



EGLIN AFB CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Team Eglin

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**Public Scoping Presentation
for the proposed
Expansion of Childcare Services North
of the Eglin Test and Training Complex**

August 2023

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PURPOSE OF PUBLIC SCOPING



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- This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will analysis impacts associated with providing childcare capacity to support the needs of the Department of Army (DoA) personnel assigned to Camp Bull Simons as well as Department of the Air Force (DAF) personnel living north of the Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC)
- Describe the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and objectives of the EIS
- Provide an Overview of Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Resources Considered for Analysis
- Receive Public Input on Proposed Action and Alternatives, as well as other reasonable alternatives

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)



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NEPA requires agencies to identify and consider the environmental consequences of implementing proposals prior to making a final decision, including consideration of public comments

- The analysis of environmental consequences is presented in an EIS, which accomplishes the following objectives:
 - Identifies and describes the affected environment
 - Evaluates potential impacts from the proposed alternatives
 - Identifies permits or proposed mitigations that would avoid, minimize, or reduce the potential for adverse environmental impacts

The NEPA process concludes with a Record of Decision identifying the selected alternative and outlines any mitigation measures that are required

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BACKGROUND OF PROPOSED ACTION



1st Special Operations and 96th Force Support Squadron operate five Child Development Centers (CDCs) within Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field

- Two CDCs are in south central portion of Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC) on Eglin Main
- Three CDCs are available at Hurlburt Field
- All five CDCs are convenient to Eglin families living in the areas south of the ETTC
- Eglin families living north of ETTC have an average 45-minute drive each way to and from childcare



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BACKGROUND OF PROPOSED ACTION



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Existing CDCs are facing staffing challenges and are not operating at full capacity

- Long wait lists for Eglin members seeking childcare
- Current unmet need of approximately 292 children for Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field, 81 of those are north of ETTC

Short-term and mid-term solutions were developed to provide immediate relief:

- Increase number of DAF-certified Family Child Care homes
- Expand the Office of the Secretary of Defense in-home childcare pilot to communities surrounding the ETTC
- Increase CDC staffing by launching new childcare employee incentives
- Renovate Building 2579 on Eglin Main to provide 116 childcare spaces by the end of FY24
- Expand fee assistance options to encompass quality childcare providers in Okaloosa County
- Crestview working with a privately owned school to provide additional childcare to the local area

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BACKGROUND OF PROPOSED ACTION



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To further support Eglin families in the long-term:

- Eglin AFB programmed for a CDC to accommodate 305 children as part of its Fiscal Year 2026 Military Construction (MILCON) programming
- The DoA programmed for a CDC to accommodate 232 children as part of its Fiscal Year 2025 MILCON programming

DAF is the Lead Agency for this EIS with the DoA and the city of Crestview as Cooperating Agencies

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PURPOSE AND NEED



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The **purpose** of the Proposed Action is to provide additional CDC capacity to support the childcare needs of DoA and DAF family members living north of the ETTC

The **need** for the Proposed Action is to address the current childcare deficiencies and hardships experienced by DoA and DAF families residing north of the ETTC, which are primarily due to the lack of a CDC in the area

- Military and civilian families living in Crestview, Laurel Hill, DeFuniak Springs, Milton, and other cities north of the ETTC often have excessive travel times to the existing CDCs on Eglin Main and Hurlburt Field, exceeding a reasonable driving trip

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SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES



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NEPA requires development of screening criteria to aid in identification of reasonable alternatives to a proposed action. Screening criteria used to identify CDC site alternatives to be analyzed within the EIS include:

- Criteria that apply to both the 96 Test Wing (TW) and 7 Special Forces Group (SFG)
 - Site must be in proximity to northern boundary of ETTC
 - Site must provide the space required to meet DoD Anti Terrorism Standards
 - Site must be located where CDC design can meet noise requirements
- Criteria specific to the 96 TW
 - Site must not be near the hazards and nuisances specified in FC 4-740-14F, Design: *Air Force Child Development Centers*
 - Site must not contain contamination that would pose a health hazard to children
 - Site must not pose unavoidable flooding hazards
 - Site must be commercially available to be purchased by the DAF
- Criteria specific to the 7 SFG
 - Site should be within 15 miles or 20 minutes from the area between the resident's home and place of work

