

WASHINGTON D.C. LEGISLATIVE POINT-PAPER

The complexity of future warfare drives the need for more advanced weapon systems that can operate at the speed necessary; adapt to situations in a complex, multi-domain environment; and perform multiple roles while executing its primary mission.

Prepared and Provided by

THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA – SANTA ROSA – WALTON COUNTIES
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DSI Focus Area



THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

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SUMMARY

The **Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County** originated the **Defense Support Initiatives** committee as a military issues advocacy group for local military installations and their missions across the three-county region housing Eglin Air Force Base—Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. Florida's largest defense sector is Northwest Florida which accounts for over 182,449 defense jobs and contributes over \$22 Billion annually.

The **Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB)** is a designated set of Department of Defense (DoD) facilities, ranges, and their associated workforce that provide the foundation, or base, for the Nation's Test and Evaluation (T&E) capabilities deemed critical to maintaining our Nation's military superiority. Concurrently, the MRTFB supports the development of rapid response solutions to technology related issues experienced by warfighters engaged in conflict. The MRTFB is regarded as a "national asset" consisting of Army, Navy, and Air Force test ranges—one of which is managed by the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; the **Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR; aka Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range)**.

The EGTTR connects ranges and capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from Key West to NW Florida. It includes 180,000 square miles of DoD controlled air-space, as well as 724 square miles of adjacent land ranges, 3,200 square miles of airspace over adjacent land, 17 miles of Gulf shoreline, inter-connected radars to track test/training assets, and designated launch areas. The training area incorporates multiple live-fire bombing ranges, including Pinecastle Range, Avon Park Air Force Range and the Eglin Bombing Range; supporting simultaneous maritime, air, land and electronic warfare training exercises. Due to its tremendous capabilities, the EGTTR complex is an integral part of DoD's Training Resources Strategy.

Eglin AFB, in northwestern Florida, is home of the **Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC)** and is one of ten Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) host bases. As a critical part of the MRTFB, ETTC's primary functions are to support research, development, testing, and evaluation of conventional weapons and electronic systems and warfare, and to support multi-service air and ground training of operational units. Protection and enhancement of the EGTTR is necessary to ensure these capabilities. Permanent sustainment of the **Military Mission Line** and implementation of the **Gulf Range Enhancement Plan (GRE)** are two such means to accomplish that need.



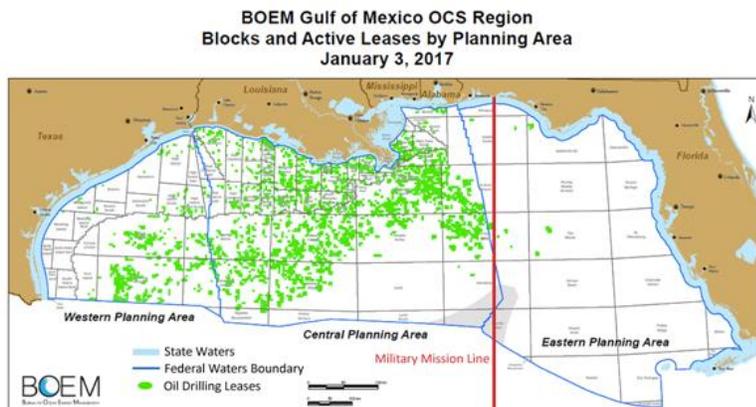
TOP PRIORITIES

1. Permanently Sustain the Military Mission Line Moratorium
2. Protect and Enhance the Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range
 - a. Fund and Implement Gulf Range Enhancement Plan
 - b. Authorize and fund Electronic Warfare Infrastructure Assets
3. Support Eglin's NexGen Whole Facility Repair by Replacement Plan
 - a. Authorize and Fund the Weapons Technological Integration Center

FEDERAL REQUESTS

Military Mission Line

Federal policies have protected the EGTR since 1983 providing a buffer zone, now defined by Public Law 109-432 as the Military Mission Line (MML) established in 2006, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated north-south Military Mission Line moratorium protects the EGTR from encroachment. DoD has documented that oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML are incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority.



The moratorium is set to expire in 2022 and oil interests are aggressively pursuing lease opportunities and marketing to advance commercial interests. Failure to extend the moratorium would be catastrophic for national defense interests and Florida's defense infrastructure. The EGTR and our military capabilities will be in jeopardy.

Congressional Ask

- Extend protection of the EGTR and the Military Mission Line by amending or replacing the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, to *permanently* enact the moratorium protection; currently set to sunset 2022

Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range

The Test Resource Management Center 2018 Strategic Plan, *Test and Evaluation: Enhancing Readiness of a more Lethal Joint Force*, identified long-range flight test capability and autonomous systems test capability as **top needs**. Supporting the National Defense Strategy since 1935, the EGTR integrates test and training of advanced and precision strike weapons. Its usage encompasses airspace, land, water, and electromagnetic spectrum environments by test and operational units from across the continental U.S and overseas. The range has aging infrastructure and inadequate instrumented airspace to test the newest generation of armament and munitions. The northern Gulf range is saturated with current mission demand. Therefore, increased demand must be supported by new instrumentation infrastructure capabilities in order to leverage the full EGTR capacity further south. In addition, maintaining the utility of the EGTR beyond 2022 in order to support next-generation, long-range weapons test and training is essential for America's national defense, and to ensure the tactical and operational readiness of our American Warfighters.

Congressional Ask

- Support sustainment and enhancement of the MRTFB in the 5-year investment plan addressing DT&E capabilities and availability needs for the full spectrum of next generation armament, platform, and advanced systems by 2023
- Support sustainment of the Military Mission Line to prevent drilling encroachment
- Fund the Gulf Range Enhancement program to enable modernization and full spectrum test and training capabilities of next generation armament, platform, and advanced systems

- Fund electronic warfare assets and threat simulator development for comprehensive test capabilities

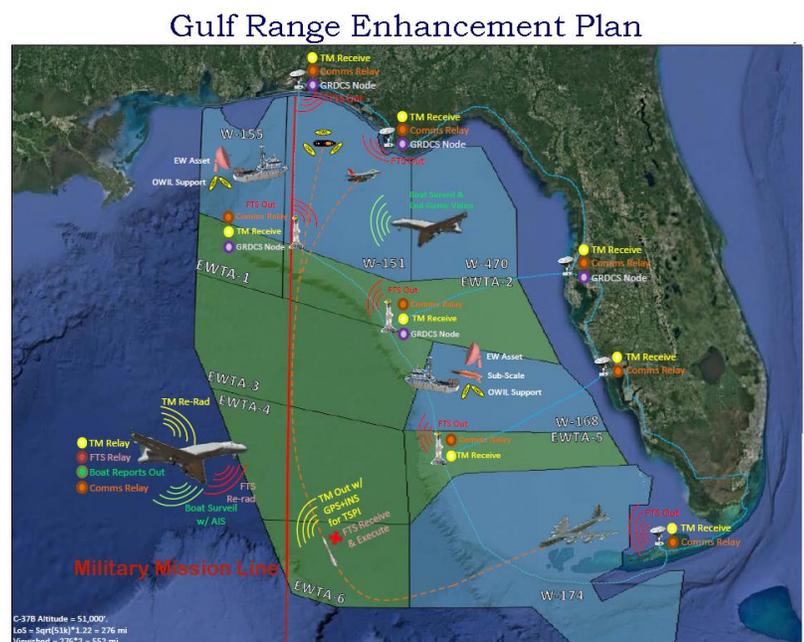
Gulf Range Enhancement Plan

The GRE plan is an approved United States Air Force program [Program Element (PE) 0604759F, Improvement and Modernization] with phased increments to improve infrastructure capabilities of the Major Range and Test Facilities Base in Florida; i.e. EGTTR. The Gulf Range Enhancement project grew out of a 2012 Air Force Long Range Stand-Off Weapons study on where future large footprint weapons could be tested. The study found that no existing US range had all the capabilities needed. The EGTTR was chosen as the most cost-effective range for modernization to provide this capability. The project was approved in 2014 with a need date of 2019. The GRE enhances instrumentation and test capability and capacity of the EGTTR, to include advanced threat emitters, making the range capable of supporting the full spectrum of armament/munitions developmental and operational testing required today and in the future; e.g. 5th and 6th gen capabilities, hypersonics, and advanced kill-chain dominance. The EGTTR upgrade plans include improving secure and encrypted data relay/transmission capabilities and capacities.

Funding profiles were originally proposed using FY12 cost data. However, this antiquated funding baseline will not provide adequate funding in today's market; or tomorrow's. Constrained budgets and high operational ops tempo of recent years has resulted in delays in funding GRE implementation. Significant mission growth is planned for the U.S. Navy and Air Force test programs. DoD must preserve national capability and capacity for growing RDT&E in support of new & competitive technologies; include hypersonics.

