Final

Environmental Assessment

Implementation of the Tyndall Air Force Base Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

Department of the Air Force
Air Education and Training Command
325th Fighter Wing
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida

April 2006

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Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Name of Proposed Action

Implementation of the Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB or Base) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action is the implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP as it has been updated for the 2006–2010 planning period. The updated INRMP has been prepared to provide a means for the Base to effectively manage its natural resources and successfully meet its military mission during the planning period. The INRMP includes separate management plans for each of the primary resources that it covers. Under the No Action Alternative, the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would not be implemented and the current Base natural resources management program would be maintained through the 2006–2010 planning period.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Based on the findings of the Environmental Assessment, the Proposed Action would have no significant impact on air quality, noise, geology, topography, soils, transportation, cultural resources, or socioeconomics, and would not result in significant cumulative impacts. Implementation of the Proposed Action would have a positive impact on Tyndall AFB's ability to manage groundwater, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, coastal/marine habitats, vegetation, forestry, fish/wildlife, protected species, land use, and environmental compliance. A Federal Agency Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination was made, finding that the activities under the Proposed Action are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP).

Public Involvement

A 30-day public review period was held 23 January 2006 – 21 February 2006 to solicit public comments on the draft EA. The public review period was announced in a public notice that was published in the Panama City News Herald of Panama City, Florida. Copies of the draft EA were made available for public review during the review period at the Bay County Public Library and the Tyndall AFB Public Affairs Office. No public comments were received during the public review period.

Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, Title 40 of the CFR §§1500-1508, as they implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §4321, et seq., and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, The Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the Air Force concludes that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on the quality of the environment and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

27 Jul 06

S. SCOTT DAVIS, Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander, 325th Fighter Wing
Tyndall AFB, Florida

Date

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACM	asbestos-containing materials
AETC	Air Education and Training Command
AFB or Base	Tyndall Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFPD	Air Force Policy Directive
AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
A-weighted scale	dBA
BASH	Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard
BG	Block Group
bls	below land surface
CAA	Clean Air Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CES/CEV	Civil Engineer Environmental Flight
CES/CEVN	Civil Engineer Environmental Flight Natural Resources Element
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CT	Census Tract
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DNL	Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level
DoD	Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCMP	Florida Coastal Management Program
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFWCC	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
FIFCFS	Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FONPA	Finding of No Practicable Alternative
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
HAZMO	Hazardous Materials Management Office
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

IRP	Base Installation Restoration Program
LBP	lead-based paint
mmBTU/hr	British thermal units per hour
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O_3	ozone
Pb	lead
POL	petroleum, oil, and lubricant
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SO_x	sulfur oxides
USC	U.S. Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

SECTION 1

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

The Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB or Base) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) has been updated for the planning period from 2006 to 2010. The updated INRMP provides management guidelines for the conservation, rehabilitation, and multipurpose utilization of natural resources at Tyndall AFB over the planning period, and fulfills the requirements defined in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*.

Tyndall AFB, with the support of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC), has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Action of implementing the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP during the 2006–2010 planning period. This EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with the Proposed Action, as well as those associated with the No Action Alternative, as described in Section 2. This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 989) and Department of Defense (DoD) directives.

1.2 Purpose of the Proposed Action

The 325th Civil Engineer Environmental Flight (325 CES/CEV), Natural Resources Element (325 CES/CEVN), in coordination with other Base command elements and participating regulatory agencies, has updated the Tyndall AFB INRMP for the 2006-2010 planning period. Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would provide the means for the Base to effectively manage its natural resources and successfully achieve its military mission during the planning period within an attainable budget and workforce. Implementation of the updated INRMP would ensure that natural resources at Tyndall AFB are managed in accordance with goals and objectives that have undergone cumulative refinement over time and that are consistent with the overall natural resources management vision for the planning period.

1.3 Need for the Proposed Action

Development and implementation of an INRMP for Tyndall AFB is required by AFI 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*, and the Sikes Act, as amended. Each INRMP provides natural resources management guidelines that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the planning period for which it was prepared. As such, the implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP is needed for the Base to remain in regulatory compliance and for its natural resources management program to achieve the goals and objectives defined for the planning period.

1.4 Objectives of the Proposed Action

The primary function of the Tyndall AFB INRMP is to ensure that the Base successfully meets its military mission while effectively managing its natural resources. The updated INRMP has been developed to support the military mission; provide sound ecosystem management; maximize the multiple benefits of natural resources; and promote collaborative stewardship between the Base and various entities. Goals and objectives have been developed for each resource that is covered by the INRMP. The INRMP includes a separate management plan for each resource (referred to as an Individual Resource Management Plan) that presents the specific objectives and associated projects for managing the resource during the planning period. The specific objectives and associated projects presented in these individual plans may be updated as needed during the planning period.

1.5 Location of the Proposed Action

Tyndall AFB is located approximately 13 miles east of Panama City in the southeastern corner of Bay County, Florida (Figure 1-1). The Base is approximately 18 miles long by 3 miles wide, and encompasses nearly 30,000 acres on a peninsula that is surrounded by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the south, St. Andrews Bay to the west, and East Bay to the north (Figure 1-2). U.S. Highway 98 runs through the peninsula, dividing the Base into north and south segments. Tyndall AFB property includes the barrier islands of Crooked Island West and East which form St. Andrews Sound, as well as the barrier island of Shell Island which makes up the southeastern shoreline of St. Andrews Bay.

1.6 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

This EA has been conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

- President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- Title 40 of the CFR §§1500-1508, as they implement the requirements of NEPA
- 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §4321, *et seq.*
- Title 32 CFR Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*

Source: Mapquest.com

North

0 2 4
Scale in Miles

FIGURE 1-1
Vicinity Map
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Runway
Road
Highway
Lake
Tyndall AFB Boundary
County Boundary

Source: Tyndall AFB INRMP

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

North

FIGURE 1-2
Base Map
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

ES012006002TPA_334953.A1.03

These regulations require federal agencies to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives and to use these analyses in making decisions on a Proposed Action. Cumulative effects of other ongoing activities also must be assessed in combination with the Proposed Action. The CEQ was instituted to oversee federal policy in this process. According to the CEQ regulations, an EA is required to accomplish the following objectives:

- Briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
- Aid in an agency's compliance with NEPA when an EIS is not necessary and facilitate preparation of an EIS when necessary.

AFI 32-7061 directs Air Force officials to follow 32 CFR 989 which specifies the procedural requirements for the implementation of NEPA and requires consideration of environmental consequences as part of the planning and decision-making process. 32 CFR 989.14(g) requires preparation of a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA), which must be submitted to the Major Command Environmental Planning Function when the alternative selected is located in jurisdictional wetlands/surface waters or floodplains.

Regulations relevant to the resources assessed in this EA include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Noise Control Act
- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Rivers and Harbors Act
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*
- EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*
- EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*
- EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments*

In 1960, the Sikes Act mandated military installations to develop INMRPs. The Sikes Act Improvement Amendments included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 1998 required implementation of the INRMPs by the military installations. Development of the Tyndall AFB INRMP is directly required by AFI 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*. AFI 32-7064 implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, and DoD Directives 4700.4, *Natural Resources Management Program*, and 7310.5, *Accounting for Production and Sale of Forest Products*.

The Tyndall AFB INRMP presents other regulations, instructions, directives, and EOs relevant to its development and implementation.

1.7 Consultation Requirements

1.7.1 Coastal Zone Management Consistency

The federal CZMA provides assistance to states, in cooperation with federal and local agencies, for developing land and water use programs in coastal zones. According to Section 307 of the CZMA, federal projects that affect land uses, water uses, or coastal resources in a state's coastal zone must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of that state's federally approved coastal zone management plan.

The Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) is based on a network of agencies implementing 23 statutes that protect and enhance Florida's natural, cultural, and economic coastal resources. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) implements the FCMP through the Florida State Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse routes applications for federal activities, such as EAs, to the appropriate state, regional, and local reviewers to determine federal consistency with the FCMP. Applicants are required to submit their own preliminary consistency determination along with the EA to the Clearinghouse. Following their review of the EA, the FCMP state agencies provide comments and recommendations to the Clearinghouse based on their statutory authorities. Based on an evaluation of the comments and recommendations, FDEP makes the state's final consistency determination, which will either agree or disagree with the applicant's own consistency determination. Comments and recommendations regarding federal consistency are then forwarded to the applicant in the state clearance letter issued by the Clearinghouse.

Copies of the draft EA along with Tyndall AFB's own FCMP consistency determination, which is provided as Appendix A, were sent to the Florida State Clearinghouse to obtain the state's FCMP consistency determination for the Proposed Action. After the coordinated review of the EA was completed, the state issued the following statement: "Based on the information contained in the draft INRMP and EA and the comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the proposed federal activities are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program" (Appendix B).

1.7.2 Regulatory Agency Consultation

To satisfy the NEPA requirements regarding regulatory agency consultation for the EA, correspondence letters and copies of the draft EA were sent to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). USFWS, NMFS, and FFWCC were all involved in the development of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP for which this EA has been prepared. FFWCC also serves as a participating agency in the state's determination of federal consistency with the FCMP.

Through the Florida State Clearinghouse, FFWCC issued a finding of "No Comment" for the implementation of the updated INRMP (Appendix B). Endangered Species Action (ESA) section 7 consultation with USFWS is required for the Tyndall AFB

INRMP. Following its review of the draft EA, USFWS provided clarification on the section 7 consultation process (Appendix B). USFWS will issue its determination on the implementation of the updated INRMP through the consultation process. Following its review of the draft EA, NMFS requests that Tyndall AFB initiate ESA consultation with NFMS at the appropriate time for any actions that may affect listed species or designated critical habitat (Appendix B).

1.7.3 Native American Tribal Consultation

To satisfy the NEPA requirements regarding Native American tribal consultation for the EA, correspondence letters and copies of draft EA were sent to the Native American tribes who have expressed an interest in Tyndall AFB for their ancestral ties (Appendix B). No comments were received.

1.8 Public Involvement

A 30-day public review period was held 23 January, 2006 – 21 February, 2006 to solicit public comments on the draft EA. The public review period was announced in a public notice that was published in the *Panama City News Herald* of Panama City, Florida (Appendix B). Copies of the draft EA were made available for public review during the review period at the Bay County Public Library and the Tyndall AFB Public Affairs Office. No public comments were received during the public review period.

1.9 Scope of the Environmental Assessment

This EA assesses the potential environmental, cultural, physical, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Proposed Action of implementing the updated Tyndall AFB INMRP during the 2006-2010 planning period, as well as those associated with the No Action Alternative of maintaining existing conditions. Under the No Action Alternative, the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would not be implemented and the current natural resources management program would be maintained through the 2006–2010 planning period.

This EA assesses the potential effects of implementing the natural resources management practices presented in the updated INRMP at a "programmatic" level and, to the extent practicable, the potential effects of accomplishing some of the specific objectives of the Individual Resources Management Plans attached to the INRMP. The scope of this EA does not include assessments of all the specific objectives and associated projects projected for the planning period because not all the information necessary for reasonably accurate environmental analyses is currently available. The Individual Resources Management Plans are designed to be modular units of the INRMP that can be efficiently updated without modifying the entire INRMP. As such, the specific objectives and associated projects of these individual plans may be updated as needed during the planning period. Some of the projects may require separate NEPA analysis and documentation prior to their implementation, depending on the potential environmental impacts they are expected to involve. The Base Natural Resources Program Manager will collaborate with the Base Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) Program Manager to determine and implement the appropriate level of NEPA analysis and documentation that specific projects require as they are planned.

1.10 Organization of the EA

Table 1 presents the organization of the EA.

TABLE 1-1
EA Organization
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Section	Title	Description
	Acronyms and Abbreviations	*Identifies the acronyms and abbreviations used in the EA*
1	*Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action*	*Provides an introduction to the EA; identifies the need for and the purpose and objectives of the Proposed Action; describes the location of the Proposed Action; discusses the scope and organization of, and the regulatory, consultation, and public involvement requirements for, the EA*
2	*Description of the Proposed Action And Alternatives*	*Describes the alternatives development and selection processes; Proposed Action; and No Action Alternative*
3	*Affected Environment*	*Describes the existing conditions of each resource for which the Proposed Action and No Alternative are assessed*
4	*Environmental Consequences*	*Discusses the potential effects of implementing the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on the resources described in Section 3*
5	*List of Preparers*	*Provides information on the persons who prepared the EA*
6	*List of Persons and Agencies Consulted*	*Presents a list of persons and agencies consulted during preparation of the EA*
7	*References*	*Presents bibliographical information about the sources used to prepare the EA*
Appendix		
A	*Tyndall AFB's FCMP Consistency Determination*	*Presents Tyndall AFB's own FCMP consistency determination for the Proposed Action*
B	*Regulatory Agency and Native American Tribal Correspondence*	*Presents documentation of correspondence with participating regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes*
C	*Public Involvement*	*Presents documentation of public review of the EA*

SECTION 2

Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Alternatives Development

Several command elements at Tyndall AFB participated in updating the Tyndall AFB INMRP for the 2006–2010 planning period. 325 CES/CEVN collaborated with other elements of 325 CES/CEV, as well as with the Tyndall AFB Wing Commander, and members of the Base Environmental Protection Committee, to determine the most appropriate level of environmental stewardship for the Base to undertake during the planning period. Several levels of environmental stewardship were considered based on the existing conditions of Base natural resources and current management practices, and the degrees to which the resources could be enhanced and the management practices could be improved. Alternatives for the development of the INRMP were then identified based on the different levels of environmental stewardship that were considered.

Three alternatives were identified for the development of the Tyndall AFB INRMP for the 2006–2010 planning period. Alternative A represented a minimal level of environmental stewardship. Under Alternative A, the existing natural resources management program would be updated only to the extent needed to keep up with changes in regulatory requirements during the planning period. This alternative would not involve program upgrades that would enhance Base natural resources beyond their current conditions, nor would it adequately support future mission diversity and growth. Under Alternative B, a moderate level of environmental stewardship would be represented in updating the INMRP for the planning period. This alternative would allow the Base to effectively manage its natural resources and maintain its ability to meet future mission requirements during the planning period. Alternative C represented a maximum level of environmental stewardship. Under this alternative, the Base natural resources management program would be significantly upgraded and expanded.

The identified alternatives were analyzed based on the management recommendations of the various command elements and with respect to constraints associated with mission-related activities, funding, and manpower. Current and desired management practices associated with the conservation, rehabilitation, and multipurpose utilization of the Base natural resources were evaluated for their compatibility with the military mission during the planning period. Potential changes to mission-related activities during the planning period were factored into the analyses. Based on the consensus that was reached, Alternatives A and C were eliminated and Alternative B was selected as the only viable alternative for updating the INRMP. Tyndall AFB updated its INRMP within the bounds of this alternative in coordination with the USFWS, NMFS, and FFWCC, which provided agency review of the draft versions of the document.

For the purposes of this EA, the Proposed Action is the implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP as it has been updated for the 2006–2010 planning period under Alternative B (moderate environmental stewardship). The No Action Alternative of maintaining the current natural resources management program through the 2006–2010 planning period is also assessed.

2.2 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

Based on the management recommendations of the various command elements who participated in developing the Tyndall AFB INRMP for the 2006–2010 planning period, as well as consideration of constraints associated with mission-related activities, funding, and manpower, Alternatives A (minimal environmental stewardship) and C (maximum environmental stewardship) were eliminated from further consideration during the alternatives analysis phase.

Although Alternative A would have maintained compliance with new regulatory requirements, it was dismissed as a viable alternative because it would not have met 325 CES/CEVN's primary goals for ecosystem management, mission support, resource utilization, and collaborative stewardship during the planning period. Under Alternative A, Base natural resources would not have been enhanced beyond their current conditions and future mission growth and diversity would not have been adequately supported during the planning period. Although Alternative C would have provided exceptional environmental stewardship, it was dismissed as a viable alternative because of the high costs associated with its implementation. Upgrading and expanding the natural resources management program under this alternative was determined to be potentially problematic with respect to securing the necessary funding and manpower that would be required during the planning period.

2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would not be implemented and the current natural resources management program would be maintained through the 2006–2010 planning period.

2.4 Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is the implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP as it has been updated for the 2006–2010 planning period. The updated INRMP represents a moderate level of sound environmental stewardship and provides a means for the Base to effectively manage its natural resources and successfully meet its military mission during the planning period within an attainable budget and workforce.

The updated Tyndall AFB INRMP provides management guidance for the following 12 resources:

- Wetlands
- Outdoor Recreation
- Floodplains
- Land Management
- Coastal/Marine
- Wildland Fire

- Fish and Wildlife
- Invasive Species
- Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species
- Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard
- Forestry
- Cultural Resources

The manner in which these resources are integrally managed directly affects the Base's ability to achieve its mission. The updated INRMP has the four following primary goals for the 2006–2010 planning period:

1. **Mission Support –** enhance military mission flexibility and success through sound stewardship practices
2. **Ecosystem Integrity –** conserve native biodiversity by restoring and maintaining Base ecosystems
3. **Multiple Benefits –** provide a variety of uses, values, products, and services to present and future generations, while maintaining sustainable ecosystems
4. **Collaborative Stewardship –** engage in collaborative stewardship with a greater diversity of people both on and off the Base

Each primary goal has multiple supporting goals and associated objectives that correlate to the resources covered by the INRMP. The specific objectives and associated projects for managing each resource during the planning period are presented in Individual Resource Management Plans that are attached to the INRMP. The resources management goals and objectives of each plan are discussed in Section 4, *Environmental Consequences*.

325 CES/CEVN has the primary responsibility for implementing the Tyndall AFB INRMP. Other elements of 325 CES/CEV, the Base Wing Commander, and members of the Environmental Protection Committee are also responsible for certain aspects of INRMP implementation. Unit Commanders are responsible for communicating the INRMP's requirements to their respective units and coordinating activities that have the potential to impact the environment with 325 CES/CEV. Implementation of some INRMP measures is conducted in coordination with the USFWS, NMFS, and FFWCC, agencies which also participated in the development of the INRMP.

The Tyndall AFB INRMP will be reviewed annually during the 2006–2010 planning period and updated as needed in conjunction with changes to the Base mission or management practices. Periodic updates to the specific objectives and associated projects within Individual Resource Management Plans can be efficiently accomplished without modifying the entire INRMP. Depending on the potential environmental impacts they are expected to involve, some of the projects proposed within these individual plans may require separate NEPA analysis and documentation prior to their implementation. As such, revisions to the scope of these projects during the planning period would have no bearing on how the Proposed Action of implementing the overall updated INMRP during the planning period is assessed in this EA.

2.5 Identification of the Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative for this EA is to implement the Proposed Action as described in Section 2.4.

SECTION 3

Existing Conditions

3.1 Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) pursuant to Sections 109 and 301(a) of the CAA. These standards, expressed in micrograms per cubic meter, establish safe concentration levels for each "criteria" pollutant. NAAQS have been set for six criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO); nitrogen dioxide (NO_2); ozone (O_3); sulfur oxides (SO_x), measured as sulfur dioxide (SO_2); lead (Pb); and two types of particulate matter: particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{10}) and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter ($PM_{2.5}$).

The CAA divides the United States into attainment and nonattainment areas, usually by county or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Areas not meeting NAAQS are designated nonattainment for the specific pollutant. Bay County and, therefore, Tyndall AFB, is currently designated as an attainment area (meets the EPA air quality standards for all criteria pollutants [60 Federal Register 62748, December 7, 1995]). Tyndall AFB operates under a minor air operation permit issued by the State of Florida in May 2000. The following six sources of air emissions at Tyndall AFB are regulated under this permit: paint booths (seven separate units), fuel fill stands (aircraft refueler truck fill), jet engine testing (hush houses and engine shop), cogeneration combustion unit (now permanently decommissioned), bulk fuel storage tanks (6000 and 400 Areas), and boilers (all units $\geq$ 1.0 million British thermal units per hour [mmBTU/hr]).

3.2 Noise

Airfield operations are the primary sources of noise at Tyndall AFB. Other noise sources include vehicular traffic, training activities, and intermittent construction. The Tyndall AFB Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) program provides noise contours for airfield operations at the Base. The noise contours for Tyndall AFB are presented in decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA) as Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level (DNL). The DNL metric accounts for the greater annoyance of noise during nighttime hours, and is calculated by averaging hourly sound levels for a 24-hour period and adding a weighting factor to the nighttime values. The noise guidelines established for land use planning at Tyndall AFB are essentially the same as those published by the Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise in the June 1980 publication, *Guidelines for Considering Noise in Land-Use Planning and Control*. Based on these guidelines, the maximum acceptable noise level for most residential land uses is considered to be 65 DNL.

The most noise-sensitive areas within Tyndall AFB are the accompanied military housing neighborhoods of Felix Lake, Wood Manor, Redfish Point, Bay View, and Shoal Point. The nearest noise-sensitive areas outside of Tyndall AFB are the residential communities within the City of Parker, located just north of the western part of the Base. The waters of St.

Andrews Bay and East Bay provide a natural noise buffer for the off-base communities that surround the Tyndall AFB peninsula.

3.3 Geology, Topography, and Soils

Tyndall AFB is underlain to approximately 110 feet below land surface (bls) by unconsolidated sands and clayey sands deposited since the Pliocene age. This material is relatively permeable and is underlain by the Intracoastal Formation which extends down to approximately 330 feet bls. The Intracoastal Formation is primarily composed of fossils, quartz sand, and calcium carbonate grains cemented by crystalline calcite and clay. The upper portion of this formation is relatively impermeable, while the lower portion is highly permeable. The Intracoastal Formation is underlain by highly permeable limestone that extends below 600 feet bls in some areas.

Tyndall AFB is located within the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic province. In general, the topography of Tyndall AFB is relatively flat, with elevations ranging from sea level along the coastline to approximately 30 feet above mean sea level (msl) along a ridge that generally follows U.S. Highway 98. This ridge divides the Base into the Beach Dunes and Wave-Cut Bluffs physiographic region to the west and the Flatwoods Forest physiographic region to the east. The coastal setting of the Base consists of sand dunes, beaches, bayous, and tidal marshes. The interior portions of the Base consist of moderately well drained, gently sloping uplands, poorly drained flatwoods, and wetlands.

In general, the soils of Tyndall AFB are sandy and acidic, and offer moderate to good productivity for timber. General soil associations and detailed soil types at Tyndall AFB have been identified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey for Bay County, Florida (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA], 1984). Based on the NRCS generalized soil map prepared for Bay County, five general soil associations, each consisting of numerous detailed soil types, are present at Tyndall AFB. The five major soil associations at Tyndall AFB are presented on Figure 3-1 and described below:

- Kureb-Resota-Mandarin: This soil association occurs on the sandy ridges throughout the northernmost part of the Base and on the barrier islands. It includes soils that are nearly level to gently sloping; excessively drained or moderately well drained; and sandy to a depth of 80 inches or more with some having organic stained sandy layers.
- Hurricane-Chipley-Albany: This soil association occurs in the flatwoods of the southeastern part of the Base and includes soils of both upland and wetland habitats. Soils within this association are nearly level to gently sloping; somewhat poorly drained; and sandy throughout or sandy to a depth of 40 inches or more and loamy below.
- Pottsburg-Leon-Rutlege: This soil association occurs in the lower flatwoods that cover much of the Base peninsula. It includes soils that are nearly level; poorly drained or very poorly drained; and sandy to a depth of 80 inches or more with some having organic stained layers.
- Rutlege-Allanton-Pickney: This soil association occurs in depressional areas and poorly defined drainageways in the southernmost part of the Base. It includes soils that are nearly level or depressional; poorly drained or very poorly drained; and sandy to a depth of 80 inches or more with some having organic sandy layers.

Runway
Road
Highway
Lake
Tyndall AFB Boundary
County Boundary

Soil Associations
Bayvi-Dirego
Hurricane-Chipley-Albany
Kureb-Resota-Mandarin
Pottsburg-Leon-Rutledge
Rutlege-Allanton-Pickney

Source: Tyndall AFB INRMP

North

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

FIGURE 3-1
Soil Associations
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

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- Bayvi-Dirego: This soil association occurs in the tidal marshes along East Bay in the east central part of the Base. It includes soils that are nearly level; very poorly drained; and sandy to a depth of 80 inches or more or organic to a depth of 14 to 50 inches and sandy below.

3.4 Water Resources

3.4.1 Groundwater and Surface Water

3.4.1.1 Groundwater

The shallowest source of groundwater is the surficial aquifer, which is the uppermost hydrostratigraphic unit. At Tyndall AFB, the surficial aquifer is comprised of unconsolidated, poorly indurated, siliciclastic deposits and ranges in thickness from approximately 50 to 100 feet bls. Depths to groundwater at the Base range from just below land surface to 15 bls. The surficial aquifer is nonartesian and is not used as a source of potable water at the Base. Recharge of this aquifer is primarily through precipitation.

The Intermediate Confining Unit is a low permeability layer that separates the surficial aquifer from the deeper Floridan Aquifer. This confining unit consists primarily of fine-grained siliciclastic deposits interlain with carbonate strata. At Tyndall AFB, the Intermediate Confining Unit ranges in thickness from approximately 200 to 250 feet.

The Floridan Aquifer consists primarily of limestone and dolomite and is approximately 1,100 feet in thickness. The upper portions of the Floridan Aquifer provide potable water for most of the Florida Panhandle. Some of the potable water used by Tyndall AFB is pumped from the Floridan Aquifer by permitted wells. Water from these wells is filtered and chlorinated prior to use. Most of the potable that used by the Base is supplied by Bay County Utilities, which uses Deer Point Lake as its main source.

3.4.1.2 Surface Water

Tyndall AFB is located within the Choctawhatchee River Basin which drains the Choctawhatchee River southward into Choctawhatchee Bay, and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. The surface water bodies that surround the Tyndall AFB peninsula are St. Andrews Bay, East Bay, St Andrews Sound, and the Gulf of Mexico. These systems are hydrologically connected to Choctawhatchee Bay to the west. Numerous tidal bayous exist along the northern coastline of Tyndall AFB.

Tyndall AFB has several freshwater lakes, some of which were artificially created by excavation or impoundment, while others such as coastal dune lakes developed naturally as a result of coastal land processes. Coastal dune lakes begin as a tidally influenced basins or lagoons that become closed by sand filling their inlets. The salinities and water levels of some of these systems vary dramatically. The largest natural lake on Tyndall AFB is Felix Lake, which is a non-coastal dune lake in the northern part of the Base.

In general, storm water drains northward in areas north of U.S. Highway 98 and southward in areas south of U.S Highway 98. The Base storm water system consists primarily of drainage ditches in undeveloped areas and underground piping in developed areas. Based on the 2004 Tyndall AFB General Plan, surface drainage is adequate in most parts of the Base due to the high permeability of the soils.

3.4.2 Floodplains

The portions of Tyndall AFB that have been mapped as 100-year floodplains according to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are shown on Figure 3-2. Much of the area mapped as 100-year floodplain exists along the coastline and is prone to flooding as a result of heavy tidal surges that occur during strong storms. Many parts of the Base outside the mapped 100-year floodplain areas are also prone to tidal surge flooding.

