



# The Island Newcomer

The second phase of hotel development in Ft. Walton Beach is wrapped up, and the Hilton Garden Inn is now open for business just in time to capitalize on the 2017 vacation season. The hotel sits Gulf front on Okaloosa Island and features 178 rooms, a lazy river, a dune walkover to the beach, an indoor pool, an onsite restaurant, and over 5,000 square feet of flexible

meeting space.

The property's General Manager, Jeremy Skinner, states, "Our focus is to provide guests with the intuitive, heartfelt service they deserve and expect from the Hilton Garden brand." As a participant hotel in the Hilton Honors guest loyalty program, Honors members who book directly can receive special pricing,

free Wi-Fi, flexible payment options and Gold and Diamond Honors Members receive premium Wi-Fi and space available upgrades to the hotel's exclusive Hilton HHonors floor.

This hotel is CIEDA's third hotel development project with Innisfree Hotels and the second built on Air Force land within the U.S. Air Force Enhanced Use Lease Program, where a percentage of the hotel revenues will be provided to nearby Eglin AFB to support initiatives benefiting service members. The first hotel development the Holiday Inn sits next door and features a military radio signal receiver on the roof which Eglin AFB uses to monitor planes and missiles tested over the Gulf of Mexico.

***CIEDA President and CEO James T. Martin said:***

***"We expect the Hilton Garden Inn to experience the same success as we have seen with the Holiday Inn next door, maybe even better since this hotel is one of the few among the worldwide brand to be located in a beachfront community."***