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NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE



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No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, a new CDC would not be constructed to provide a long-term childcare solution for Eglin families living north of the ETTC

- Does not meet the purpose of, or need for, the Proposed Action, it is required to be analyzed within the EIS
- Serves as an environmental benchmark against which the other alternatives can be compared
- DAF and Army would continue to implement both short-term and mid-term childcare solutions

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ALTERNATIVE 1 – CAMP BULL SIMONS



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Alternative 1: A new CDC would be constructed by the DoA on Camp Bull Simons in the northern portion of the ETTC

- 5.6 Acre Parcel
- Capacity for 232 Children
- 26,450 Square Feet



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ALTERNATIVE 2 – SR 85 AND RATTLESNAKE BLUFF ROAD



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Alternative 2: A new CDC would be constructed by the DAF at the intersection of SR 85 and Rattlesnake Bluff Road in the northern portion of the ETTC

- 15 Acre Parcel
- Capacity for 305 Children
- 37,600 Square Feet
- A traffic overpass would need to be constructed to provide safe access



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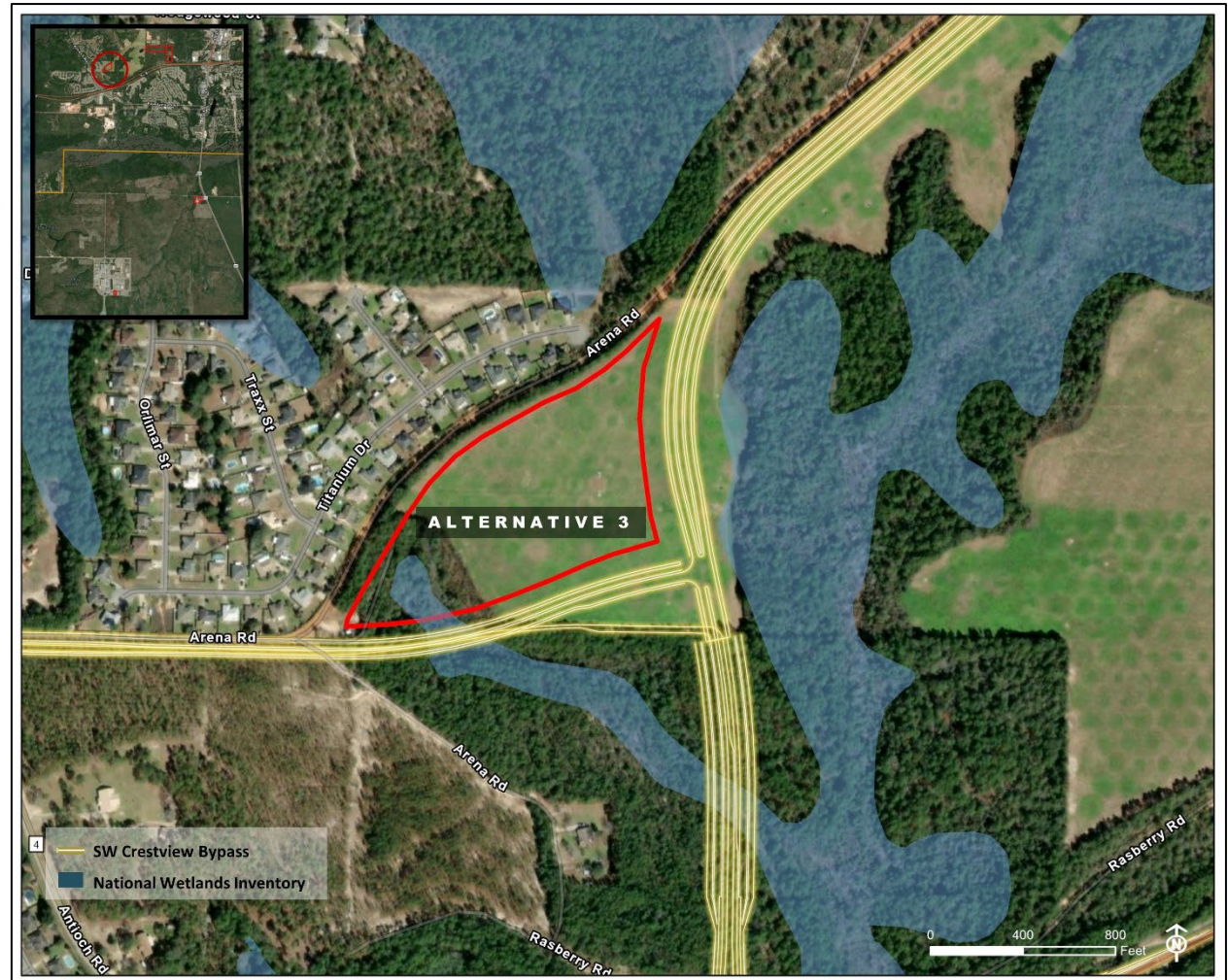
ALTERNATIVE 3 – CRESTVIEW WEST