3.5 Biological Resources

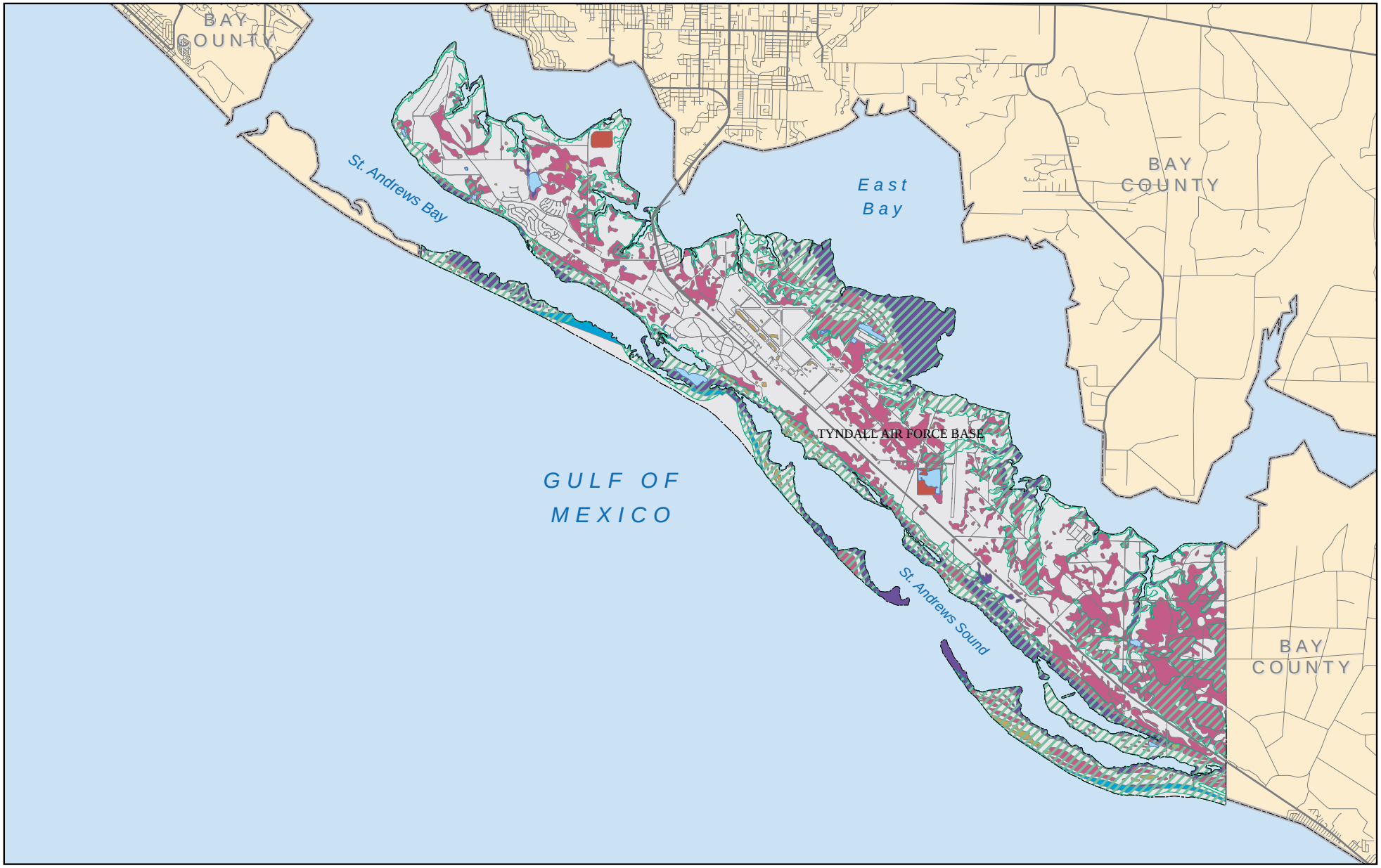
3.5.1 Wetlands

Approximately 40 percent of Tyndall AFB is estimated to be wetland habitat. Wetlands on Tyndall AFB have been mapped and classified in accordance with the USFWS's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) classification system as described in *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et. al., 1979). Based on the NWI classification system, the primary types of wetlands at the Base are Palustrine Forested, Palustrine Aquatic/Emergent, and Estuarine, with Palustrine Forested being the dominant type in terms of total coverage (see Figure 3-2). Palustrine Forested wetlands on Tyndall AFB primarily include basin swamps, baygalls, floodplain swamps, and hydric flatwoods. Palustrine Aquatic/Emergent wetlands include wet prairies and hydric herbaceous systems associated with coastal lakes and interdunal swales. Estuarine wetlands at the Base are tidal salt marshes. Detailed descriptions of these wetland types is provided in the Tyndall AFB INRMP.

The following six areas on Tyndall AFB have been identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) as Special Interest Natural Areas:

- Barrier Islands and Peninsulas
- Cedar Point Flatwoods
- Drone Launch Wet Prairie
- Farmdale Bayou Wet Flatwoods
- Goose Point Tidal Marsh
- Strange Point/Blind Alligator Bayou

These areas consist mostly of wetland habitat and are relatively pristine. They are considered ecologically valuable and support a variety of plants and wildlife species, some of which are rare or protected. The Special Interest Natural Areas are shown on Figure 3-3 and described in detail in the Tyndall AFB INRMP.



Runway
Road
Highway
Lake
Tyndall AFB Boundary
County Boundary
100 Year Floodplain
Estuarine
Lacustrine
Marine
Palustrine Aquatic/Emergent
Palustrine Forested

Source: Tyndall AFB INRMP

North

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

FIGURE 3-2
Wetlands and 100-Year Floodplains
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

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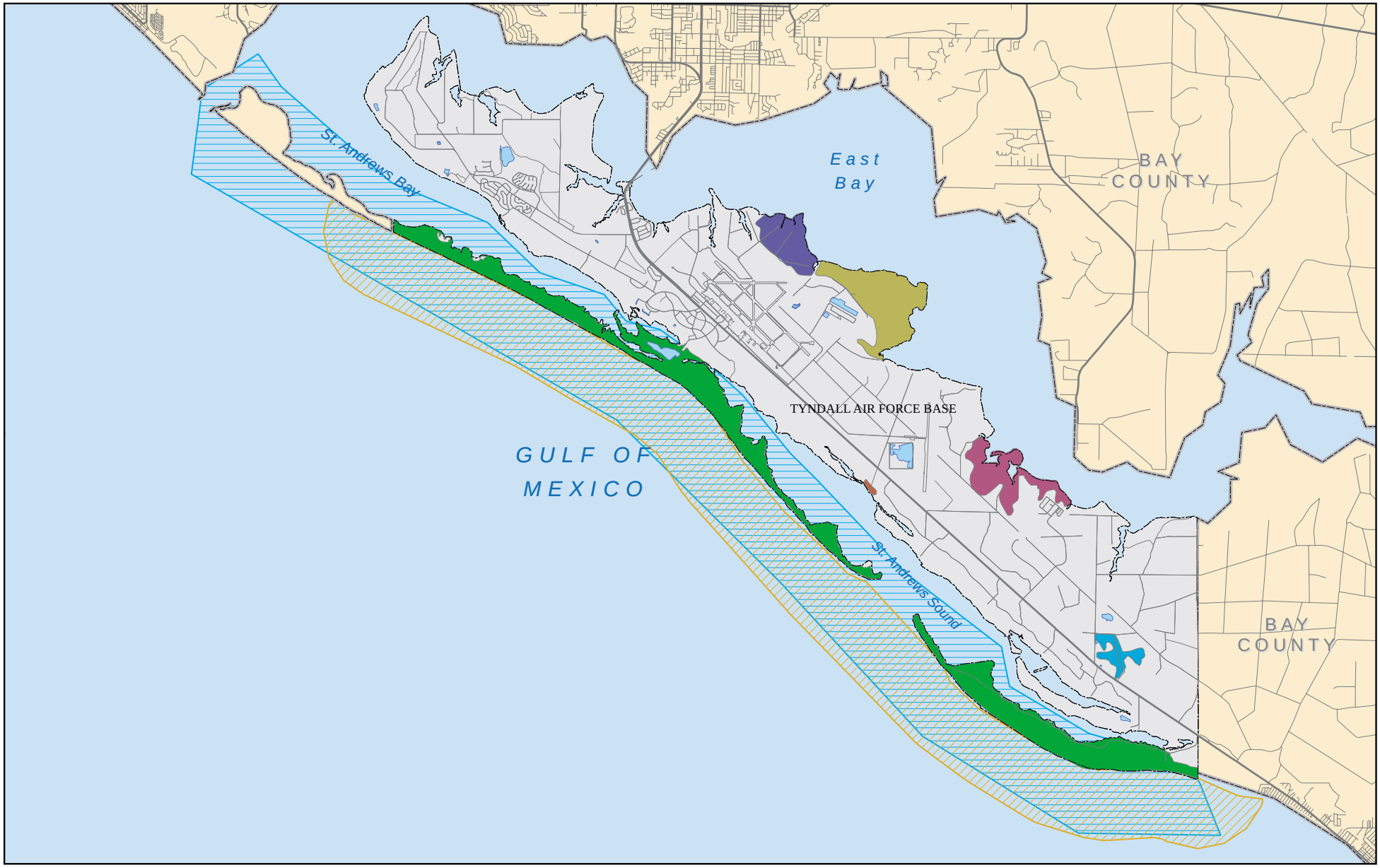


Runway
Road
Highway
Lake
Tyndall AFB Boundary
County Boundary

Special Interest Natural Areas

Barrier Island and Peninsulas
Cedar Point Flatwoods
Drone Launch Wet Prairie
Farmdale Bayou Wet Flatwoods
Goose Point Tidal Marsh
Strange Point/Blind Alligator Bayou
Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat
Piping Plover Critical Habitat

Source: Tyndall AFB INRMP

North

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

FIGURE 3-3
Special Interest Natural Areas
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

ES012006002TPA_334953.A1.03

3.5.2 Coastal/Marine Habitats

Tyndall AFB's coastal/marine habitats occur along the shoreline of its peninsula and on its barrier islands (see Figures 3-2 and 3-3). The Tyndall AFB peninsula and barrier islands have a combined total of approximately 128 miles of shoreline.

The barrier island system comprises approximately 2,300 acres and consists of Shell Island, Crooked Island West, and Crooked Island East. The barrier islands are subject to dramatic alteration by storms. The topography, vegetation community structure, and hydrology of the barrier islands are all in a dynamic state of fluctuation as a result. The primary habitat types on Tyndall AFB's barrier islands are beach, beach dunes, coastal grasslands, coastal dune lakes, coastal interdunal swales, scrub, and mesic flatwoods. Detailed descriptions of these habitats are provided in the Tyndall AFB INRMP. Tyndall AFB's barrier islands support a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, and serve as Critical Habitat for several species.

The primary coastal/marine habitat on the Tyndall AFB peninsula is tidal salt marsh. Beach dune habitat is also present on the Gulf side of the peninsula. Salt marsh habitat exists along the edges of all the bayous on the bay side of the peninsula. Salt marsh also exists in low energy areas on the bay side of Shell Island. Salt marshes at Tyndall AFB are dominated by black needle rush and cord grass. Salt marsh habitat is described in detail in the Tyndall AFB INRMP.

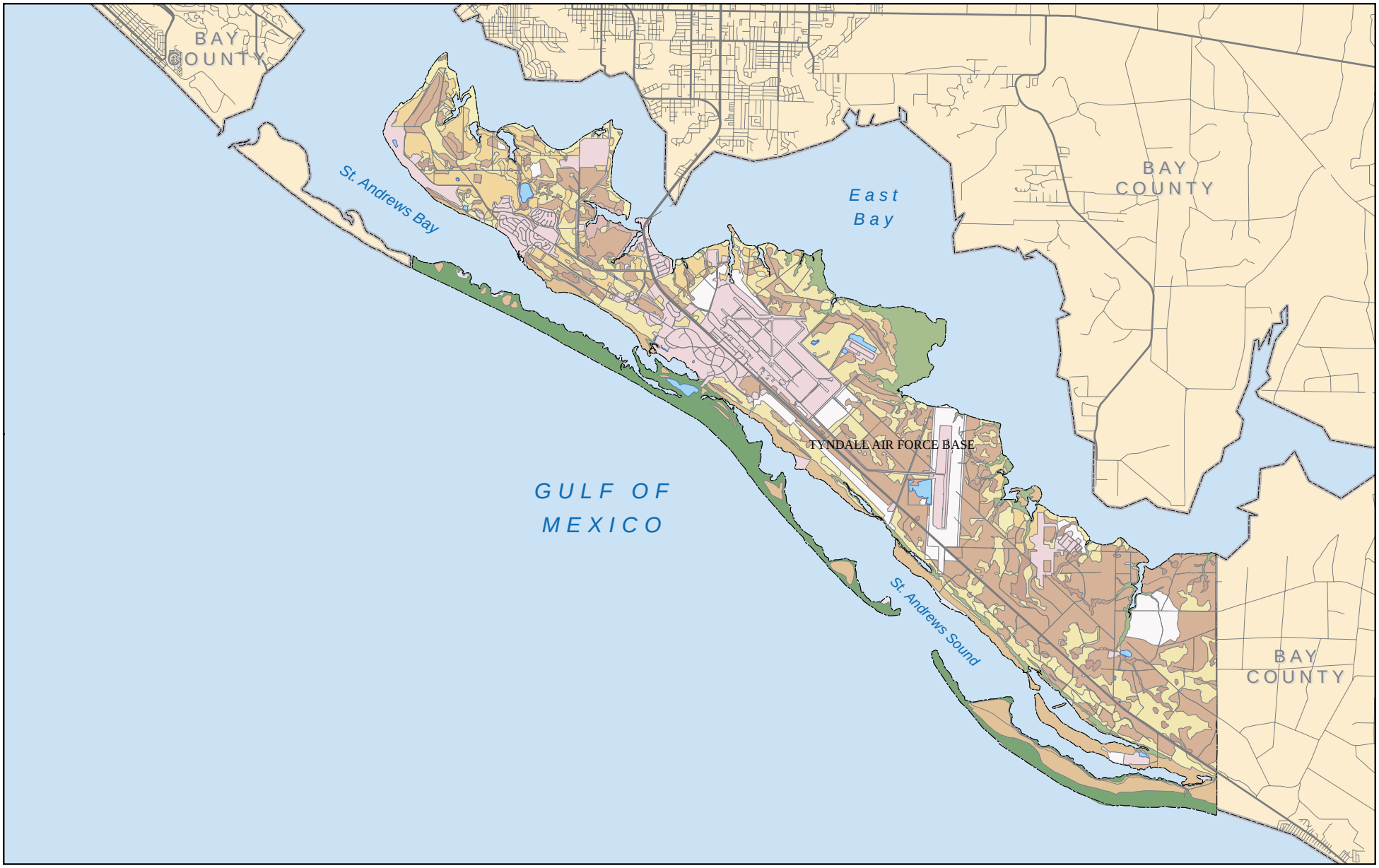
3.5.3 Vegetation and Forestry

3.5.3.1 Vegetation Communities

Much of the historical vegetation of the Tyndall AFB peninsula has been altered by past human activity. The native vegetation of the peninsula has been impacted primarily by past agricultural and silvicultural practices. Slash and sand pine plantations have replaced much of the native longleaf pine communities, as these species are considered more favorable for timber production. Although Tyndall AFB continues to maintain pine plantations for commercial harvest, its forestry management program focuses less on commercial harvesting and more on restoring historical vegetative conditions and natural processes through selective thinning, natural regeneration of native species, and prescribed fire.

