



Eglin Installation Growth Committee – Planning now for future BRAC-related growth

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History & Timeline:

September 8, 2005 the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) sent President Bush a finished report detailing the actions for U.S. military installations around the world.

September 15, 2005 Congress approved the Commission's report.

2006 Eglin Installation Growth Committee was formed.

2008 Hired HDR Engineering of Pensacola by EIGC approved by BCC.

2009 Study Completion.

September 30, 2011 BRAC law mandates completion of these actions.

2010 Growth expected to begin

2016 JSF slated to be fully operational.

BCC - Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners
BRAC – Base Realignment & Closure Committee
EIGC – Eglin Installation Growth Committee
EIS – Environmental Impact Study
JLUS – Joint Land Use Study
JSF – Joint Strike Fighter
OEA – Office of Economic Adjustment

Two BRAC recommendations significant to Okaloosa County and Eglin Air Force Base:

1. The BRAC report named Eglin as the new home to the U.S. Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as they were directed to relocate here from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
2. It also established the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Joint Training Site here.

What does this mean for Okaloosa County? (Walton and Santa Rosa Counties) – Growth.

- 6,607 estimated relocating personnel associated with the 7th Special Forces Group: 2,200 military, 1,452 spouses and 2,415 children.
- 4,885 estimated with the JSF, consisting of 2,326 JSF personnel (pilot instructors, maintenance instructors, pilot students, maintenance students, government civilians, contractors, aircraft maintainers, and aircraft maintenance squadron personnel), 1,163 spouses, and 1,396 children.
- 107 F-35 aircraft estimated to be stationed at Eglin by 2016.

This data comes directly from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being conducted by Eglin Air Force Base as a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act. Full text of the EIS can be found at www.eglin.af.mil, top right of the page.

The Growth Management Plan is designed to assist the Eglin communities while avoiding either inefficient or duplicative efforts when studying the impact of Eglin's growth. Additionally the ***Plan will study existing inventory and provide a review and assessment of existing information and assets.*** Integration begins with the make up of the EIGC, which includes participants from Okaloosa, Walton and Santa Rosa Counties, along with municipalities' professional staffs, elected officials, and interested citizens.

In addition to local initiatives, Okaloosa County also sought the assistance of the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (www.oea.gov). OEA is a Department of Defense's primary source assisting communities affected by Defense program changes. ***Among the assistance offered by OEA were grants to Okaloosa County, as the Executive Agent, to undertake specific planning activities***

supporting affected local communities. Part of the Growth Grant is funding to hire a Growth Management Consultant to conduct the Eglin Installation Regional Growth Management Plan.

HDR Engineering will incorporate a public outreach component throughout the planning process which will engage stakeholders and disseminate information. They will submit a detailed Public Outreach Plan quantifying the number of meetings, suggested locations, timeline for website activation, types of outreach materials provided, etc.

The unique approach of this effort will be results-driven, focusing on generating information that will yield requirements necessary to prepare for the anticipated growth. These requirements will, in turn, drive the transactional next steps in the process. This includes, but is not limited to, project plans, additional supporting studies, architectural and engineering work, etc.

The Eglin Installation Growth Committee, comprised of local government officials, industry leaders, military representatives, and concerned citizens, met throughout 2006 and identified the following areas of concern, listed in **priority order**, which will be addressed in the Eglin Installation Regional Growth Management Plan: (*Again, current studies, assessments, completed work, existing information, organizations and people will be integrated into all future plans.*)

1. Roads/Transportation – current studies utilized, & build on other options to include multimodal (roads, port, rail & commercial air analysis)
2. Housing – includes Housing Market Analysis, plus ownership, rental and workforce housing and program identification.
3. Public utilities & Infrastructure – thorough analysis and innovative solutions to growth impacts on services needed
4. Land Use – policies, documents, planning and administrative structures to be studied for growth at Eglin, Duke & Hurlburt
5. Economic Impacts & Job Creation Opportunities – specifically military spouses, separating & retiring military employment programs
6. Public Safety & Emergency Services – existing & anticipated emergency response needed.
7. Health & Social Services – existing & anticipated service levels from medical to child care.
8. Education – education needs in study area for local business & industry, & all students.
9. Quality of Life – libraries, cultural resources, arts & entertainment, parks & recreation, etc.

This transactional plan is expected to have integrated funding/resource strategies throughout. Total cost of the study is \$1,096,000. Of that total, \$986,400 will be paid by OEA, \$75,000 by the State of Florida, and the remaining \$34,600 coming from Okaloosa County

EIGC has 2 parts:

- A **12-member Executive Committee** chaired by Okaloosa Commission Chairman James Campbell, with members Dr. Bob Richburg, President of Okaloosa-Walton College; Paul Thorpe, Northwest Florida Water Management District; Lois Hoyt, Okaloosa County resident and member of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority; Don Salter, Santa Rosa County Commissioner; Scott Brannon, Walton County Commissioner; Mike Anderson, Mayor of Fort Walton Beach; Larry Sassano, President of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida; Lt Gen (retired) Gordy Fornell, Mid-Bay Bridge Authority member; Danielle Slaterpryce, Okaloosa County Public Works Director; and Wayne Harris, Executive Director of the Crestview Chamber of Commerce.
- An **11-subcommittee organization** created to begin addressing growth impacts on our area, specifically: Transportation, Education, Environmental Concerns, Utilities, Public Health, Housing, Citizens Advisory, Planning, Economic Development, Law Enforcement & Public Safety, and Technology.