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Alternative 3: DAF would acquire land between Arena Road and the Southwest Crestview Bypass (currently under construction in the city of Crestview) to construct CDC

- 1.8 linear miles north of ETTC
- 14 Acre Parcel
- Capacity for 305 Children
- 37,600 square foot facility



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ALTERNATIVE 4 – CRESTVIEW CENTRAL



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Alternative 4: DAF would acquire land between Three M C Lane, Retta Lane and Raspberry Road in the city of Crestview to construct a CDC

- Two linear miles north of ETTC
- 38.5 Acre Parcel
- Capacity for 305 Children
- 37,600 square foot facility



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ALTERNATIVE 5 – CRESTVIEW EAST



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Alternative 5: DAF would acquire land between Three M C Lane, Retta Lane and Raspberry Road, adjacent to Alternative 4 in the city of Crestview to construct a CDC

- Two linear miles north of ETTC
- 30 Acre Parcel
- Capacity for 305 Children
- 37,600 square foot facility



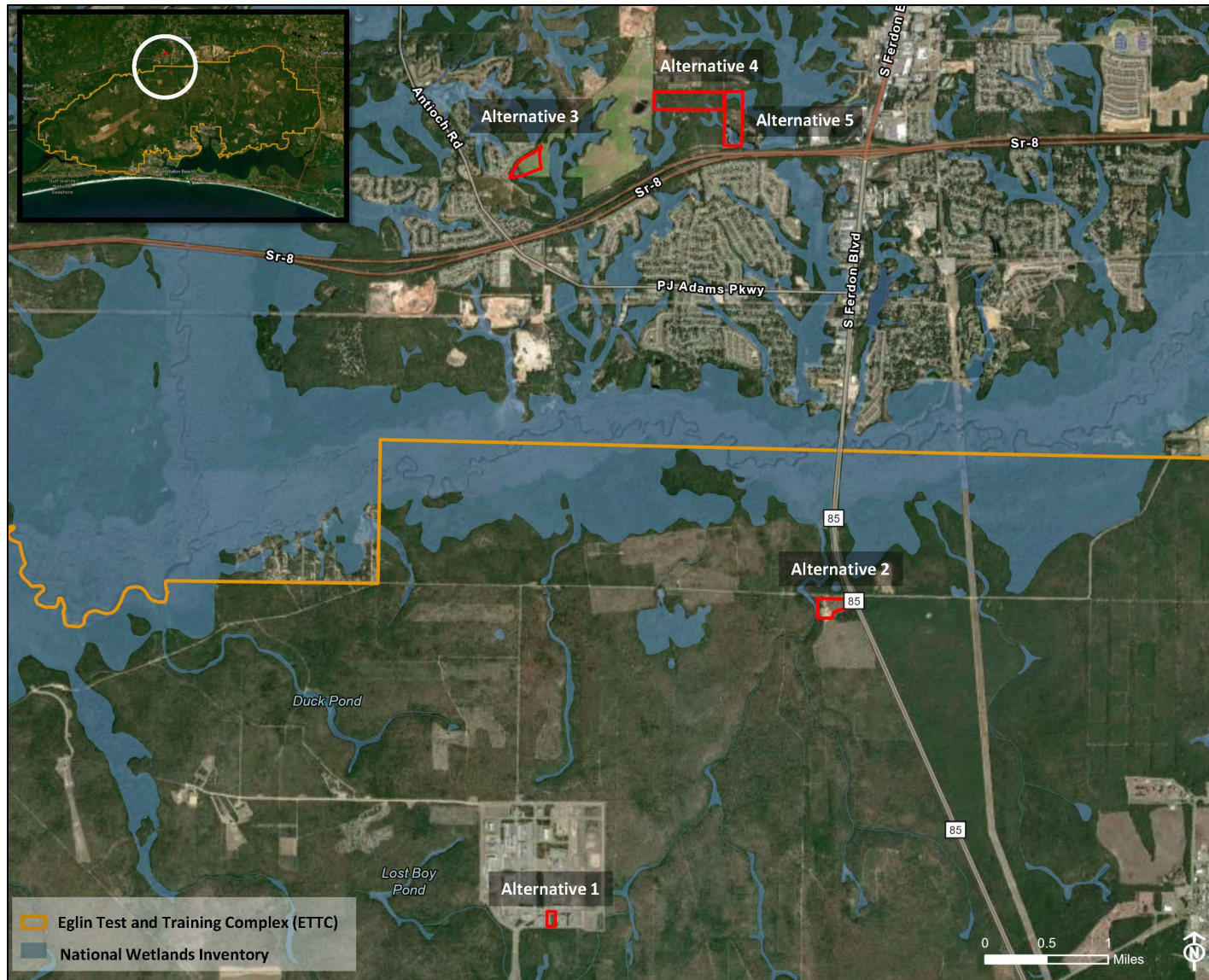
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SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER REVIEW



