



DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE CHARTER

The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County (EDC; DBA One Okaloosa EDC) is recognized by the State of Florida as the official representative and lead agency in the Okaloosa County area for base-community initiatives. The Eglin Test and Training Complex (ETTC) land range (724 sq. miles) overlays significant portions of three northwest Florida counties: Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton. The overwater portion of the ETTC range (134,000 sq. miles) extends from the panhandle counties' coast line at the North end to abutting the Florida Keys at the South end. One Okaloosa EDC originated the Defense Support Initiatives Committee (DSI) in 1996 to provide the EDC with a forum dedicated to preserving the ETTC and its installations' contributions to National Defense. In preparation for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, the DSI membership was expanded in 2003 to include Santa Rosa and Walton Counties in recognition of Eglin's land footprint and the economic implications of the ETTC to the tri-county area.

Mission Statement

To preserve and promote the local military installations, ranges and missions and their military value consistent with the tri-county communities' economic goals, and national security.

Vision Statement

To ensure the health and growth of military installations and missions which reside on or near the ETTC in order to meet our Nation's current and future needs for Air Armament research, development, acquisition, test and evaluation, and providing for a joint operations range environment sustaining operational readiness of our Nation's air combat, special operations, and cyber forces.

DSI Leadership

As a One Okaloosa EDC committee, the DSI is led by a nominated chairman that is supported by the EDC's DSI manager. The DSI Committee Chairman is required to be a current EDC investor and serves in a two-year voluntary position. A volunteer vice-chair may be designated during the last year of the chairman's term in order to develop a succession plan. The DSI manager is responsible for the efficient operation of the committee and will utilize the DSI Steering Group as the leadership working group. The Steering Group consists of the below identified members:

- DSI Chairman
- DSI Immediate Past Chairman
- One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director
- One Okaloosa EDC Associate Director / DSI Manager
- One Okaloosa EDC Military Advisor
- One Okaloosa EDC Military Consultant
- Others as identified by the EDC Executive Director and DSI Chairman

Steering Group Duties

The objective of the Steering Group is to provide a leadership assistance role for the committee chairman and offer subject matter expertise in the decision-making process. This includes, but is not limited to nominating chairman candidates; suggesting meeting speakers and/or relevant topics; overseeing the selection, acceptance and removal process for DSI members and military unit liaisons; and providing guidance in the development of official position papers.

Committee Membership

As a military issues advocacy group, the DSI Committee is led by a volunteer Chairman and meets on a monthly basis with non-attribution discussions. There are three DSI membership levels; 1) subject matter expert members, 2) ex officio members, and 3) affiliate members.

Subject Matter Expert Members

Generally speaking, SME members represent the highest ranking manager / official of EDC investors in good standing.* SME members are expected to be actively engaged and provide a minimum of 50% meeting attendance. To maximize DSI quality focus and impact as a military issues advocacy group, membership is limited to no more than 20 subject matter expert members.

Qualified individuals must meet criterion listed below.

1. Previous active duty military service, and/or
2. Possesses current state and national military legislative knowledge/relationships, and/or
3. Maintains current DoD military mission contracts

Ex Officio Members

Ex Officio members are individuals permitted based on the position they hold. Such as current One Okaloosa EDC Chair, Congressional District 1 military liaison, and installation representative. Ex Officio members are capped at 5 and are not required to maintain meeting attendance.

Affiliate Members

To facilitate ongoing tri-county communication and support, affiliate members include designated representatives based on the position they hold for Santa Rosa and Walton County economic development organizations and Military Affairs Committees, and a Commissioner for each of the tri-counties. Affiliate members are not required to maintain a 50% meeting attendance. Affiliate members may present topics of interest to DSI leadership.

Membership is by Steering Group review and approval for specified individuals. Stand-in or substitute proxies are not permitted for any membership category. Membership will be reviewed by the Steering Group no less than every two years in conjunction with the chairman leadership rotation. A lack of the required attendance, a known or perceived breach of confidentiality or conflict of interest, misconduct concerns, and/or any other action reflecting adversely on the DSI will be grounds for discharge from membership. Vacancies and rotations will be reviewed as they occur or as necessary utilizing the process and criteria stated above.

Committee Structure

- One Okaloosa EDC Management
- Select Defense Contractors
- Select Retired Military Personnel
- Eglin Complex Ex Officio
- Select Tri-County MAC Representatives
- Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton County Commissioners
- Others as identified by Steering Group

A current DSI roster is available separately.

Continual operation and expansion of our military installations, ranges and their missions is critical to our region's economic foundation and National security.

** The EDC membership requirement is waived for Okaloosa County chamber MACs in light of One Okaloosa and Chamber reciprocal membership agreements.*