



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your August 9, 2017 letter about potentially reopening the Navarre Pass for local marine use and the impact on the test and training mission at Eglin Air Force Base, FL. Reopening Navarre Pass in a way that goes through the Santa Rosa Island Controlled Firing Area would interfere with current and future Air Force and DOD missions. Consequently, the Air Force opposes reopening that pass.

As requested, I am forwarding you the latest mission impact analysis on opening the pass, which details the impacts to the Eglin Air Force Base mission. The analysis was last updated in April 2017 and shows that an increase in boat and civilian traffic into the area will hinder the performance of hazardous military operations on Santa Rosa Island. The Eglin Santa Rosa Island Test Areas are strategically important for both military test and training needs and must be maintained for the DoD mission.

Thank you for your continued support of the Air Force and our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

  
DAVID L. GOLDFEIN  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff