



WHITING AVIATION PARK



Whiting Aviation Park is the perfect location for an aviation-related business. Through a limited-access use agreement between Santa Rosa County and the United States Navy, civilian tenants of the Aviation Park will be able to use the Navy's airfield facilities. The park is designed for a mixture of aviation related commercial and industrial development as well as non-aviation development. The park is ideal for manufacturing, maintenance, repair, and overhaul type aviation operations. It's **Florida First Certified** — which means it's project-ready with the due diligence complete to minimize risk and accelerate speed to market.

While the 6,000-foot runway is the central feature, there are many amenities that make Whiting Aviation Park an ideal location:

- Up to 239 acres for your operation with expansion potential.
- Easy access to major highways and Interstate 10.
- A formidable aerospace and defense workforce that's strong and growing.
- Centrally located in one of the world's most active military aviation regions.
- Close to thousands of square miles of protected airspace.
- VFR flight conditions over three hundred days each year.

CENTRAL LOCATION

Santa Rosa County sits in one of the most active air traffic zones in the world, surrounded by military aviation installations and growing commercial operations. The area's proximity to military-related IT research, development and testing has created an emerging cluster of IT and aerospace companies.

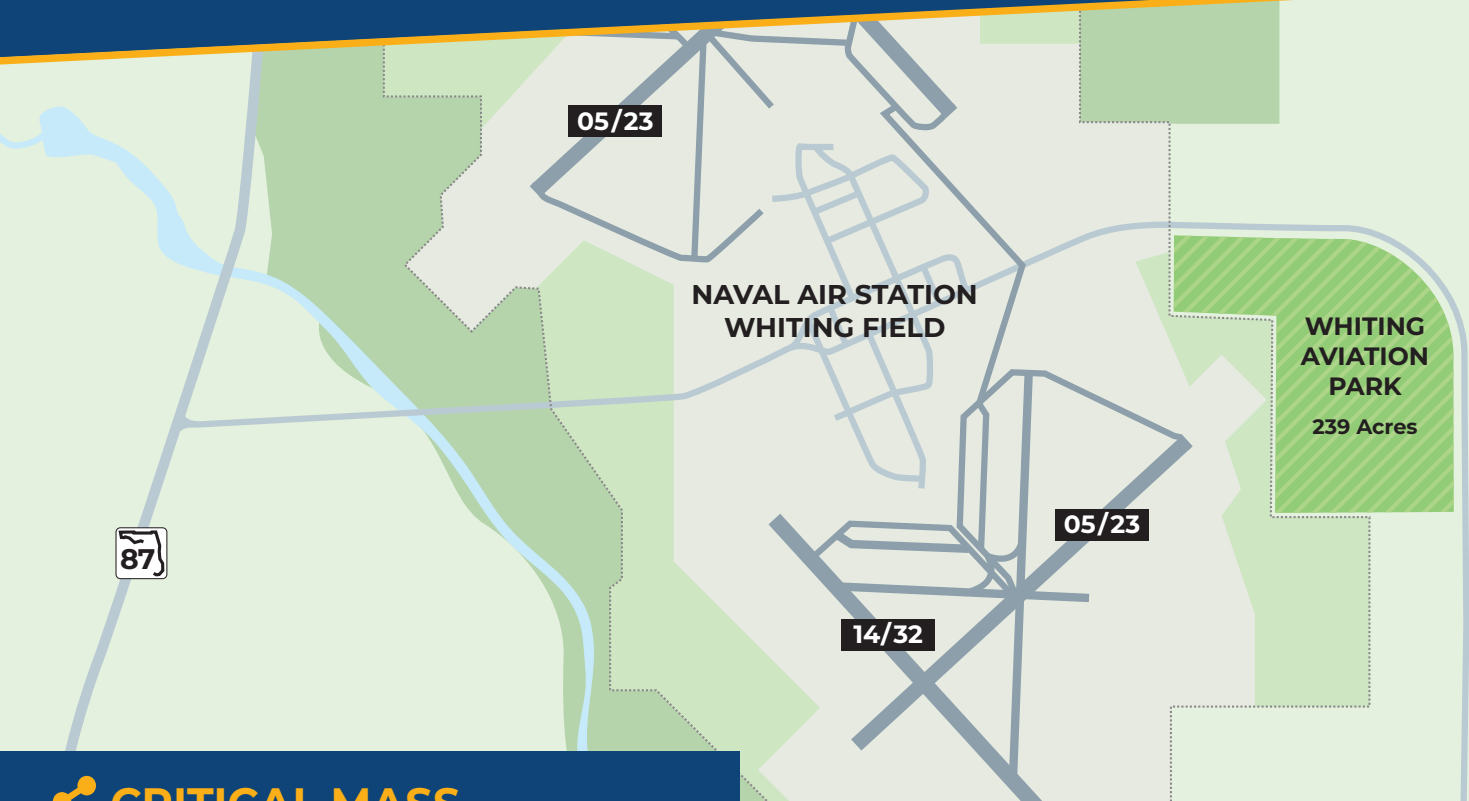
In addition to NAS Whiting Field in Santa Rosa County, there are five aviation-related military installations in surrounding counties: NAS Pensacola, Naval Support Activity Panama City, Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, and Tyndall Air Force Base.

We are located only 70 miles from the new Airbus manufacturing facility in Mobile, within a day's drive from Boeing in Charleston, and only five hours from three additional aviation OEM's — Embraer in Jacksonville and Melbourne, and Gulfstream in Savannah.

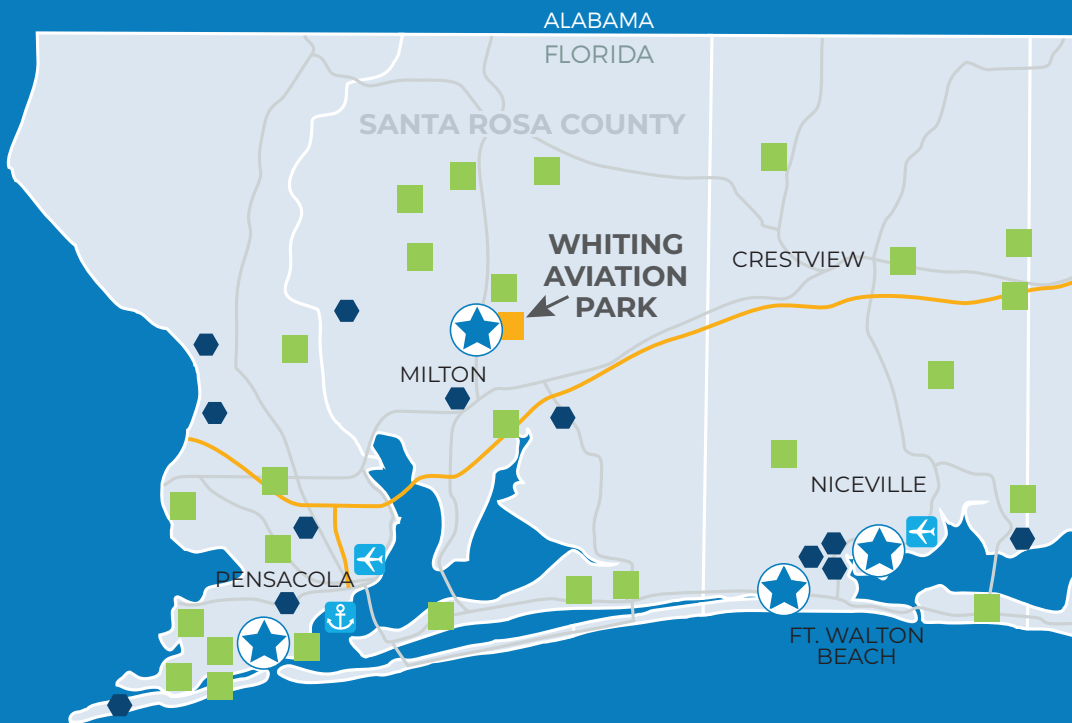


(850) 623-0174

shannon@santarosa.fl.gov



CRITICAL MASS



MILITARY FACILITIES

- Naval Air Station Whiting Field
- Naval Air Station Pensacola
- Hurlburt Field
- Eglin Air Force Base
- Naval Support Activity Panama City
- Tyndall Air Force Base



AEROSPACE COMPANIES



AVIATION COMPANIES



COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS



DEEP SEA PORTS

Santa Rosa County is amid one of the most active air traffic zones in the world, surrounded by military aviation installations and growing commercial operations.



A READY WORKFORCE

Over 34,000 military retirees and a wealth of civilian DoD contractors provide a unique workforce ideal for aerospace, defense and information technology. The number of military retirees in the area grows by over 2,400 each year. Northwest Florida has one of the highest concentration of military retirees in the country and a large population of DoD and civilian contractors. In addition, spouses of active military personnel contribute to a talented and diverse workforce.



