

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR EXPANSION OF
CHILDCARE SERVICES NORTH OF THE EGLIN TEST AND TRAINING COMPLEX
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess 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). Resource areas being analyzed for impacts in the EIS include air quality, water resources, geological resources, cultural resources, biological resources, land use, noise, infrastructure, hazardous materials and wastes, socioeconomic, environmental justice, and safety. The proposed action could include construction in wetlands and/or floodplains. This notice fulfills the requirements of Section 2(b) of Executive Order (EO) 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, Section 2(a)(4) of EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*, and 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9.8(c) to provide opportunity for early public review of proposed federal actions in wetlands and floodplains.

A public scoping period will take place starting from the date of this NOI publication and will last for 30 days. This scoping period will be conducted 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. To ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the draft EIS, scoping comments should be submitted within the scoping period. The Eglin public website (<https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/>) provides information on the EIS and the scoping process as well as downloadable comment forms to fill out and return either electronically or by mail. Scoping comments may be submitted to Ms. Ilka Cole, 96th Test Wing Public Affairs, 101 West D Avenue, Room 238, Eglin AFB, FL 32542 or by email to 96CEG.CEIEA.NEPAPublicComments@us.af.mil. 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 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

The draft EIS will be provided for public comment in early 2024. As required by law, comments received will be addressed in the 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. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the EIS; however, only the individuals' names making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published.