



News from Eglin Air Force Base



News Release

Team Eglin

Office of Public Affairs

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HIGHWAY 85 AND STATE ROAD 123 TO CLOSE FOR MISSION

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- The 96th Test Wing is scheduled to conduct testing on the Eglin range complex March 21 requiring the closure of Highway 85 and State Road 123. The roads will be closed between 12:30 and 3 p.m. The roads will not be closed for more than 90-minute periods within the time frame. A back-up mission is scheduled for March 22 between 12:30 and 3 p.m.

For more information and updates on road closures, visit www.eglin.af.mil.

OKALOOSA COUNTY ADDRESSING THE GREAT ATLANTIC SARGASSUM BELT FOR POSSIBLE LANDFALL ON OUR BEACHES


There is currently a large amount of Sargassum, a type of seaweed, from the Atlantic Ocean headed into the Gulf of Mexico. While there is currently no sargassum on Destin-Fort Walton beaches, we are making preparations in the event seaweed accumulations reach excessive levels.

This seaweed has existed for centuries but man-made fertilizer has added to the growth of the Sargassum. As you are probably aware, algae and seagrasses are naturally occurring in the

marine environment worldwide. They are also an important ecosystem for marine life like sea turtles and small fish. While Okaloosa County has allowed nature to dispose of sargassum on our beaches in the past, we are prepared to utilize properly permitted tools on our beach to remove the seaweed if needed.

Additionally, there are currently no detectable amounts of red tide in the waterways around Destin-Fort Walton Beach. Water samples are being collected by the Tourism Development Department and Department of Health (independent of each other) then provided to Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for processing.

My Sincere Thanks,



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