Various Services Offered by CareerSource Escarosa:

- Employer assistance such as Tax Credits, Federal Bonding Program, Employed Worker Training and On-the-Job Training.
- Applicant recruitment and pre-screening services.
- Space available to your organization for on-site recruitment, interviewing, screening, testing and training.
- Business savings on the expense of continuous advertising and staffing.

Wages are competitive and lower than the state average. Incentive levels are easy to reach. Our pro-business climate is rich with incentives that offer bottom-line advantages for long-term profitability. We're more affordable than states like California, New York, and Michigan when it comes to land and labor.

EDUCATION

Our premier educational system is home to more than 33,000 students. Our primary and secondary public education is consistently ranked in the top three school districts statewide. The region is also known for excelling on the standardized tests and boasts several Blue-Ribbon Schools. Starting as early as middle school with career academies, aviation-specific education programs are in place across the region, including the University of Florida Research and Education Engineering Facility near Eglin Air Force Base and the George Stone Technical College A&P Mechanic School.



34,000

Area Military Retirees

2,400

New Retirees Annually



84,000

County Labor Force

300,000

Regional Labor Force

INCENTIVES

LAND PRICING GUIDELINES

Pricing guidelines are in place to provide Santa Rosa County EDO with a rational, non-arbitrary, non-discriminating basis to determining a cost per acre for industrial publicly owned property within Santa Rosa County. The point system represents the discount from the base price as it relates to the economic impact the proposed business will have on the area. In some cases, the land can be free upon approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

TARGET INDUSTRY CASH PROGRAM

Cash incentive offered to expanding targeted industries or relocating targeted industries that generate 51% of their sales from outside the state of Florida. The incentive amount is based on the number of new positions anticipated to our region within a five-year period and the quality of that position (average wage). Funds are distributed on a yearly basis for up to five consecutive years at the end of each year. Payout ranges from \$1,000 to \$ 4,000 per employee.

AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION

The Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE) is a local option tax incentive for new or expanding businesses and is granted at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners.

TRIUMPH GULF COAST

\$1.5 billion in economic development enhancements has been directed to Northwest Florida, including Santa Rosa County. \$76 million has already been awarded to the tri-county area. Triumph Gulf Coast funds are being used for public infrastructure, workforce training, and tax reduction. This represents an extraordinary opportunity for business expansion on the Gulf Coast.

EXPEDITED PERMITTING

State and local permit streamlining procedures are in place to assist businesses in obtaining necessary permits and approvals in a quick, efficient and professional manner. Your project will be assigned to a project manager who will bring in all related parties for a pre-application meeting to ensure that your project will run as smoothly and quickly as possible.

SPACE FLORIDA

Space Florida is uniquely empowered by the State Florida with robust tools to aid companies in aerospace and related industries, including facility and equipment financing and utilization of statutory tax efficiencies to reduce short- and long-term capital costs.



\$540 Million

DoD spending, much of it aviation-related, totals \$540 million annual investment in Santa Rosa County and \$22.7 billion in Northwest Florida.



6

Area Aviation-Focused Military Installations

Florida Defense Industry Economic Analysis Report, 2020

Leonardo was awarded the contract with the U.S. Navy to supply 130 TH-73A training helicopters. The company plans to build a technical support center for the new helicopters at Whiting Aviation Park.



HOW WE HELP

Santa Rosa County, Florida, is serious about helping you grow your business, and we're ready to help you every step of the way—from site selection, incentives, workforce recruitment and training, to your grand opening. The Santa Rosa County Economic Development Office is here to expedite and guide you through the process. Coupled with Florida's stable and highly favorable tax climate, Santa Rosa County provides advantages that make growing with us easy and profitable.

Our Economic Development Office partners with regional economic development organizations and those in neighboring communities along the Gulf Coast to multiply our successes. Partners include Escambia County, Okaloosa County, Florida's Great Northwest, State of Florida, and Federal Economic Development Administration, all of which provide a variety of different advantages to Santa Rosa County.

If you're planning an aviation or aerospace expansion, give us a call and discover all the reasons Santa Rosa County is the perfect place to land.

Call **Executive Director Shannon Ogletree** with any questions.

☎ (850) 623-0174

✉ shannon@santarosa.fl.gov

WhitingAviationPark.com



SantaRosaEDO.com