The current vegetation communities of Tyndall AFB are shown on Figure 3-4 and listed below. Detailed descriptions of the communities are provided in the Tyndall AFB INRMP.

- Mesic/Wet Slash Flatwoods
- Natural Longleaf Pine
- Tidal Salt Marsh
- Coastal Upland
- Freshwater Wetlands (Wet Prairie, Basin Swamp, Baygall, and Floodplain Swamps)
- Slash Scrub
- Sand Pine Scrub
- Freshwater Lakes
- Maritime Hardwood Hammock



Runway
Road
Highway
Lake
Tyndall AFB Boundary
County Boundary

Landcover

- Coastal Uplands
- Estuarine Tidal Marsh
- Maritime Hardwood Hammock
- Mesic/Wet Slash Flatwoods
- Natural Longleaf Pine
- Sand Pine Scrub
- Slash Scrub
- Slash, Longleaf, and Sand Pine Plantations
- Wet Prairie/Basisn/Baygall/Floodplain Swamps
- Xeric Hardwood Hammock
- Developed Military Area
- Undeveloped Military Area

Source: Tyndall AFB INRMP

North

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

FIGURE 3-4
Vegetation Communities
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

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Improved and semi-improved areas of Tyndall AFB are planted with turf grasses and other landscaping vegetation. The Base land management program determines acceptable species for landscaping trees, shrubs, and grasses for these areas. Exotic and nuisance plant species are controlled at Tyndall AFB by mechanical and chemical means.

3.5.3.2 Forestry

Tyndall AFB's forestry program began in the early 1960s. Large scale reforestation activities were implemented at the Base to regenerate the forest resource which had been decimated by over harvesting and intense fires that resulted from years of natural fire suppression. Extensive commercial plantations of slash, longleaf, and sand pine were established throughout the Base. Relative to its previous state, the condition of the Base forest system was improved. Forest habitat at the Base progressively improved with the advancement of forestry management practices.

In accordance with current Air Force policy, the objectives of Tyndall AFB's forestry program have recently shifted away from developing the Base forest resources into commercial pine plantations. The Base forestry management program currently emphasizes the restoration of historical vegetative conditions and natural processes through selective thinning; natural regeneration of native species; introduction of longleaf seed source; removal of barriers to natural hydrologic function; and prescribed fire. The forestry program is still required to be financially self-sustaining from its commercial revenues. As a result, it implements management practices that balance commercial harvesting and historical habitat restoration. These practices promote the development of uneven-aged mixed pine forests that provide mixed forest products. Through long-term management, these systems will revert to their historical state.

Controlled, prescribed burning is conducted regularly at Tyndall AFB by 325 CES/CEVN as part of the Base forestry program. Prescribed fire is one of the most effective management practices for maintaining the health of the Base's pine forests and other vegetation communities. The use of prescribed burning reduces overall fuel loads, and, therefore, decreases the occurrence of intense wildfires that can damage the environment, impact the Base mission, and endanger human life. Prescribed burns are conducted on designated parcels when weather conditions are favorable, in close coordination with the Base Wing Commander and Base Fire Department.

Natural and accidental wildfires at Tyndall AFB pose a threat to sensitive ecosystems, cultural sites, training lands, and other assets. Fire hazards at the Base are highest from April through May and from mid-September through November. The main causes of wildfires are lightning and human carelessness. Most of the fires that result from mission-related activities originate at the drone launch facilities and training areas located adjacent to timbered buffer zones. Fire prevention and control are part of the Base wildland fire management program. Fire suppression is the joint responsibility of 325 CES/CEVN and the Base Fire Department. The Florida Division of Forestry is frequently called on during after-duty hours to provide fire suppression support. Tyndall AFB maintains firebreaks in wildland/urban interfaces and other areas to minimize potential impacts to base resources. Well maintained firebreaks and fuel reductions through prescribed burning provide defensible space that aids in wildfire containment. Incorporating them into wildfire pre-suppression planning, initial attack responses, and resource deployment strategies enhance the effectiveness of fire suppression.

3.5.4 Fish and Wildlife

3.5.4.1 Fish and Wildlife Management

Tyndall AFB provides habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Inventories of the Base's fish and wildlife species are based mainly on studies conducted by 325 CES/CEVN and FNAI. Tyndall AFB has a freshwater fisheries management program and wildlife management programs for both game and non-game wildlife species.

Tyndall AFB's fisheries management program is restricted to its lakes and ponds. Fish species that are managed at Tyndall AFB include largemouth bass, bluegill and other *Lepomis* species, and channel catfish.

Tyndall AFB's fish and wildlife management program has several components, including species and habitat protection; prevention of conflicts with mission-related activities; fishing, hunting, and other recreation (e.g., bird watching); education; and nuisance/invasive species control. The game wildlife species managed by Tyndall AFB are white-tailed deer, wild turkey, wood duck, mourning dove, gray squirrel, and marsh rabbit.

3.5.4.2 Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard Program

The Tyndall AFB Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) program implements measures to minimize the hazards posed by birds and other wildlife to airfield operations. The BASH program involves numerous wildlife and land management components including grass-height maintenance; wetlands, pond, and drainage ditch management; urban forestry; irrigation and water management; landscaping; and landfill management. The Tyndall AFB BASH Plan 910 provides specific guidelines for implementing BASH measures. A key BASH measure is the minimization of bird attractants near airfield areas.

3.5.5 T&E Species

A total of 20 listed plant species and 27 listed animal species have been documented at Tyndall AFB or in its immediate vicinity. Table 3-1 presents the listed species and the habitat types they utilize. As presented in Table 3-1, the listed species include seven species of reptiles, 15 species of birds, one species of fish, and four species of mammals. A total of one plant species and 11 animal species are federally listed as Threatened or Endangered.

TABLE 3-1
Listed Plant and Animal Species Documented at Tyndall AFB or in its Immediate Vicinity
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status (USFWS)	State Status (FFWCC or FDACS)	Habitat Type
PLANTS				
Apalachicola dragonhead	*Physostegia godfreyi*		T	Wet prairie
Bog tupelo	*Nyssa ursine*	ce		Wet prairie
Chapman's butterwort	*Pinguicula planifolia*	ce	T	Wet prairie
Chapman's crownbeard	*Verbesina chapmanii*		T	Wet prairie
Decumbent pitcher plant	*Sarracenia purpurea*		T	Wet prairie, bogs
Dew thread sundew	*Drosera filiformis*		E	Wet prairie
Drummond's yellow-eyed grass	*Xyris drummondii*	ce		Wet prairie, flatwoods
Giant water dropwort	*Oxypolis greenmanii*		E	Wet prairie, ditches
Godfrey's golden aster	*Chrysopsis godfreyi*	ce	E	Dunes
Gulf coast lupine	*Lupinus westianus*	ce	T	Scrub, dunes
Harper's yellow-eyed grass	*Xyris scabrifolia*		T	Wet prairie
Henry's spider lily	*Hymenocallis henryae*	ce	E	Cypress stringers
Karst pond yellow-eyed grass	*Xyris longisepala*		E	Upland lake margin
Large-leaved jointweed	*Polygonella macrophylia*	ce	T	Scrub
Parrot pitcher plant	*Sarracenia psittacina*		T	Wet prairie, bogs
Quillwort yellow-eyed grass	*Xyris isoetifolia*	ce	E	Wet prairie
Southern milkweed	*Asclepias viridula*	ce	T	Wet prairie
Southern red lily	*Lilium catesbaei*		T	Wet prairie
Spoon-leafed sundew	*Drosera intermedia*		T	Wet prairie
Thick-leaved water willow	*Justicia crassifolia*	ce	E	Wet prairie
Violet-flowered butterwort	*Pinguicula ionantha*	T	E	Cypress domes
White-flowered wild petunia	*Ruellia noctiflora*		E	Wet prairie
BIRDS				
American oystercatcher	*Haematopus palliates*		SSC	Shoreline
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	T	T	Coastline, lakes
Black skimmer	*Rhychops niger*		SSC	Shoreline
Brown pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis*		SSC	Barrier island, bays
Least tern	*Sterna antillarum*		T	Barrier island, shoreline
Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*		SSC	Marshes, ponds, lakes
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*		SSC	Coastline, lakes
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus tundrius*	ce	E	Open habitats
Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	T /CH	T	Barrier island
Reddish egret	*Egretta rufescens*		SSC	Brackish marsh, shallow coastline
Snowy egret	*Egretta thula*		SSC	Marshes, lakes, ponds, shallow coastline

TABLE 3-1
Listed Plant and Animal Species Documented at Tyndall AFB or in its Immediate Vicinity
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status (USFWS)	State Status (FFWCC or FDACS)	Habitat Type
Snowy plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris*	ce	T	Barrier island
Southeastern American kestrel	*Falco sparverius paulus*	ce	T	Open, partly open habitat
Tricolor heron	*Egretta tricolor*		SSC	Marshes, ponds
White ibis	*Eudocimus albus*		SSC	Marshes, lakes
REPTILES				
Alligator snapping turtle	*Macroclemys temmincki*	ce	SSC	Freshwater lakes
American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	T (S/A)	SSC	Lakes, marshes
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	ce	SSC	Long leaf pine, sand pine scrub
Green sea turtle	*Chelonia mydas mydas*	E	E	Marine, barrier island
Gulf salt marsh snake	*Nerodia clarkia clarkii*	ce		Needle grass, estuaries
Kemp's ridley turtle	*Lepidochelys kempi*	E	E	Marine
Leatherback sea turtle	*Dermochelys coriacea*	E	E	Marine, barrier island
Loggerhead sea turtle	*Caretta caretta*	T	T	Marine, barrier island
MAMMALS				
Choctawatchee beach mouse	*Peromyscus polionotus allophyrs*	E / CH	E	Barrier island
Florida black bear	*Ursus americanus floridanus*	ce	T	Swamps, forested areas
Manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	E	E	Marine
St. Andrews beach mouse	*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*	E	E	Barrier island
FISH				
Gulf sturgeon	*Acipenser oxyrhyichus desotoi*	T / CH	SSC	Marine, large rivers

E	Endangered
T	Threatened
T(S/A)	Threatened by similarity of appearance
SSC	Species of Special Concern
CH	Critical Habitat Designated
Ce	Consideration Encouraged
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
FFWCC	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Most of the listed species at Tyndall AFB occur on the barrier islands or within wetlands where interactions with the military mission are minimal. The beaches of the barrier islands are important nesting sites for loggerhead sea turtles as well as for listed shorebirds such as the least tern, black skimmer, and piping plover. The dunes are crucially important habitat for the Choctawhatchee and St. Andrews beach mice. Shell Island from the western boundary of the Base to lands end (Choctawhatchee beach mouse), all of the coastal and bay beaches (piping plover), and the entire gulf frontage from the shoreline to 1½ miles out (Gulf sturgeon) have been designated as Critical Habitat by USFWS (see Figure 3-3). Additionally, all beach and dune habitats on Shell Island and Crooked Island East and Crooked Island West have been designated Critical Wildlife Areas from 1 April to 15 September by USFWS.

