



DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA – SANTA ROSA – WALTON COUNTIES

Northwest Florida Military Legislative Point Paper

September 2016

Sponsored by
The Economic Development Council
of Okaloosa County, Florida
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Tri-County Economic Impact

With seven military installations in Northwest Florida, the annual economic impact of the military presence in the region is over \$19.5 Billion, according to the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook. The tri-county area of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties offers a \$10 Billion economic impact.

Economic Impact	\$10 Billion
Total Defense Spending	\$36,007 Million
Jobs	Over 85,000
Source: Florida Defense Fact Book September 2015	



Joint Gulf Range Complex

Live, virtual, and constructive environment to support training, testing exercising and experimentation.

Mission Statement

To support and promote the local military installations, missions and their positive economic contributions to the tri-county area while advocating for installation and community infrastructure



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Re: DSI Legislative Information

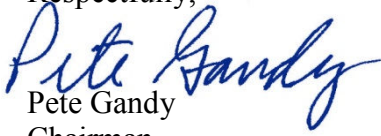
On behalf of the Defense Support Initiatives Committee, I am pleased to provide you the attached information. The Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) Committee is sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County and is comprised of approximately 25 community leaders, including representation from the seven Military Affairs Committees from the communities that surround 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 of Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, while advocating for shared installation and community infrastructure.

As an issues focused advocacy group the DSI interfaces at the local, state and Federal levels on military related topics of local and regional concern. Working with respective leadership, we develop lists of topics, background information, and recommendations that we share with our CODEL and Pentagon staffs and Tallahassee leaders. We can assure you, each of these positions was taken with our national security interests at heart and an understanding of the value of the local military presence.

The DSI exists to support our local military installations and to provide assistance as needed. We realize the DSI can better serve you with established open and ongoing communication. Included in this paper are identified current top areas of concern for your situational awareness.

Legislative involvement and oversight are critical factors in preserving our nation's security and one of the region's largest economic drivers; we thank you for your leadership and strong support. Please do not hesitate to call upon us for whatever assistance and support we can provide. You may contact me directly at 850-712-5179.

Respectfully,


Pete Gandy
Chairman

Top Areas of Concern

Protect current missions and be aware of “the death by 1000 cuts”

- Retain F-35 presence at Eglin
 - Original plan based 107 F-35 at Eglin; currently 24
- Retain capabilities to test advanced munitions and their integration on aircraft platforms
 - Proposed movement to Edwards and China Lake, California
- Retain test assets such as the McKinley Climatic Lab at 96 TW
 - Proposed reorganization to realign test asset management under Arnold Engineering Development Center

Pave the way for additional compatible missions. Examples include:

- 24 UE MQ-9 Reaper Beddown
- Consolidation of Battlefield Airmen Training
- Expansion of cyber warfare capabilities (505 CCW)

Support past/ongoing efforts

- Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative (GRASI)
- Landscape Initiative
 - To include Florida Division of Forestry Service
- Encroachment buffering/flyways
 - Northwest Florida Greenway
- Joint Gulf of Mexico Range Military Mission Line
- REPI program and funding
 - To include matching Florida State funding
- Bring F-35 Test Aircraft to Eglin

Protect the Eglin Test and Training Center (ETTC)

- Support 5 year investment in the Major Ranges and Test Facility Base (MRTFB)
 - To include Gulf Range Expansion to support test and training of the full spectrum of next generation armament, platform, and advanced systems (e.g. 5th gen and hypersonics)
- Pull forward investment in the Gulf Range Expansion to FY18/19 to meet program needs
- Be aware of both internal and external encroachment issues on the Eglin range complex