

Frequently Asked Questions

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Expansion of Childcare Services North of the Eglin Test and Training Complex, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

1. What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is required under the National Environmental Policy Act when a federal action is determined to have significant environmental impacts. An EIS document describes the affected environment, analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, and identifies the mitigation that would avoid, minimize, or offset the impacts. The EIS process concludes with a Record of Decision that identifies the selected alternative and any mitigation measures that are required.

2. Why is this EIS being prepared?

The Department of the Air Force, in cooperation with the Department of the Army and City of Crestview, prepared this draft EIS to analyze the potential impacts from the construction and operation of a new Child Development Center (CDC) that would primarily serve Eglin military members living north of the Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC). There is currently no CDC in the area, and the existing CDCs on Eglin Main and Hurlburt Field are too far to support Eglin military members who live north of the ETTC, with average round trips being about 1.5 hours.

3. Which resources are evaluated in the EIS?

The following resources are analyzed in detail in the EIS. The EIS analyzes how each of these resources would be impacted by the construction and operation of a CDC under each alternative:

- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Noise
- Infrastructure
- Land Use
- Public Health and Safety
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

4. How and where will the draft EIS be available for review?

The public review and comment period for the draft EIS will last for 45 days from July 12 to August 26, 2024. The draft EIS and a public comment form are available on the Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) website at <https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/>. Copies of the draft EIS are available upon request by email to 96CEG.CEIEA.NEPAPublicComments@us.af.mil or by mail to Ms. Ilka Cole, 96th Test Wing Public Affairs, 101 West D Avenue, Room 238, Eglin AFB, FL 32542. Print copies of the draft EIS are also available to the public at the following three locations:

Robert L. F. Sikes Public Library
1445 Commerce Drive
Crestview, FL 32539

Crestview City Hall
198 North Wilson Street
Crestview, FL 32536

Jackson Guard
107 Highway 85 North
Niceville, FL 32578

5. How can the public submit comments on the draft EIS?

The public can use the electronic comment form available on the Eglin AFB website at <https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/> for submitting written comments or written comments may be submitted without using the form. Written comments can be submitted by email or mail as follows:

- Email written comments to: 96CEG.CEIEA.NEPAPublicComments@us.af.mil
- Mail written comments to: Ms. Ilka Cole, 96th Test Wing Public Affairs, 101 West D Avenue, Room 238, Eglin AFB, FL 32542
- All comments should be received or postmarked no later than August 26, 2024.

Verbal comments can be provided during the public hearing on August 8, 2024.

6. When is the public hearing?

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Warriors Hall located at 201 Stillwell Boulevard, Crestview, FL 32536. The public hearing is part of the ongoing public involvement process for the EIS, and it is being held so that the public can provide comments on the project in person.