3.6 Land Use

3.6.1 Land Use Classifications

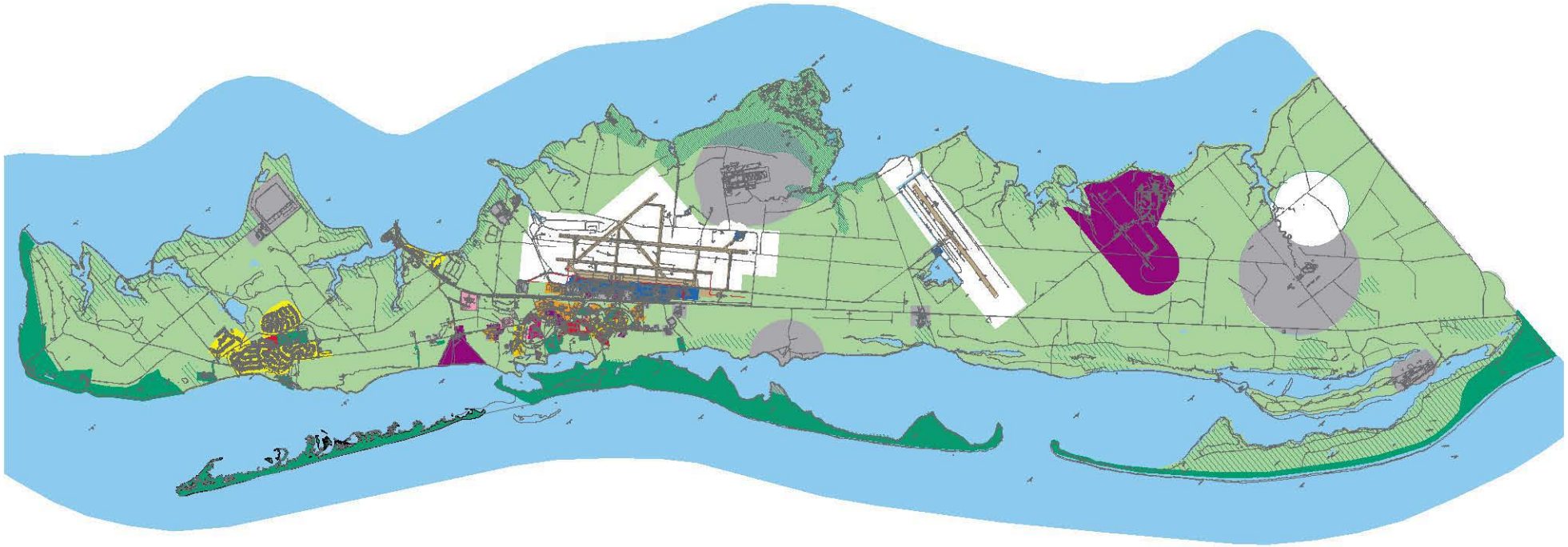
The existing land uses at Tyndall AFB are shown on Figure 3-4 and described in the 2004 Tyndall AFB General Plan. As shown on Figure 3-5, most of the Base property (approximately 80 percent) is classified as Open Space, which is undeveloped land. Most of the developed area north of U.S. Highway 98 is designated as Airfield, Industrial, and Training land uses. Most of the developed area south of U.S. Highway 98 is designated as Housing, Administrative/Operations, and Industrial land uses. Outdoor Recreation land use is designated throughout the undeveloped portions of the Base coastline. Base planners strive for land use harmony and use undeveloped land as buffers where needed.

3.6.2 Recreation

Tyndall AFB offers the public numerous outdoor recreation activities, including boating, canoeing, fishing, fuel wood cutting, horseback riding, hunting, and trail walking. The Base has nine fishing lakes, three nature trails, and large amounts of land open to hunting. Elevated boardwalks in several natural areas allow the public to observe habitat and wildlife. The Base wildlife biologist also provides classes and tours to any interested party including the Boy/Girl Scouts, school groups, civic groups, and wildlife-oriented organizations.

DoD personnel are afforded additional recreational opportunities at Tyndall AFB, including access to the Bonita Bay Outdoor Recreation Complex, Tyndall AFB Marina Club on St. Andrews Bay, riding stables, skeet range, archery range, Aero Club, family campground, and a variety of sports facilities.

Approximately 14,500 acres of Tyndall AFB property has been designated by FFWCC as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The WMA is operated by the Base in coordination with FFWCC and is available to the public for hunting and other recreation.



Water
Airfield
Airfield Pavements
Airfield Operations & Maintenance
Industrial
Administrative/Operations
Training
Community (Commercial)
Community (Service)
Medical
Housing (Accompanied)
Housing (Unaccompanied)
Outdoor Recreation
Open Space
Constrained Open Space

Source: Tyndall AFB General Plan

2000 0 4000 8000
SCALE IN FEET

FIGURE 3-5
Existing Land Use
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

3.7 Transportation

The Tyndall AFB peninsula is bisected by U.S. Highway 98, which serves as the primary artery for access to and from the Base. Access to Base property north of the highway is provided through Tyndall Gate. Access to the property south of the highway is provided by Sabre and Illinois Gates. The road network north of the highway is a grid system that serves the airfield areas. The system is in relatively good condition because it has been upgraded as the area was developed. The primary roads in this area are Tyndall Drive and Florida Avenue. The road network south of the highway is a loop system with internal connections and a radial road to the west serving Sabre Gate and residential areas. This system has not been upgraded significantly since it was built in the 1940s. The primary roads in this area are Illinois Avenue, Beacon Beach Road, Sabre Drive, and the loop comprised of Mississippi Road and Suwannee Avenue.

Tyndall AFB also has a network of unpaved roads and trails. Approximately 120 miles of unpaved roads and trails are designated for use solely by off-road vehicles and mountain bikes. The Base has approximately 80 miles of roads and trails that are maintained for water control, habitat protection, and prescribed burning. The use of off-road vehicles on the beach or undesignated areas is prohibited. Maintenance and rehabilitation of off-road vehicle roads and trails is performed by 325 CES/CEVN.

3.8 Environmental Compliance

325 CES/CEV has primary responsibility for the management of air emissions; wastewater and storm water discharge; solid waste disposal and recycling; fuels storage; hazardous materials authorization, storage, and disposal; petroleum, oil, and lubricant (POL) contamination compliance, and the Base Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The Base Natural Resources Program Manager coordinates with the Base Environmental Compliance Manager on environmental compliance issues that have the potential to negatively impact natural resources.

As discussed in Section 3.1, Tyndall AFB is currently designated as an attainment area for all criteria air pollutants and operates under a minor air operation permit issued by the State of Florida. Six sources of air emissions at Tyndall AFB are regulated under this permit.

Wastewater generated at Tyndall AFB is treated at the Bay County Military Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located in the northern part of the Base. Bay County leases the WWTP property and retains all responsibility for its operation. Most of the treated wastewater effluent from the WWTP is discharged to East Bay and the remaining portion is used to irrigate the Base's Pelican Point Golf Course.

The Base stormwater system, which consists primarily of drainage ditches in undeveloped areas and underground piping in developed areas, is operated under two storm water permits. Stormwater pollution prevention measures are implemented to ensure that Base operations, particularly in the airfield and industrial areas, do not result in the discharge of contaminated stormwater.

Non-hazardous solid waste that is generated at Tyndall AFB is collected and disposed off Base by a contractor. The Base does not currently operate any landfills. Bay County operates

a waste-to-energy incinerator that uses trash from Tyndall AFB and other communities. The Services Squadron conducts the Base recycling program. There is curbside collection in the housing areas and collection points for glass, plastic, paper, newspaper, and cardboard throughout the Base.

Hazardous substances used at Tyndall AFB primarily include paint products, stripping elements, acids, fuels, solvents, and pesticides. The Tyndall AFB Hazardous Materials Management Office (HAZMO) is responsible for the management of hazardous materials at the Base. The hazardous wastes that are generated are temporarily stored at hazardous waste accumulation points throughout the Base. The primary hazardous waste accumulation site (Facility 6011) is the only location where more than 55 gallons of hazardous waste can be stored on the Base. Hazardous waste is transported off Base by a contractor and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. Tyndall AFB has separate plans that provide guidance on managing asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP) at the Base in accordance with all applicable regulations.

Tyndall AFB has several sites where POL contamination of the soil and/or groundwater has been identified. Investigations of these sites are managed by the 325 CES/CEV POL Compliance Program in accordance with Chapter 62-770, F.A.C. and the Base Petroleum Contamination Agreement with FDEP. These sites are in various stages of investigation, cleanup, monitoring, and closure.

The IRP was established by DoD in 1983 to identify, characterize, and remediate sites on military installations that were contaminated prior to 1984 in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Sites that have been contaminated since 1984 are addressed under the appropriate environmental compliance cleanup program. At present, Tyndall AFB has 16 active IRP sites. A total of 19 IRP sites have been closed. Access to Base IRP sites that pose a threat to human health is restricted through land use designation, signage, fencing, and barriers. During hunting/fishing season, there is limited public access to a few IRP sites, but only in the uncontaminated portions. Ground disturbing activities that may spread the contamination and/or expose workers to contamination at IRP sites as well as changes in the land use of IRP sites must be approved by 325 CES/CEV and conducted with special precautions.

3.9 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic sites, structures, districts, artifacts, or any other physical source of human activity considered to be culturally important. Cultural resources include historic resources (historic buildings and structures) and archaeological resources (prehistoric, historic, and traditional).

The 2003 – 2007 Tyndall AFB Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) provides guidance on how to identify, evaluate, and treat cultural resources at the Base in compliance with DoD and state regulations. Development and approval requirements for the Base ICRMP are included in Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, and AFI 32-7065, *Cultural Resources Management*.

Numerous cultural resources surveys have been conducted at Tyndall AFB over the last 100 years. A total of 96 cultural resource sites have been identified by these surveys to date. Of

these sites that have been identified, 22 have been recommended as eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Base ICRMP provides guidelines for the protection and preservation of these sites.

3.10 Socioeconomics

The population of Bay County in 2000 was 148,217 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000). Panama City, which is the largest of eight municipalities in the County, had a population of 36,417 in 2000. The population of Bay County increased by 16.7 percent since 1990, while the population of the entire State of Florida increased by 24 percent during the same time period. Based on the 2004 Tyndall AFB General Plan, Tyndall AFB has approximately 4,400 military personnel, 3,400 military dependents, and 2,000 civilian employees. Over 9,000 military retirees reside near the Base.

The average civilian labor force in Bay County in 2003 was 71,864 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003). Total employment in the County in 2003 was 67,977, while the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. The State of Florida had an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent during the same year.

The services and retail-trade sectors accounted for approximately 56 percent of the total employment in Bay County in 2002 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003). These sectors are primarily fueled by tourism, which generates approximately $1.5 billion in annual revenues for the County. The government sector, half of which is represented by federal civilian and military employment, accounted for approximately 17 percent of the total employment in the County in 2002.

The largest contributors to the economy of Bay County are Tyndall AFB, Bay County School Board, and the U.S. Navy's Coastal Systems Station. Based on the 2004 Tyndall AFB General Plan, the total annual estimated economic impact of Tyndall AFB within a 50-mile radius of the Base is $471 million. Excluding retirees, the annual military payroll is $225 million and the annual civilian payroll is $186 million. The Base has contracts with local enterprises totaling $110 million.

3.11 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

On February 11, 1994, the President issued EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*. The purpose of this EO is to avoid disproportionate placement of any adverse environmental, economic, social, or health impacts from federal actions and policies on minority and low-income populations. The President directed the EPA to ensure that agencies analyze the environmental effects on minority and low-income communities, including human health, social, and economic effects.

A minority population exists where the percentage of minorities in an affected area either exceeds 50 percent or is meaningfully greater than in the general population of the larger surrounding area. The phrase "minority population" includes persons who identify themselves as black (African-American), Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American or Alaskan Native, or Hispanic. "Race" refers to Census respondents' self-identification of racial background. "Hispanic origin" refers to ethnicity and language, not race, and may include persons whose heritage is Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican, and Central or South American.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines a "poverty area" as a Census Tract (CT) where 20 percent or more of the residents have incomes below the poverty threshold and an "extreme poverty area" as one with 40 percent or more below the poverty level (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004). The "census poverty level" refers to income levels, based on family size, age of householder, and number of children under 18 years of age, that are considered too low to meet essential living requirements. The criteria for determining poverty level are applied nationally (except in Alaska and Hawaii), without regard to the local cost of living. In the 2000 Census, the poverty threshold for a family of four was $17,603 annual income (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004).

On April 21, 1997, the President issued EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, which recognized that a growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health and safety risks. This EO required federal agencies, to the extent permitted by law and mission, to identify and assess such environmental health and safety risks. EO 13045 does not provide guidance on the ages of the children to be protected; however, the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (FIFCFS), founded in 1994 and formally established by the EO, focuses on those aged 17 and under.

Table 3-4 presents Year 2000 race, ethnicity, and poverty demographics for the CTs and Block Groups (BGs) that include, and are in the immediate vicinity of, Tyndall AFB. The locations of the CTs and BGs is shown on Figure 3-6. As indicated in Table 3-4, there are no minority populations within the immediate vicinity of Tyndall AFB.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census bases the poverty status of families and individuals on 48 threshold variables, including income, family size, number of family members under the age of 18 and over 65 years of age, and amount spent on food. Table 3-4 includes a summary of the poverty status of the CTs and BGs that include, and are in the immediate vicinity of, Tyndall AFB. As indicated in Table 3-4, only CT 10/BG 2 and CT 20 /BG 2 have more than 20 percent of their residents below the poverty threshold.

In 2000, the U.S. Bureau of the Census estimated that 22.7 percent of Florida's population and 24 percent of Bay County's population were children under 17 years of age (Table 3-4). CT 7/BG 9, which includes most of Tyndall AFB, has the highest percentage of children under 17 years of age in the immediate area (37.9 percent).

