



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

MAR 30 2018

Brigadier General Evan C. Dertien
Commander, 96th Test Wing
101 West D Avenue, Suite 118
Eglin AFB FL 32542-5495

Commissioner Graham Fountain
Chairman, Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners
1250 North Eglin Parkway, Suite 100
Shalimar FL 32514

Dear Commissioner Fountain

Thank you for your request for information on Eglin's mission, our growth, and the impact on the community.

Perhaps the number one issue plaguing the Eglin workforce is the increased traffic congestion into Crestview. While the increase in traffic congestion associated with the population growth is understandable, traffic has grown such that it impacts the quality of life of base employees, our ability to recruit new civilian employees, and has a direct impact on the military mission. Even with the recent improvements to this roadway, including new intersection configurations at both the north and south ends of SR 123 as well as the Air Force-funded overpass (77th Special Forces Way/McWhorter Avenue), traffic issues continue. Currently, evening traffic going to Crestview backs up past the Duke/7 SFG exit impacting our ability to deliver supplies to these mission locations during peak traffic times. Eglin's key weapons' research and development mission continues to grow, as does the capacity of many of our mission partners. This mission growth translates to additional personnel, which will continue to exacerbate traffic as a significant portion of Eglin's workforce lives north of the Range in and around the Crestview area. I know there are no easy solutions to the current issues, but appreciate any actions that can help alleviate this congestion.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Jeff Fanto, Chief of Portfolio Optimization, 96 CEG/CENP, (850) 882-8036, jeffrey.fanto@us.af.mil, or Mr. Tom Tolbert, Community Planner, 96 CEG/CENPL, (850) 882-6993, robert.tolbert.2@us.af.mil.

Sincerely

EVAN C. DERTIEN
Brigadier General, USAF