Protection of the Gulf Range

As of: September 26, 2019
Florida’s Military Presence

Overview:

-- 20 major military installations.

-- Defense contributions to state economy:
   -- $84.9 Billion annual impact from military and defense business presence.
   -- 801,747 direct and indirect jobs.
   -- 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest economic driver

-- Optimum training environment; extensive ranges.
Leases in the Gulf – 2017 Data
The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) placed a moratorium until 2022 on leasing activities on:

-- the *Eastern Planning Area* which is within 125 miles of Florida;

-- all areas in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line and

-- the area within the Central Planning area w/in 100 miles of Florida.

-- Additionally, it provides for sharing of leasing revenues with AL, MS, LA and TX.

-- The Secretary of Defense in 2006 declared that offshore drilling was “incompatible” with military testing and Training in the Eastern Gulf Range.
Current Moratorium (cont.)

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) web site shows Florida’s Gulf Range available for exploration and drilling in 2022.
- The oil interests are already aggressively pursuing lease opportunities and marketing to advance commercial interests.
- Therefore, the clock is ticking for drilling-related activities that would adversely impact the military’s ability to test and train in the eastern Gulf of Mexico to preserve our national security.
Current Moratorium (cont.)

• The Gulf states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama have a vested financial interest in allowing the moratorium to expire. More exploration and drilling would mean more revenue for them as well as the federal government.

• Congressional scoring methodology favors the expiration of the current moratorium because there is significant federal revenue expected from expanding the area for exploration and drilling leases in the Eastern Gulf. In order for the moratorium to be extended, there must be a funding offset for this ”lost” revenue
• In September 2019, the House of Representatives passed HB 205 permanently banning offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. This is encouraging, but the bill’s future in the Senate is still uncertain.

• The oil industry is aggressively pursuing a public relations campaign to open up the Eastern Gulf Testing and Training Range to exploration and drilling. This pressure would lead to unacceptable encroachment and threaten military missions.
Compared to Other U.S. Ranges

- White Sands Missile Range
- Utah Test and Training
- Edwards Test Range
- China Lake Naval Weapons Testing Center
- Nellis Range

Map showing the locations of these ranges.
All Branches Utilize Florida Ranges
Current Operations Example

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Future Gulf Test Range Operations

Planned Operational Requirements

- Joint Strike Fighter Advanced Medium Range Air to Air (JOTT AMRAAM)
- NASA JPL Mars Ascent Vehicle Testing
- Networked Swarm Weapon Profile
- Future Booster Development
- Joint Advanced Tactical Missile (JATM)
- Joint Air to Air Stand-off missile (JASSM ER)
Why Protecting the Range is Important

• The Department of Defense has identified the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range as a unique and irreplaceable national treasure.

• Gulf range provides vital training space for America’s 5th generation fighter aircraft.

• Many leading defense missions are located in Florida because of access to the Gulf Test & Training Range.

• Significant defense industry located in Florida due to the range’s military mission support requirements.
Why Protecting the Range is Important (cont.)

- Substantial federal investment in the GRE (Gulf Range Enhancement) plan is programmed to upgrade digital sensors & increase capacity through 2024.

- Significant mission growth in the Eastern Gulf is planned for the U.S. Navy and Air Force test programs.

- DoD must preserve national capability for growing Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) in support of new & competitive technologies – especially hypersonic missiles.
Take Aways

• Maintaining the Eastern Gulf Range to support next-generation weapons test and training is critical to our national defense.

• Drilling would result in possible relocation of aircraft and/or bases to unrestricted range areas and loss of defense industry business.

• The Gulf Range is the only location in the Continental U.S. that can accommodate the testing of hypersonic missiles.
Take Aways (cont.)

• Congress must act now to extend the moratorium, but will require a funding offset for potential lost revenue.

• Florida needs an active marketing effort to energize public support for extending the moratorium.