

## **EPA orders Air Force to clean up base**

Nov. 26 -- The U.S. EPA has ordered the Air Force to clean up Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Fla.

The EPA said Nov. 21 that it would compel the Air Force under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to investigate contamination at the base and to clean it up. The EPA order establishes timetables for various phases of the project.

Tyndall Air Force Base, which covers almost 29,000 acres, was placed on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in 1997 because of potential contamination from municipal and industrial waste landfills and areas used for fire training and the explosion of ordnance. In addition, the agency suspects contamination at fuel storage, pesticide storage and mixing areas, and vehicle maintenance shops. The contamination includes PCBs, pesticides, heavy metals, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, residue from exploded ordnance, and petroleum based compounds, according to the EPA.

The EPA will review future work at the base to ensure it is conducted properly and the cleanup is protective of human health and the environment, according to the agency. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection also will help supervise the cleanup.