Mission Statement
To preserve and promote the local military installations, ranges and missions and their positive economic contributions to the tri-county area.

DSI Committee Members
Tri-County Military Affairs Committees
Retired Military Personnel
Defense Contractors
Tri-County Commissioners
Eglin Complex Ex Officio
Okaloosa EDC Management

Sponsored by
The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida
850-362-6467
800-995-7374
info@florida-edc.org

DSI Objectives
★ Advocate for military installations, ranges and missions
★ Defend the Gulf Test and Training Range
★ Promote joint services and systems
★ Foster enhanced military–community partnerships
★ Monitor local, state and federal impacts

Engaging for a Stronger Tomorrow

Defense Support Initiatives
www.florida-edc.org
Santa Rosa • Okaloosa • Walton Counties

The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County (EDC) originated the Defense Support Initiatives Committee in 1996 to focus on supporting and maintaining the Eglin Test and Training Complex and existing missions. The DSI representation expanded in 2003 to include Santa Rosa and Walton Counties with the objective of promoting the military’s value and contributions to the region’s economic vitality. The EDC, through its Defense Support Initiatives Committee, is recognized by the State of Florida as the official representative and lead agency in the Okaloosa County area for base-community initiatives.
Eglin Air Force Base

Assigned under the 96th Test Wing and Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin AFB spans across three counties and is a joint service installation supporting Air Force, Army and Navy test and training units and hosts major organizations for numerous development programs, operational units, military schools, and various federal agencies. The largest military base in the Department of Defense, Eglin manages the Gulf Test & Training Range.

Hurlburt Field

Hurlburt Field, Auxiliary Field 9, is headquarters for Air Force Special Operations Command. The command’s special operations forces (SOF) are highly trained, rapidly deployable Airmen, conducting global special operations missions ranging from precision application of firepower to infiltration, exfiltration, resupply and refueling of SOF operational elements.

NAS Whiting Field

NAS Whiting Field is home to Training Air Wing Five. The complex consists of two primary airfields and 13 Navy Outlying Landing Fields. NASWF trains Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and international student aviators in the primary and intermediate phases of fixed wing aviation, and advanced training for helicopters. NASWF is the busiest Naval air complex in the world.

**Tri-County Economic Impact**

With seven military installations in Northwest Florida, the annual economic impact of the military presence in the region is over $22 Billion, according to the 2017 Florida Defense Handbook. The tri-county area of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties offers over $11 Billion in economic impact.

**Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range**

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

**Eglin AFB**

**Duke Field**

Duke Field, Auxiliary Field 3, is home to the 919th Special Operations Wing (SOW), the only special operations unit in the Air Force Reserve. The 919th SOW reports to the Air Force Reserve Command’s Tenth Air Force in peacetime, and becomes part of AFSOC at Hurlburt Field if mobilized for conflict.

**NAS Whiting Field**

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**Economic Impact**

- Total Defense Spending: $4.1 Billion
- Jobs: Over 87,900

Source: Florida Defense Fact Book September 2017