

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR EXPANSION OF CHILDCARE SERVICES NORTH OF THE EGLIN TEST AND TRAINING COMPLEX EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with (1) the Department of the Army (DOA) constructing a new childcare center on Camp Bull Simons in the Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC), Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida (Alternative 1), and (2) the Department of the Air Force (DAF) constructing a new childcare center at one of four locations near the northern boundary of the ETTC, Eglin AFB, Florida. The locations being considered by the DAF include State Road 85 and Rattlesnake Bluff Road (Alternative 2), Crestview West (Alternative 3), Crestview Central (Alternative 4), and Crestview East (Alternative 5). The Proposed Action is needed to address the current childcare deficiencies and hardships experienced by DOA and DAF military families living north of the ETTC, which are primarily due to the lack of a childcare center in the area. Resource areas analyzed for impacts in the draft EIS include air quality, water resources, cultural resources, biological resources, noise, infrastructure, land use, public health and safety, hazardous materials and wastes, and environmental justice and protection of children.

The public review and comment period for the draft EIS will last for 45 days from July 12 to August 26, 2024. Public comments should be submitted during this time to ensure that the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the final EIS.

An open-house 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 hearing presentation will start at 7:00 p.m.

The draft EIS and a public comment form will be available during the 45-day public review period on the Eglin AFB public website at <https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/>. Comments from the public may be submitted 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. The draft EIS and digital or print copies of review materials are available upon request through the same email and mailing address. 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

PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

As required by law, comments received will be addressed in the final EIS and made available to the public. Providing personal information is voluntary. Any personal information provided will be used only to fulfill requests for copies of the EIS or associated documents. Only the names of individuals making comments and their specific comments will be disclosed. Personal information, home addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses will not be published.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The electronic version of the draft EIS is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This allows assistive technology to be used to help people with disabilities understand this electronic media. Due to the nature of graphics, figures, tables, and images occurring in the document, accessibility may be limited to a descriptive title for each item.