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ALTERNATIVES DISMISSED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS



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These Alternatives were considered but did not fully meet the Purpose and Need:

Duke Field: CDC would be constructed by DAF near the front entrance of Duke Field, which is in the north-central portion of the ETTC

- High noise levels experienced by children outdoors (for example, in the playground area) would not be able to be reduced
- Within the evacuation footprint for certain cross-range munition tests

Coast Guard Antenna Site: Would be constructed by DAF near the intersection of SR 85 and 77th Special Forces Way in the north-central portion of the ETTC

- Parcel is out granted to the U.S. Coast Guard through 2033 and would not be available to meet either DAF or Army MILCON CDC construction schedules

SR 85 and College Blvd: Would be constructed by DAF near the intersection of SR 85 and College Boulevard in the south-central portion of the ETTC.

- Dismissed because site does not meet time and distance screening requirements (within 15 miles or 20 minutes) for some Eglin Families living north of the ETTC

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ALTERNATIVES DISMISSED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS



Eglin Main: CDC would be constructed by DAF on Eglin Main at the corner of Hatchee Road and Memorial Trail

- The site would not meet the time and distance screening requirements (within 15 miles or 20 minutes) for most families living north of the ETTC

Crestview Sites: Six other Crestview parcels were evaluated as potential sites

- Sites were dismissed primarily based on factors that may prevent or complicate the sites' purchase by the DAF or hazards that would pose a safety risk to children, including, but not limited to:
 - Proximity to the Okaloosa County Sheriff firing range
 - Proximity to adjacent floodways
 - Steep terrain that pose unavoidable flooding hazards

Public Private Partnership and Enhanced Use Lease: An outside entity would lease an existing facility in Crestview, or lease the DAF land to construct and operate a CDC to be used by military members living north of the ETTC

- Process could take years and would not meet time of need

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POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ANALYZED



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- Air Quality
- Airspace Use and Management
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes
- Health and Safety
- Land Use
- Noise
- Physical Resources (Water and Soils)
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation



Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONSULTATIONS



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Alternative sites will be surveyed for:

- Wetlands
- Cultural resources
- Federally protected species

DAF will consult with the appropriate regulatory agencies and Native American tribes to determine the potential for significant impacts on these resources. Consultations will potentially include, but are not limited to:

- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

A federal Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination will be conducted and coordinated with the Florida State Clearinghouse to determine consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program

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PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT PROCEDURES



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Comments can be submitted the following ways:

- Visit the project website at <https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/>
- Mail comments directly to the Air Force:

Ms. Ilka Cole
96th Test Wing Public Affairs,
101 West D Avenue, Room 238, Eglin AFB, FL 32542
96CEG.CEIEA.NEPAPublicComments@us.af.mil

