

MILITARY FRIENDLY LIGHTING

Our military conducts night test and training operations at the airfields and ranges on Eglin AFB and in our area skies. These operations use night vision equipment that is degraded when exposed to bright light.

Outdoor lights near airfields or under military training routes can cause difficult and unsafe flying conditions. Ground lighting can interfere with a pilot's vision or with night vision instrumentation and equipment. Ground lighting may also cause confusion with approach landing patterns.



Examples of ground lighting that can interfere with night vision equipment are outdoor home lighting, street lighting, and after hours business and parking lot lighting.

[Hurlburt's 1st Special Operations Wing](#) and the [Army's 6th Ranger Training Battalion](#) and [7th Special Forces Group \(Airborne\)](#) are among the many units who conduct night testing and training on fields and military training routes on the Eglin Reservation or over adjacent lands. Training for night operations under realistic conditions is mission-essential to these units. If pilots and soldiers are unable to train in darkness because of bright lights in the area, they cannot maintain the skills necessary to do their mission.

Why is this important to you?

For more than 65 years and spanning six wars, Eglin has played a prominent role in airpower history and our national security. As our area has developed and grown, so has the mission at Eglin. The weapons are vastly more complex and the airplanes fly much faster. The skies over Eglin and Northwest Florida are among the busiest in the nation. The value of our area as it is to the nation's defense and our military cannot be overstated.

The economic benefit to Northwest Florida continues to be tremendous. The Haas Center at the University of West Florida estimates the regional economic benefit of the military presence in Northwest Florida (from Escambia County to Jefferson County) at \$18.8 billion a year, providing 192,000 jobs, and total Defense spending (salaries, pensions, and procurement) of over \$6.9 billion each year. This economic activity benefits you regardless of whether you are active-duty military, a civil service employee, a business person, a retiree, or just a person living in Northwest Florida.

[source: Florida Defense Factbook 2013](#)

The military missions now being done at Eglin need a little bit of our help and cooperation in keeping our night skies from becoming brighter. [Click here to see a map of our area as it appears at night.](#) If the missions cannot be done here because of increasing night lighting, the military will have to look elsewhere. Maintaining the military presence in our area is clearly vital to us all.



We have learned to turn down the lights for the turtles on our beaches.

Our airmen and soldiers who need dark skies to test equipment and train for our defense deserve no less.

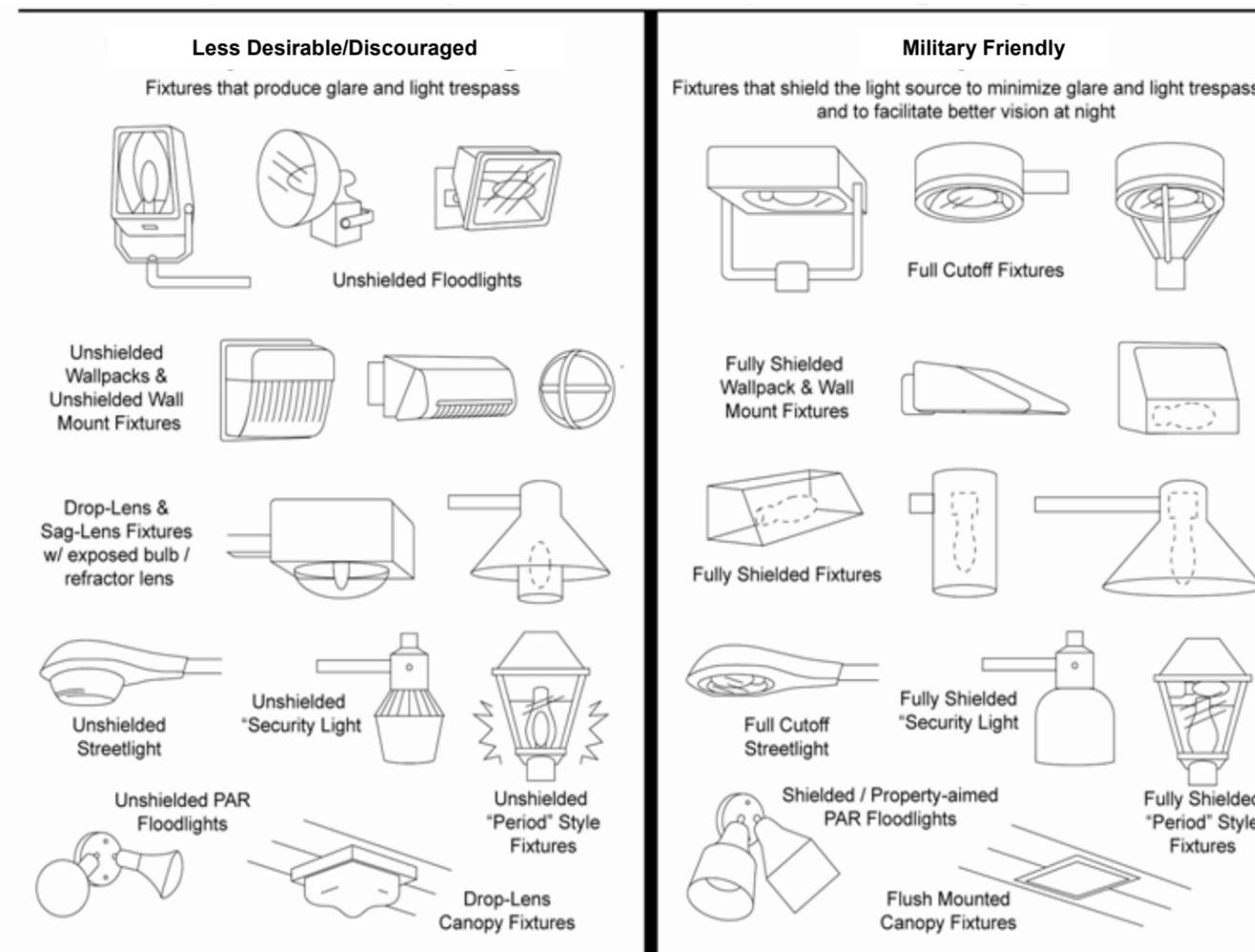
Scroll down to see how you can help.

What you can do to help

- Use appropriate levels of outdoor lighting, and only when needed
 - Use the lowest wattage lighting needed
 - Consider using motion sensor activated lighting on your property
 - This also saves on your energy bill
- Prevent illumination of unintended areas by using shielded and full-cutoff fixtures
 - Your neighbors will also appreciate this
- Avoid use of lights near airfields that could be confused with airfield approach lighting; or lights that create glare and interfere with pilots' night vision
 - Never point lighting into the sky
- Install shielded full-cutoff lighting fixtures when building or remodeling
 - Consider replacing existing fixtures with shielded lighting when you need to change lights
- Turn off business lighting (buildings and signage) and parking lot lighting that is not essential to security of your business after hours
 - Consider using timers or motion sensors to turn the lights on or off at appropriate times

These fixtures and sensors are readily available in area lighting and hardware stores, and are generally no more costly than less acceptable fixtures. You have a choice — please take an active part in helping our military.

Examples of Less Desirable and Military Friendly Lighting Fixtures



Source: adapted from Tri-County Small Area Study Final Report, October 2012, Matrix Design Group Inc.