Congressional Ask

- Support requests for Program Element 0604759F in the FY21 Authorization Bill to provide planning, improvements, and modernization for test capabilities within the Air Force Test Center Major Range and Test Facility Base organizations
- Fund necessary capability upgrades and effective modernization of the EGTTR for operational test and training, advanced munitions testing and electronic countermeasure capabilities by supporting requests in the FY21 Appropriations bills.



The GRE enables enhanced instrumentation capabilities for current and future generations of aircraft and munitions' testing and training—securing our military superiority.

Electronic Warfare Assets

The Air Force requires a comprehensive set of test capabilities to fully test the entire kill chain in contested environments. To ensure dominance in advanced kill chain operations and to conduct T&E effectively and efficiently, a broad multi-spectrum integrated set of T&E capabilities is required including advanced electronic warfare assets to emulate a relevant contested environment. The Advanced Program directorate at Eglin has proposed a plan to address these mainly classified programs which include acquiring new electronic warfare assets for use supporting the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range and has developed plans for a new facility called the Advanced Weapons Kill Chain-Dominance Test Complex (AWKC-D) with needed access the Eglin flight-line for sensitive aircraft operations. The AWKC-D Test Complex will provide secure state-of-the-art flight test and laboratory facilities, foundational for emerging advanced weapon technology development testing and complete kill-chain assessment in a relevant environment to include the complex interactions with combat representative battle management architecture and kill-chain elements.

Congressional Ask

- Support requests for advanced electronic warfare assets in the classified portion of the FY21 Authorization Bill to comprehensively enhance EGTTTR Electronic Warfare capabilities and capacity. Support the same requests in the FY21 appropriations bill

NexGen

Enterprise wide, the facilities and infrastructure of Air Force installations are in desperate need of recapitalization. Eglin missions are at risk with over half of existing facilities on the verge of failing before they can be replaced via Military Construction (MILCON). The ability to repair aged facilities was improved with the passage of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amending 10 USC §2811 to allow facility conversion as a repair project. Current programming rules limit options for large scale Restoration and Modernization (R&M) construction projects, i.e. an entire facility cannot be replaced as a repair project. Moreover, 10 USC §2811, requires an explanation of why replacement is not in the best interests of the Government when the cost of a repair project exceeds 75% of the estimated cost of a military construction project to replace the facility. In many cases however, the best option to meet requirements is a newly constructed replacement facility, which must be accomplished via a MILCON project; and because MILCON projects are severely limited and highly competitive, they are not reliable components of a realistic recapitalization plan.

Eglin's NexGen is a strategic plan to transform an aging and deteriorating infrastructure to be a world-class center for advanced military technology. Eglin's main base footprint has been partitioned into six focus areas providing a more holistic approach for centralized functions. The redevelopment plan is based on the Air Force Infrastructure Investment Strategy.

Congressional Ask

- Support new construction of replacement facilities in lieu of attempts to modernize pre-World War II outdated and inferior buildings and infrastructure

- Authorization use of funds available for operation and maintenance to provide a new replacement building
 - In lieu of investing sustainment or restoration funds to repair an existing building
- Champion proposed legislation for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that takes the Conversion/Repair Rule to the next logical conclusion and authorizes use of funds available for operation and maintenance to provide replacement buildings.

Weapons Technology Integration Center

The rise of near-peer adversaries and the rapid proliferation of technological advancements have challenged the US military advantage, eroding the uncontested superiority it once had. This rapid advancement in technology is also changing the character of war, increasing the speed and complexity with multi-domain warfare and the effects of contested actions in the air, land, sea, sub-sea, space, cyberspace, etc. The complexity of future warfare drives the need for more advanced weapon systems that can operate at the speed necessary; adapt to situations in a complex, multi-domain environment; and perform multiple roles while executing its primary mission.

The Air Force Research Laboratory and its partners have identified the Weapons Technology Integration Center, WTIC, to be a weapon enterprise focused on state of the art collaborative labs and secure space for next-gen weapons development and testing. As directed by the National Security Strategy (NSS) and National Defense Strategy (NDS), modernize of U.S. weapon systems is required and at the speed of relevance. The WTIC would enable achieving these needs with the required technologically advanced laboratory space to enhance research and development capabilities, and a collaborative, multi-disciplinary workforce that enables rapid transition of technologies to the warfighter.