All comments should be received or post-marked by no later than **29 SEP 2023** to be considered in the Draft EIS

- Comments can include other potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action
- **All substantive comments received, whether written or electronic, will be given equal consideration**

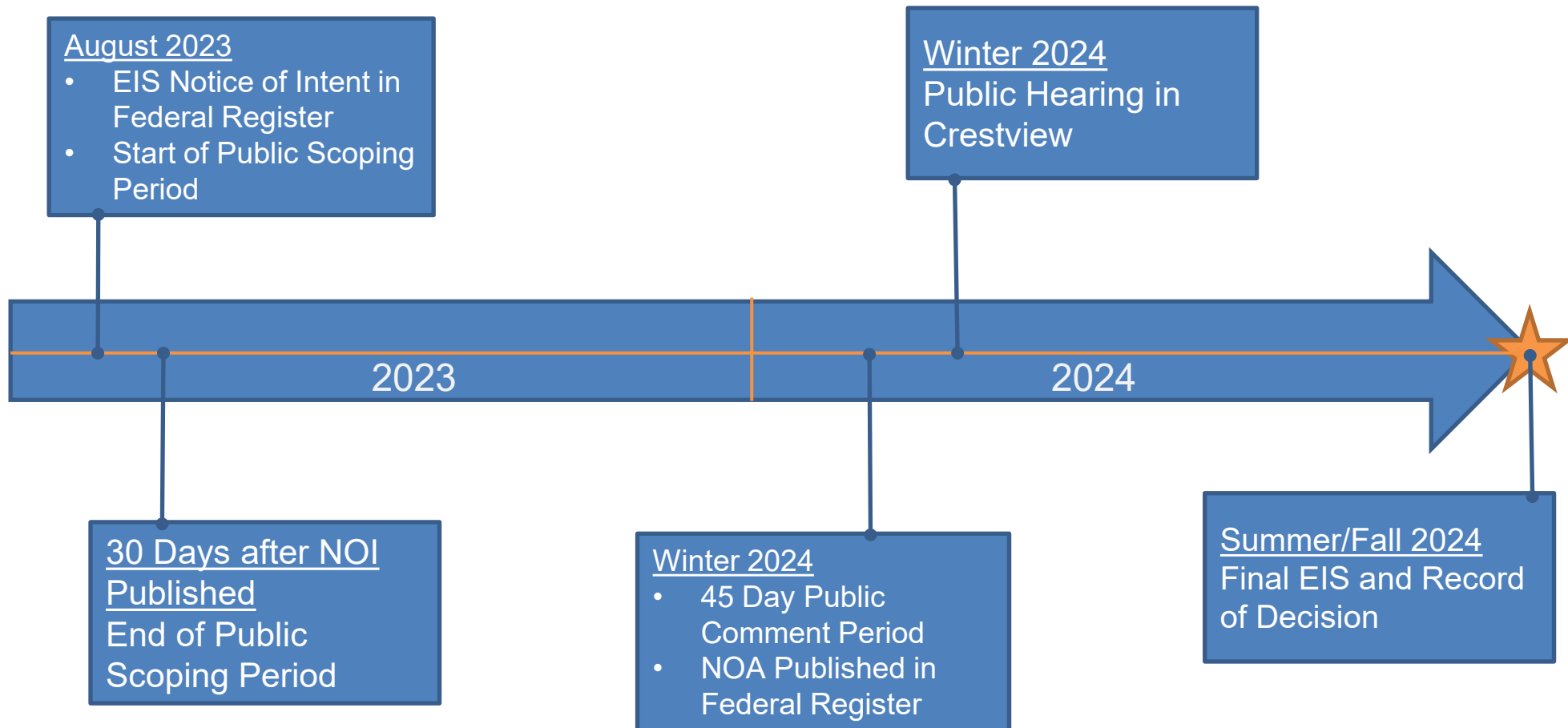
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ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE



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AIR FORCE CONTACT INFORMATION



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For questions please contact:

Eglin Air Force Base Public Affairs

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THANK YOU



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**Thank you for your participation in
the Public Scoping Process for the
Eglin CDC Environmental Impact
Statement**

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