering Group every two years in conjunction with the chairman leadership rotation. To maximize DSI focus and impact as a military issues advocacy group, membership will be maintained not to exceed 25 members. Vacancies and rotations will be reviewed as they occur or as necessary utilizing the process and criteria stated above.

Committee Structure

- Okaloosa EDC Management
- County Commission representatives from Walton, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa Counties
- Select Defense Contractors
- Select Tri-County MAC Representatives
- Select Retired Military Personnel
- Eglin Complex Ex Officio
- Others as identified by Steering Group

A current DSI roster is available separately.

Continual operation and expansion of our military installations, ranges and their missions is critical to our region's economic foundation and National security.

** The EDC membership requirement is waived for chambers located in Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. Okaloosa County Chambers of Commerce have barter membership agreements with the EDC.*