TABLE 3-4
Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Demographics by Percentage of Population
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Percentage	Census Tract 7, Block Group 9[a]	Census Tract 6, Block Group 1	Census Tract 5, Block Group 2	Census Tract 8.02, Block Group 2	Census Tract 8.02, Block Group 3	Census Tract 9, Block Group 2	Census Tract 9, Block Group 3	Census Tract 10, Block Group 2	Census Tract 19, Block Group 2	Census Tract 19, Block Group 3	Census Tract 20, Block Group 2	Census Tract 26.02 Block Group 1	Census Tract 26.02, Block Group 2	Bay County Florida	Florida
White	74.80%	95.70%	93.27%	84.2%	73.4%	77.5%	87.9%	62.3%	94.9%	96.0%	79.0%	94.0%	95.2%	84.20%	77.99%
African American	14.20%	1.30%	3.55%	7.6%	16.9%	13.8%	6.3%	28.8%	1.9%	1.4%	16.9%	1.0%	0.9%	10.60%	14.61%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.2%	0.8%	1.2%	0.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.80%	0.34%
Asian	3.10%	0.80%	1.12%	4.9%	4.0%	2.9%	2.2%	3.7%	1.6%	0.4%	1.0%	1.7%	0.4%	1.70%	1.67%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.10%	0.05%
Some other race	2.80%	0.00%	0.00%	1.2%	1.5%	1.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.70%	2.99%
Two or more races	4.60%	1.40%	1.31%	1.7%	3.4%	3.5%	2.0%	3.5%	0.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%	2.6%	1.90%	2%
Subtotal: One Race	95.40%	98.60%	98.7%	98.3%	96.6%	96.5%	98.0%	96.5%	99.3%	98.7%	98.7%	98.4%	97.4%	98.10%	97.65%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Hispanic[b]	8.30%	1.20%	1.4%	2.6%	4.4%	1.9%	2.9%	1.9%	0.4%	1.4%	4.5%	2.2%	5.5%	2.40%	16.79%
Poverty Status	3.10%	11.50%	8.70%	9.61%	8.51%	17.23%	10.65%	25.96%	15.22%	3.52%	28.70%	10.18%	18.69%	12.70%	12.50%
Children Under 17	37.90%	11.10%	21.31%	26.53%	27.72%	25.49%	18.28%	29.14%	13.54%	21.64%	10.25%	22.9%	13.51%	24%	22.70%

[a] Includes most of Tyndall AFB.
[b] Hispanic or Latino (of any race). For Census 2000 and the American Community Survey: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 or ACS questionnaire—"Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban"—as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000, http://factfinder.census.gov.

Source: Mapquest.com

North

0 2 4
Scale in Miles

CT Census Tract
BG Block Group
Approximate CT Boundaries

FIGURE 3-6
Census Tract Locations
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

SECTION 4

Environmental Consequences

4.1 Air Quality

4.1.1 Proposed Action

Prescribed burning is the primary natural resources management practice at Tyndall AFB that has the potential to impact air quality. Air emissions such as particulates and CO are emitted during prescribed burning events; however, based on U.S. EPA case studies, emissions from fires in natural areas tend to have relatively temporary, short-term effects on air quality. The use of prescribed burning reduces fuel loads and, therefore, decreases the occurrence of intense wildfires that would otherwise cause greater air quality impacts.

Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would increase the overall acreage burned annually during the planning period. However, the increase in prescribed burning would result in lesser fuel loads, thereby reducing the frequency and intensity of natural and accidental wildfires. Moreover, the overall manner in which prescribed burning is conducted at the Base would improve under the Forestry Management and Wildland Fire Management Plans that have been developed as part of the updated INMRP. Implementation of these plans would result in improved prescribed burning techniques, weather forecasting, smoke dispersion modeling, and public awareness relative to the current program. Implementation of the Wildland Fire Management Plan would also improve the Base's ability to prevent and control natural and accidental wildfires that affect air quality.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is not expected to have a significant impact on air quality. Impacts to air quality from proposed prescribed burning practices would be short-term and temporary, and are expected to be relatively minor. The direct impact on air quality from increased prescribed burning under the Proposed Action would be offset by the indirect benefit of decreased air emissions through fuel load reductions. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to conduct prescribed burning and to prevent and control natural and accidental wildfires during the planning period.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Air emissions generated from current prescribed burning practices result in short-term, temporary impacts to air quality. The direct impact on air quality from prescribed burning is offset by the indirect benefit of decreased air emissions through fuel load reductions. Under the No-Action Alternative, the Base natural resources management program would continue to reduce fuel loads through prescribed burning and conduct practices that prevent and control wildfires. However, some of the specific management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INRMP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is not expected to have a significant impact on air quality. Impacts to air quality from prescribed burning practices would be short-term

and temporary, and are expected to be relatively minor. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to conduct prescribed burning and to prevent and control natural and accidental wildfires during the planning period.

4.2 Noise

4.2.1 Proposed Action

Certain natural resources management practices that would be conducted under the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would require the use of vehicles and equipment that create noise. Noise that would be created by activities associated with forestry, ecosystem, and land management practices proposed by the updated INRMP would generally be at lower levels than those associated with many mission-related activities such as airfield and training operations. The natural resource management practices proposed by the updated INMRP are expected to generate noise levels that are similar to those generated by current practices. The majority of the proposed activities are expected to generate noise levels that are well below the residential acceptable level of 65 dBA, and as a result, are not expected to significantly impact the military housing neighborhoods within the Base or residential communities outside the Base.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in significant noise impacts. Proposed natural resource management practices would generate noise levels that are similar to those generated by current practices.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

The noise levels that are generated by Tyndall AFB's current natural resources management practices are intermittent and generally well below residential acceptable levels in the vicinity of noise-sensitive areas such as military housing neighborhoods and off-Base residential communities. The noise levels generated by natural resources management practices would not significantly change during the planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is not expected to result in significant noise impacts.

4.3 Geology, Topography, and Soils

4.3.1 Proposed Action

None of the natural resources management practices proposed by the updated Tyndall AFB INMRP involve intrusive activities that would significantly impact subsurface geological formations or activities that would significantly alter the natural contour of the land. As a result, the Proposed Action is not expected to have a significant impact on geology or topography.

Certain silvicultural practices proposed by the updated INRMP, such as timber harvesting, tree planting, and prescribed burning would result in minor, temporary disturbances to surface soils. If conducted properly, however, these activities would have negligible impacts on soils. The Forestry Management Plan that has been developed as part of the updated INMRP directs the implementation of the Florida Silviculture Best Management Practices (Florida Division of Forestry, 2004) during these activities to minimize the potential for soil

erosion. The Land Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP calls for the use of preventative techniques during construction and grounds maintenance to minimize ground disturbance.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is not expected to have a significant impact on soils. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to minimize impacts to soils during the planning period.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

None of the natural resources management practices currently conducted at Tyndall AFB involve intrusive activities that would significantly impact subsurface geological formations or activities that would significantly alter the natural contour of the land. As a result, the No Action Alternative would not have a significant impact on geology or topography.

Certain silvicultural practices conducted by the current Tyndall AFB natural resource management program cause minor, temporary disturbances to surface soils. Best management practices are implemented as needed to minimize the potential for soil erosion during these activities. Sound land management practices that protect soils during grounds maintenance are currently implemented, as are measures to protect soils in ecologically important habitats. However, some of the improved management practices proposed by the updated INMRP would not be implemented if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is not expected to have a significant impact on soils. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to minimize impacts to soils during the planning period.

4.4 Water Resources

4.4.1 Groundwater and Surface Water

4.4.1.1 Proposed Action

Natural resource management practices that have the potential to impact the quality of groundwater and surface water at the Base primarily include those that involve the use of chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides for grounds maintenance and pest control. If applied properly, herbicides and pesticides applied to grounds and freshwater ponds are not expected to negatively impact water quality. The products currently used at Tyndall AFB are readily degradable in soil and water and have very limited potential to contaminate groundwater and surface water. The type and quantity of herbicides and pesticides, and the manner in which they are used, would not change significantly under the updated INRMP.

The Land Management and Invasive Species Management Plans that have been developed as part of the updated INMRP provide guidelines for the proper use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides to minimize the potential for releases to the environment. These plans are integrated with the Tyndall AFB Pest Management and Hazardous Waste Management Plans. They direct grounds maintenance and invasive species control to be conducted in the least toxic manner using appropriate best management practices to minimize the potential for point and non-point source pollution of groundwater and surface

water. The Wetlands Management, Costal/Marine Management, and Forestry Management Plans that has been developed as part of the updated INRMP also include management practices that would directly and indirectly benefit groundwater and surface water at the Base.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on groundwater and surface water. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance groundwater and surface water during the planning period.

4.4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Grounds maintenance and invasive species control practices under the current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program implement measures to minimize impacts to groundwater and surface water from the use of chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Proper application methods, and the use of best management practices, prevent point and non-point source pollution of groundwater and surface water. Current ecosystem management practices also directly and indirectly benefit groundwater and surface water at the Base. However, many of the specific improvements to land, invasive species, and ecosystem management practices proposed by the updated INRMP would not be realized if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on groundwater and surface water. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect and enhance groundwater and surface water during the planning period.

4.4.2 Floodplains

4.4.2.1 Proposed Action

None of the natural resources management practices proposed by the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP have the potential to adversely affect floodplains. A Floodplains Management Plan has been developed as part of the updated INRMP. To support the Base mission, remain in regulatory compliance, and protect Base floodplains to the greatest extent possible, the Floodplains Management Plan calls for all management, public, and mission-related activities to be properly planned and coordinated through the EIAP process. Implementation of the Wetlands Management and Coastal/Marine Management Plans that are part of the updated INRMP would also protect floodplains at the Base. The objectives established by the Wetlands Management Plan, and its overall goal of no net loss of size, function, or value of wetlands, is integral to the protection of floodplain zones.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on floodplains. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect floodplains during the planning period.

4.4.2.2 No Action Alternative

The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program does not conduct any practice that has the potential to significantly impact floodplains. The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program provides for the protection of Base floodplain areas through the implementation of applicable ecosystem management practices, proper project

planning, and EIAP coordination. However, some of the specific floodplains management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INRMP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on floodplains. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect floodplains during the planning period.

4.5 Biological Resources

4.5.1 Wetlands

4.5.1.1 Proposed Action

Fire line maintenance is the only practice proposed by the updated Tyndall AFB INMRP that has the potential to negatively impact wetlands. One of the objectives of the updated INRMP is to obtain a base-wide permit through USACE and FDEP for maintaining fire lines in wetlands for fire suppression. The permit would allow the Base to temporarily impact wetlands periodically to minimize the spread of wildfires. Mitigation measures to offset impacts to affected areas would be implemented as part of the permit requirements. Through the use of best management practices and mitigation measures, this practice is not expected to have a significant negative impact on wetlands. The maintenance of fire lines in wetlands minimizes the spread of wildfire and the damaging effect it could have on wetlands.

A Wetlands Management Plan has been developed as part of the updated INRMP. To support the base mission, remain in regulatory compliance, and protect Base wetlands to the greatest extent possible, the Wetlands Management Plan calls for all management, public, and mission-related activities to be properly planned and coordinated through the EIAP process. The primary goals of the Plan for the planning period are to monitor the effects of management practices on Base wetlands; have no net loss of wetlands; and to protect maintain, and enhance existing Base wetlands. The specific objectives of the Plan for the planning period are as follows:

- Develop a monitoring program to assess wetland quality
- Develop a wetland mitigation bank for the Base
- Upgrade existing wetland delineations
- Obtain a general permit to maintain fire lines in wetlands
- Restore historical hydrologic conditions in wetlands

Implementation of the Wetlands Management Plan and other applicable Individual Resources Management Plans that are part of the updated Tyndall AFB would improve the overall Base wetlands management program.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on wetlands. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance wetlands during the planning period.

4.5.1.2 No Action Alternative

The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program provides for the protection of wetlands through the implementation of applicable ecosystem management practices, proper project planning, and EIAP coordination. However, many of the specific wetlands management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INRMP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on wetlands. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect and enhance wetlands during the planning period.

4.5.2 Coastal/Marine Habitats

4.5.2.1 Proposed Action

None of the ecosystem management practices proposed by the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP have the potential to adversely affect coastal/marine habitats. Recreational use of the Base's barrier islands by the public in the past has resulted in some impacts. The Outdoor Recreation and Coastal/Marine Management Plans that has been developed as part of the updated INRMP provide management guidelines that minimize potential impacts to coastal/marine habitats from recreational activities. To support the Base mission, remain in regulatory compliance, and protect Base coastal/marine resources to the greatest extent possible, the Coastal/Marine Management Plan calls for all management, public, and mission related activities to be properly planned and coordinated through the EIAP process. The primary goals of the Plan for the planning period are to maintain and restore Base coastal/marine communities; protect, restore, and maintain T&E species within the communities; and monitor the effects of management practices on Base coastal/marine resources. The specific objectives of the Plan for the planning period are as follows:

- Restore storm-related dune system damage
- Maintain and restore critical habitats of T&E species
- Develop protocols to monitor changes in coastal/marine resources

Implementation of the Coastal/Marine Management Plan and other applicable Individual Resources Management Plans such as the Wetlands Management, T&E Species Management, and Outdoor Recreation Management Plans, would improve the overall management of coastal/marine resources at the Base.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on coastal/marine habitats. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats during the planning period.

4.5.2.2 No Action Alternative

The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program does not conduct any practice that has the potential to adversely affect coastal/marine habitats. The current program provides for the protection of coastal/marine resources through the implementation of applicable ecosystem management practices, proper project planning, and EIAP coordination. It restricts public access in sensitive areas and takes other measures to minimize potential impacts to coastal/marine habitats from recreational activities.

However, some of the specific management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INMRP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on coastal/marine resources. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine resources during the planning period.

4.5.3 Vegetation and Forestry

4.5.3.1 Proposed Action

The updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would implement numerous integrated management practices to protect and enhance Tyndall AFB's vegetation communities. The Wetlands Management, Coastal/Marine Management, and T&E Species Management Plans that have been developed as part of the updated INMRP include specific management guidelines that would protect the vegetation of ecologically important habitats from being impacted by mission-related activities. The Invasive Species Management that is part of the updated INRMP provide guidelines for controlling exotic and nuisance plant species to minimize their impact on native vegetation communities. The Land Management Plan promotes the use of native vegetation for landscaping to limit irrigation and herbicide use.

