



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 96TH TEST WING (AFMC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA**

August 23, 2023

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601 DeLeon St., Suite 101
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Name
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Dear Interested Public

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is issuing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that assesses the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with (1) the Department of the Army (DoA) constructing and operating 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 and operating one or more additional childcare centers in or north 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 locations of Alternatives 1 through 5 are shown on the attached figure.

The Proposed Action is needed to address the current childcare deficiencies and hardships experienced by DoA and DAF military families residing north of the ETTC. The distance to the existing child development centers on Eglin Main and Hurlburt Field is too great to support these military families where they live and work. Resource areas being analyzed in the EIS include air quality, water resources, geological resources, cultural resources, biological resources, land use, noise, infrastructure, hazardous materials and wastes, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and safety.

A public scoping period will take place starting from the date of the NOI publication in the *Federal Register*, August 23, 2023, and will last for 30 days in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 consultation pursuant to *Code of Federal Regulations* title 36, section 800.2(d), which will also fulfill the Section 106 requirements for public notification. Scoping comments should be submitted during this time to ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the draft EIS.

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The Eglin public website provides information on both the EIS and the scoping process as well as downloadable comment forms to fill out at the following web link <https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/>. Scoping comments may also be submitted by email to 96CEG.CEIEA.NEPAPublicComments@us.af.mil or by mail to the attention of Ms. Ilka Cole, 96th Test Wing Public Affairs, 101 West D Avenue, Room 238, Eglin AFB, FL 32542. EIS inquiries and requests for digital or print copies of scoping materials are available upon request through the same mailing address and email. Print copies of the project scoping materials are also available at:

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

The DAF looks forward to hearing from you, along with your participation in the above 30-day public scoping process. If you have any further questions or concerns or need further information, please contact Mr. Wendell Thompson at (850) 882-4436 or by e-mail at wendell.thompson@us.af.mil.

Sincerely,


MARIA D. RODRIGUEZ, NH-04, USAF
Acting Chief, Installation Management Division

Attachment:
Eglin CDC Site Map, August 2023