Congressional Ask

- Support requests for FY21 Authorization Bill to advance the WTIC development
- Fund required MILCON for construction requirements in order bring new relevant weapon capabilities to the warfighter faster

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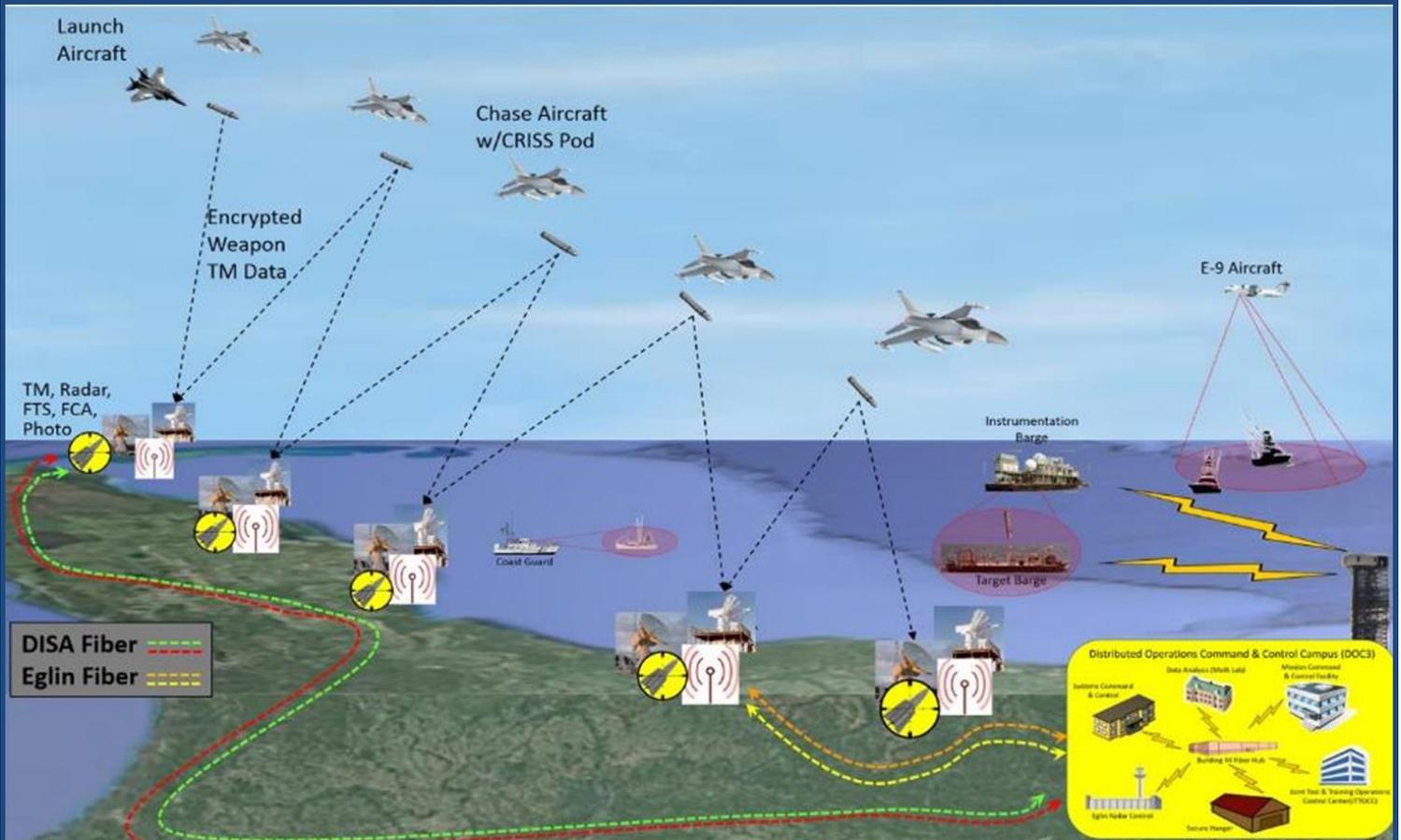
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Gulf Range Enhancement Infrastructure Example

The EGTR provides offshore testing and training areas and opportunities supporting 5th and 6th generation weapons and aircraft activities.