As discussed in Section 3, Tyndall AFB's forestry management program has shifted its policy away from developing the Base forest resources into commercial pine plantations. The Forestry Management Plan that has been developed as part of the updated INRMP emphasizes the restoration of historical vegetative conditions and natural processes through selective thinning; natural regeneration of native species; introduction of longleaf seed source; removal of barriers to natural hydrologic function; and prescribed fire. It provides management practices that balance commercial harvesting and historical habitat restoration to promote the development of uneven-aged, mixed pine forests. The Wildland Fire Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP is fully integrated with the Forestry Management Plan, and shares many of the same goals and objectives.

The primary goals of the Forestry Management Plan for the planning period are to integrate fully with the military mission; provide wildland management support to the mission; ensure minimal mission conflicts with natural resources; restore historical forest habitat and function; monitor the effects of management practices on Base forests; balance commercial harvesting and ecosystem restoration; and establish collaborative stewardship between the Base and various conservation and research organizations. The specific objectives of the Plan are as follows:

- Maintain fully qualified staff and sponsor training
- Strengthen ties with the Wing Command structure
- Develop a fuel reduction plan for wildland/urban interfaces that would include a 1 to 2-year treatment cycle
- Establish a fire buffer zone around structures
- Timber harvest clear zones

- Use timber harvesting, prescribed fire, and seeding to convert slash and sand pine plantations to longleaf communities and to maintain existing longleaf stands
- Develop an "Ecological Tier System" for classifying community quality
- Utilize selective harvesting, prescribed burning, and seeding in existing slash pine stands to achieve mixed pine communities
- Reintroduce longleaf pine in areas lacking a seed source by aerial seeding
- Manage longleaf pine by selective cutting to achieve target basal areas
- Restore an average of 200 acres of sand pine scrub to longleaf annually
- Implement habitat-specific management practices
- Implement management practices that are specific to ground cover
- Improve prescribed burning techniques
- Develop protocol to monitor management techniques
- Use uneven-age management to support an annual budget of $300,000
- Establish Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with Nature Conservancy and Jones Ecological Research Center for longleaf pine restoration

Tyndall AFB has significantly improved its forestry management program over the last few years. The current program has already begun working towards achieving many of the goals outlined in the Forestry Management Plan. Implementation of the updated INRMP would allow the program to continue and improve practices that better balance commercial harvesting and habitat restoration.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on vegetation and forestry. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance vegetation communities, and to manage its forest resources during the planning period.

4.5.3.2 No Action Alternative

The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program implements practices that protect and enhance Base vegetation communities. Proper project planning and EIAP coordination are implemented to minimize potential mission-related impacts to ecologically important habitats. The current program also implements measures to control exotic and nuisance plant species to minimize their impact on native vegetation communities. The current Base forestry program has already begun working towards achieving many of the goals and objectives outlined in the Forestry Management Plan that has been developed as part of the updated INRMP. Practices to better balance commercial harvesting and habitat restoration are currently being implemented. Prescribed burning, selective thinning, and longleaf pine seeding are being used to promote the development of uneven-aged, mixed pine forests. However, many of the specific forestry management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INMRP would not be achieved if the Base's current program is continued through the next planning period. The existing funding, resources, manpower, and management practices would be not sufficient to achieve the goals and objectives that have been established by 325 CES/CEVN for future management of the forest resource.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on vegetation and forestry. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect and enhance vegetation communities, and to manage forest resources during the planning period.

4.5.4 Fish and Wildlife

4.5.4.1 Proposed Action

Some natural resources management practices proposed by the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP, such as timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and wildfire suppression, have the potential to impact fish and wildlife during their implementation. Recreational use of the Base by the public also has the potential for impacts. The majority of the practices that would be implemented by the updated INRMP are designed to benefit fish and wildlife populations at the Base.

Fire line maintenance under the updated INRMP has the potential to impact wildlife; however, the overall potential for significant impacts is considered to be low. Minimizing the spread of wildfires has an overall positive impact on wildlife at the Base. Likewise, reducing fuel loads by prescribed burning also minimizes potential impacts from wildfires. In addition, prescribed fire maintains the health and integrity of many vegetation communities at the Base, thereby, having an overall positive impact on wildlife. The Forestry Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP includes management practices that would restore historical habitats. The Outdoor Recreation Plan includes management guidelines to minimize potential impacts on fish and wildlife species from recreational activities.

In general, the Base hunting and fishing programs do not adversely affect fish and wildlife because they target specific game species and have seasonal and take restrictions. The Base fish and wildlife management program manages both game and non-game species and is well integrated with Base BASH and recreation programs. Implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Management, BASH Management, and Outdoor Recreation Management Plans that are part of the updated INRMP would provide sound guidelines through the planning period for managing game and non-game fish and wildlife, and minimizing potential conflicts with the mission.

The primary goals of the Fish & Wildlife Management Plan are to minimize potential conflicts with the mission; monitor the effects of management practices on fish and wildlife; manage game and non-game species within the guidelines of ecosystem management; and coordinate with participating regulatory agencies. The specific objectives of the Plan through the planning period are as follows:

- Maintain fully qualified staff and sponsor training
- Strengthen ties with the Wing Command structure
- Minimize BASH hazards
- Develop protocols for monitoring frogs and neotropical birds
- Protect and maintain specific habitat types to support game and non-game species
- Maintain quality deer management in specified areas

- Maintain a low deer population near airfields
- Maintain turkey populations in specified areas
- Develop a hunting program for small game
- Monitor game species populations against management objectives
- Evaluate fisheries management potential in impoundments
- Maintain law enforcement presence
- Maintain WMA with FFWCC

Implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Management, BASH Management, and Outdoor Recreation Management Plans that are part of the updated INRMP would improve the overall management of fish and wildlife at the Base.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on fish and wildlife. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and maintain fish and wildlife populations, and to minimize conflicts with the mission during the planning period.

4.5.4.2 No Action Alternative

Current natural resources management practices such as timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and wildfire suppression have the potential to impact fish and wildlife during their implementation; however, these activities have an overall positive impact on fish and wildlife. The current Base fish and wildlife management program implements practices for managing game and non-game fish and wildlife, and minimizing potential conflicts with the mission. However, many of the specific fish and wildlife management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INMRP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on fish and wildlife species. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect and maintain fish and wildlife populations, and to minimize conflicts with the mission during the planning period.

4.5.5 T&E Species

4.5.5.1 Proposed Action

Some components of the updated INRMP involve activities that have the potential to inadvertently impact T&E species. Management practices such as timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and wildfire suppression may impact T&E species or their habitats during their implementation. Recreational use of the Base by the public also has the potential for impacts. The majority of the practices that would be implemented by the updated INMRP are designed to benefit T&E species populations at the Base.

Fire line maintenance under the updated INRMP has the potential to impact T&E species; however, the overall potential is considered to be low. The Wildland Fire Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP includes measures to minimize impacts to T&E species and their habitats. Minimizing the spread of wildfires to sensitive ecosystems and Critical Habitats has an overall positive impact on T&E species populations at the Base. Likewise, reducing fuel loads by prescribed burning also minimizes the potential impact of wildfires

on T&E species. In addition, prescribed fire maintains the health and integrity of many vegetation communities that support T&E species, thereby, having an overall positive impact on T&E species populations at the Base. The Forestry Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP includes management practices that would restore native longleaf pine communities and other habitats that would benefit T&E species. The Outdoor Recreation Plan includes management guidelines to minimize potential impacts to T&E species from recreational activities. This Plan includes restrictions on public use of ecologically sensitive areas and Critical Habitats.

The T&E Species Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP provides management guidelines for the protection of all the state and federally listed species that have been documented at the Base, as well as species-specific protective measures for some species. To support the Base mission, remain in regulatory compliance, and protect T&E species to the greatest extent possible, the T&E Species Management Plan calls for all management, public, and mission-related activities to be properly planned and coordinated through the EIAP process. The primary goals of the Plan for the planning period are to protect, restore, and maintain T&E species populations; monitor the effects of management practices on T&E species; and establish collaborative stewardship between the Base and various conservation and research organizations. The specific objectives of the Plan are as follows:

- Maintain fully qualified staff and sponsor training
- Strengthen ties with the Wing Command structure
- Minimize disturbances during critical life-history events of T&E species
- Minimize predation on T&E species
- Maintain and restore Critical Habitats and T&E species populations
- Review and coordinate management strategies with participating agencies
- Develop a lighting policy to minimize lighting pollution on beaches
- Maintain law enforcement presence
- Eliminate overhead power lines basewide
- Monitor nesting of sea turtles, plovers, eagles, and ospreys
- Monitor beach mice, frogs, gopher tortoises, and wetland plants
- Establish MOAs with Nature Conservancy and Jones Ecological Research Center for longleaf pine restoration

Implementation of the T&E Species Management Plan and other applicable Individual Resources Management Plans that are part of the updated Tyndall AFB would improve the overall management of T&E species at the Base.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on T&E species. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect, restore, and maintain T&E species populations during the planning period.

4.5.5.2 No Action Alternative

The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program implements practices that protect, enhance, and maintain T&E species populations at the Base. Proper project planning and EIAP coordination are implemented to minimize potential mission-related impacts to T&E specie and their habitats. Current management activities such as fire line maintenance, prescribed burning, and forestry have the potential to impact T&E species during their implementation; however, these activities have an overall positive impact on T&E species and their populations. The current program also includes management guidelines to minimize potential impacts to T&E species from recreational activities. However, many of the specific T&E species management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INMRP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on T&E species. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to protect, restore, and maintain T&E species populations during the planning period.

4.6 Land Use

4.6.1 Proposed Action

Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would not change or affect the land use classifications of the Base in any manner. The natural resources management practices proposed by the updated INRMP would promote land use harmony among natural areas and those designated for mission-related activities.

Outdoor recreation at Tyndall AFB is managed by the Base natural resources management program. Some recreational activities offered to the public have the potential to impact the environment if they are not carried out under Base regulations. Restrictions are placed on all recreational activities to minimize potential impacts to natural resources. For example, the Base prohibits the use of off-road vehicles and mountain bikes in undesignated areas such as beaches and other ecologically sensitive habitats.

An Outdoor Recreation Management Plan has been developed as part of the updated INRMP. The primary goal of this plan is to develop recreational opportunities in response to identified needs, which are consistent with sound ecological principles and within the constraints of the Base mission. The Plan addresses restrictions on recreational use and rehabilitation of impacted areas. The specific objectives of the Plan for the planning period are as follows:

- Evaluate various recreational desires to assess their compatibility with other management goals and objectives
- Manage and construct facilities that can be used by persons of all ages and physical abilities
- Construct, maintain, and improve foot and horse trails

Implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Management Plan may increase the amount of recreational opportunities at the Base, depending on available funding for specific projects

during the planning period. Implementation of the Plan would improve the overall management of outdoor recreation at the Base.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on land use. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to manage outdoor recreation and would potentially create more recreational opportunities at the Base during the planning period.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

The continuation of the current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program through the next planning period would not change or affect the land use classifications of the Base in any manner. Current natural resources management practices strive for land use harmony at the Base. The current Base outdoor recreation management program provides a variety of recreational opportunities and implements restrictions on activities that would have a negative impact on the environment. However, some of the specific management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INMRP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on land use. However, the No action Alternative would not improve the Base's current ability to manage outdoor recreation and would not create more recreational opportunities at the Base during the planning period.

4.7 Transportation

4.7.1 Proposed Action

Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would not involve modifications to the primary roadway system of the Base and would not increase Base traffic. The updated INRMP provides improved guidelines for maintaining and rehabilitating unpaved roads and trails used for recreation, forestry, habitat protection, and water control. The Fish and Wildlife Management and BASH Management Plans that are part of the updated INRMP propose the use of wildlife food plots in specific areas to lure deer off of U.S. Highway 98 and Base roads to reduce deer/car strikes. Implementation of the Forestry Management Plan would improve weather forecasting and smoke dispersion modeling during prescribed burning events and, therefore, would reduce the potential for traffic disruptions on and off the Base. Under the updated INMRP, natural resources management personnel would coordinate closely with the Florida Highway Patrol to manage traffic during wildlife suppression and prescribed burning.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is not expected to have a significant impact on transportation. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to maintain and rehabilitate unpaved roads and trails, and to minimize potential impacts of prescribed burning on traffic during the planning period.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

The continuation of the current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program through the planning period would not result in modifications to the primary roadway system of the Base and would not increase Base traffic. Current natural resources management practices include unpaved road and trail maintenance and measures to minimize potential traffic impacts

during prescribed burning. However, some of the improved management practices proposed by the updated INMRP would not be realized if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is not expected to have a significant impact on transportation. However, under the No action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to maintain and rehabilitate unpaved roads and trails, and to minimize potential impacts of prescribed burning on traffic during the planning period.

4.8 Environmental Compliance

4.8.1 Proposed Action

The updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would be implemented in close coordination with all applicable Base environmental compliance programs. The updated INRMP is well integrated with the management of air emissions; wastewater and storm water discharge; solid waste disposal and recycling; fuels storage; hazardous materials authorization, storage, and disposal; POL contamination compliance, and the Base IRP program. This integration would allow proper management of environmental compliance issues that have the potential to negatively impact natural resources. The Land Management and Invasive Species Management Plans that are part of the updated INRMP provide guidelines for the proper use of chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides for grounds maintenance and pest control. These plans direct grounds maintenance and invasive species control to be conducted in the least toxic manner using appropriate best management practices to minimize the potential for point and non-point source pollution. The close integration of the updated INRMP with the environmental compliance programs would ensure that natural resources management practices are carried out in a manner that would not impact any contaminated site that is being investigated, monitored, or remediated.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is expected to have a positive impact on environmental compliance. The Proposed Action would improve the current natural resources management component of environmental compliance at the Base during the planning period.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

The current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program is integrated relatively well with the Base environmental compliance programs. Grounds maintenance and invasive species control practices under the current program implement measures to minimize impacts to groundwater and surface water from the use of chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Chemicals are used properly and best management practices are implemented to prevent point and non-point source pollution. However, many of the specific improvements to land and invasive species management practices proposed by the updated INRMP would not be realized if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is expected to have a positive impact on environmental compliance. However, under the No Action Alternative, the current natural resources management component of environmental compliance at the Base would not be improved during the planning period.

4.9 Cultural Resources

4.9.1 Proposed Action

Some natural resources management practices proposed by the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP such as timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and wildfire suppression, have the potential to impact cultural resources during their implementation. Timber harvesting and fire line maintenance can directly disturb cultural resources or cause erosion that would have indirect impacts. Prescribed burning activities can impact cultural resources through heat damage, increased erosion, contamination, or equipment use.

To minimize potential impacts to the greatest extent possible, the updated INRMP would be implemented in close coordination with the 2003 – 2007 Tyndall AFB ICRMP. A separate Cultural Resources Management Plan has been developed as part of the updated INMRP to protect cultural resources during the implementation of natural resources management practices. The primary goals of this plan are to conduct cultural resources surveys prior to conducting silvicultural activities that have the potential to impact cultural resources; develop an erosion control plan for identified sites; and properly plan and coordinate through the EIAP process. Silvicultural practices that have the potential to cause harm would not be conducted in identified cultural resources sites under the updated INRMP. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during an activity, the activity would be ceased immediately and the proper authorities would be notified.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is not expected to have a significant impact on cultural resources. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to minimize impacts to cultural resources from natural resources management practices during the planning period.

4.9.2 No Action Alternative

Timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and wildfire suppression practices currently conducted at Tyndall AFB have the potential to impact cultural resources. The Base natural resources management program is currently relatively well integrated with the Base cultural resources management program. Known cultural resources sites are avoided, the EIAP process is implemented, and measures are currently taken to minimize impacts. However, some of the specific cultural resources management goals and objectives proposed by the updated INRMP would not be achieved if the current natural resources management program is carried through the next planning period.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is not expected to have a significant impact on cultural resources. However, under the No Action Alternative, the Base would not improve its current ability to minimize impacts to cultural resources from natural resources management practices during the planning period.

4.10 Socioeconomics

4.10.1 Proposed Action

Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would result in a few part-time and permanent staff hires to increase manpower within the natural resource management

program, specifically within the forestry program. The updated INRMP is also expected to require slightly more contractor labor to support the program through the planning period. The additional hires and increased contractor requirements of the proposed program would have a negligible impact on the demographics of the area. The labor force of the local area should easily provide enough workers to perform the additional contractor work without additional persons relocating to the area.

Implementation of the updated INRMP would not have a significant impact on the total labor force, employment, or unemployment in the region because of the small number of contractor jobs that would be created. Expenditures for materials and supplies necessary to carry out the proposed program would have a small beneficial effect on the economy of the region. Businesses near the Base such as gas stations and restaurants could benefit from additional sales to contractors.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action is not expected to have a significant impact on socioeconomics. The Proposed Action would increase the current contribution of the Base natural resources management program to the local economy during the planning period; however, the overall increase would be negligible.

4.10.2 No Action Alternative

Continuation of the current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program through the planning period would maintain the current manpower levels and contractor labor requirements and, therefore, would have no effect on the demographics of the area. Expenditures for materials and supplies necessary to carry out the current program would have a small beneficial effect on the economy of the region.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative is not expected to have a significant impact on socioeconomics. Under the No Action Alternative, the current contribution of the Base natural resources management program to the local economy would not change during the planning period.

4.11 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

4.11.1 Proposed Action

Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP is not expected to result in significant impacts associated with air quality, noise, groundwater, surface water, or hazardous materials and wastes. As a result, minorities, low-income residents, and children under 17 years of age living in proximity to the areas where management practices proposed by the updated INRMP would be conducted would not be disproportionately impacted. This analysis is considered valid regardless of the total number or percentage of minorities, low-income residents, or children under 17 years of age that live in proximity to the areas, or the distance of their residences from the areas.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on environmental justice or protection of children.

4.11.2 No Action Alternative

Continuation of the current Tyndall AFB natural resources management program through the planning period is not expected to result in significant impacts associated with air quality, noise, groundwater, surface water, or hazardous materials and wastes. As a result, minorities, low-income residents, and children under 17 years of age living in proximity to the areas where management practices under the current program would be conducted would not be disproportionately impacted. This analysis is considered valid regardless of the total number or percentage of minorities, low-income residents, or children under 17 years of age that live in proximity to the areas, or the distance of their residences from the areas.

For these reasons, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on environmental justice or protection of children.

4.12 Cumulative Impacts

A "cumulative impact" is defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Based on the findings of this EA, implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP would not result in significant direct or indirect impacts to any environmental, physical, cultural, or socioeconomic resource. The impacts that forestry management practices, such as prescribed burning and timber harvesting, have on air quality, soils, vegetation, and wildlife are short-term and temporary, and are considered to be relatively minor. The use of best management practices and protective measures during their implementation minimizes their potential to impact the environment. Prescribed fire is one of the most effective management practices for maintaining the health of the Base's pine forests and other vegetation communities. The use of prescribed burning reduces overall fuel loads and, therefore, decreases the occurrence of intense wildfires that can damage the environment, impact the Base mission, and endanger human life. When coupled with other sources at the Base that generate air emissions, the cumulative impacts to air quality are not expected to be significant given that all other combined sources generate emissions that are well below those generated by "major sources" under federal Title V permitting.

Implementation of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP is expected to have positive cumulative impacts on base natural resources and the military mission. Cumulative benefits are realized through the integration of mission support, ecosystem management, public-use opportunities, and collaborative stewardship. The Individual Resource Management Plans that have been developed as part of the updated INRMP provide natural resource management guidelines and practices that directly and indirectly benefit all the resources of the Base, and have a positive cumulative effect on how the Base is operated. When coupled with reasonably foreseeable actions such as planned infrastructure development projects proposed by the 2004 Tyndall AFB General Plan, the implementation of the updated INRMP is not expected to result in negative cumulative impacts. The updated INRMP is also designed to allow flexibility within the natural resources management program to

accommodate minor to moderate changes to the military mission during the planning period, such a those that may be associated with Base support of F-22 fighter jet training. The INRMP would be updated as needed to accommodate substantial changes to the mission.

4.13 Mitigation Measures

The primary function of the updated Tyndall AFB INRMP is to ensure that the Base successfully meets its military mission while effectively managing its natural resources. The management practices proposed by the INRMP have been developed to mitigate environmental impacts that have resulted from past land use and mission-related activities, and to provide guidelines for preventing impacts to natural resources that would require mitigation.

The mitigation requirements of individual projects proposed by the updated INRMP would be determined through the EIAP process as they are planned. The Base Natural Resources Program Manager will collaborate with the Base EIAP Program Manager to determine the appropriate level of NEPA analysis, permitting requirements, and necessary mitigation for each project to ensure that the Base remains in regulatory compliance and does not undertake any action that would have a net adverse effect on the environment.

One of the objectives of the updated INRMP is to obtain a base-wide permit through USACE and FDEP for maintaining fire lines in wetlands for fire suppression. The permit would allow the Base to temporarily impact wetlands periodically to minimize the spread of wildfires. Mitigation measures to offset impacts to affected areas would be implemented as part of the permit requirements.

One of the objectives of the Wetlands Management Plan that is part of the updated INRMP is to develop a wetland mitigation bank for the Base. The mitigation bank project would generate mitigation credits for the Base through wetland creation and/or restoration/enhancement of impacted habitats. The mitigation credits generated would be "banked" for future use to ensure that adequate mitigation is provided to achieve the Base's overall goal of no net loss of wetland size, function, or value. This project would be conducted in close coordination with applicable regulatory agencies to promote collaborative stewardship and facilitate the permitting process.

4.14 Summary of Environmental Consequences

The potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative are summarized in Table 4-1.

TABLE 4-1
Summary of Environmental Consequences
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative
Air Quality	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Short-term, temporary impacts during prescribed burning events. Overall impact would be relatively minor. Air emissions would increase during the planning period but not significantly. Direct impact from prescribed burning would be offset by indirect benefit of decreased air emissions through fuel load reductions. Base's current ability to conduct prescribed burning and to prevent and control natural and accidental wildfires would be improved.	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Short-term temporary impact from prescribed burning. Overall impact would be relatively minor. Direct impact from prescribed burning would be offset by indirect benefit of decreased air emissions through fuel load reductions. Base's current ability to conduct prescribed burning and to prevent and control natural and accidental wildfires would not be improved.
Noise	NO SIGNFICANT IMPACT Noise from proposed natural resources management practices would be intermittent and generally well below residential acceptable levels in the vicinity of noise-sensitive areas. Proposed practices would generate noise levels that are similar to those generated by current practices.	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Noise from management practices would be intermittent and generally well below residential acceptable levels in the vicinity of noise-sensitive areas. Noise levels would not change significantly during the planning period.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Minor, temporary disturbances to surface soils during silvicultural and grounds maintenance activities. Proposed forestry and land management practices would minimize impacts to soils. Base's current ability to minimize impacts to soils would be improved.	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Minor, temporary disturbances to surface soils during silvicultural and grounds maintenance activities. Forestry and land management practices would minimize impacts to soil, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to minimize impacts to soils would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved

TABLE 4-1
Summary of Environmental Consequences
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative
Groundwater and Surface Water	POSITIVE IMPACT Chemicals for grounds maintenance and invasive species control would be properly used. Proposed land, invasive species, and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on ground water and surface water. Base's current ability to protect and enhance groundwater and surface water would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Chemicals for grounds maintenance and invasive species control would be properly used. Land, invasive species, and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial affect on groundwater and surface water, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to protect and enhance groundwater and surface water would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.
Floodplains	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote proper planning and EIAP coordination to minimize potential for mission impacts. Proposed floodplain and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on floodplains. Base's current ability to protect floodplains would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote proper planning and EIAP coordination to minimize potential for mission impacts. Floodplain and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on floodplains, but not as much as those of Proposed Action Base's current ability to protect floodplains would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.
Wetlands	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote proper planning and EIAP coordination to minimize potential for mission impacts. Fire line maintenance in wetlands would be mitigated through a base-wide general permit. Proposed wetlands and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on wetlands. Base's current ability to protect and enhance wetlands would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote proper planning and EIAP coordination to minimize potential for mission impacts. Wetlands and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on wetlands, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to protect and enhance wetlands would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.

TABLE 4-1
Summary of Environmental Consequences
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative
Coastal/Marine Habitats	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote proper planning and EIAP coordination to minimize potential for mission impacts. Proposed coastal/marine and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on coastal/marine habitats. Base's current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote proper planning and EIAP coordination to minimize potential for mission impacts. Coastal/marine and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on coastal/marine habitats, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.
Vegetation and Forestry	POSITIVE IMPACT Proposed land, invasive species, and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on vegetation. Proposed forestry management practices would balance commercial harvesting and habitat restoration. Base's current ability to protect and enhance vegetation communities, and to manage forest resources would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Land, invasive species, and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on vegetation communities, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Forestry management practices would balance commercial harvesting and habitat restoration, but not as much as Proposed Action. Base's current ability to protect and enhance vegetation communities, and to manage forest resources would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.

TABLE 4-1
Summary of Environmental Consequences
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative
Fish and Wildlife	POSITIVE IMPACT Low potential for minor impacts during silvicultural practices. Overall effects of proposed forestry management would be overwhelmingly beneficial. Proposed fish and wildlife, BASH, and outdoor recreation management practices would have a beneficial effect on fish and wildlife. Base's current ability to protect and maintain fish and wildlife populations, and to minimize conflicts with the mission would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Low potential for minor impacts during silvicultural practices. Overall effects of forestry practices would be beneficial. Fish and wildlife, BASH, and outdoor recreation practices would have a beneficial effect on fish and wildlife, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to protect and maintain fish and wildlife populations, and to minimize conflicts with the mission would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.
T&E Species	POSITIVE IMPACT Low potential for minor impacts during silvicultural practices. Overall effects of proposed forestry management would be overwhelmingly beneficial. Proposed T&E species and ecosystem management practices would have a beneficial effect on T&E species. Base's current ability to protect, restore, and maintain T&E species populations would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Low potential for minor impacts during silvicultural practices. Overall effects of forestry practices would be beneficial. Management practices would have a beneficial effect on T&E species, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to protect, restore, and maintain T&E species populations would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for the planning period would not be achieved.
Land Use	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote land use harmony. Base land use classifications would not be affected. Proposed outdoor recreation management practices would have a beneficial effect on recreation. Base's current ability to manage outdoor recreation would be improved and more recreational opportunities would potentially be created.	POSITIVE IMPACT Would promote land use harmony but not as much as Proposed Action. Base land use classifications would not be affected. Outdoor recreation management practices would have a beneficial effect on recreation, but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to manage outdoor recreation would not be improved and more recreational opportunities would not be created. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.

TABLE 4-1
Summary of Environmental Consequences
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative
Transportation	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Would not modify primary Base roadway system or increase traffic. Proposed outdoor recreation management practices would benefit unpaved road system. Minor potential impacts on traffic during prescribed burning events. Proposed forestry management practices would minimize potential impacts to traffic. Base's current ability to maintain and rehabilitate unpaved roads and trails, and to minimize potential impacts of prescribed burning on traffic would be improved.	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Would not modify primary Base roadway system or increase traffic. Outdoor recreation management practices would benefit unpaved road system but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Minor potential impacts on traffic during prescribed burning events. Forestry management practices would minimize potential impacts to traffic but not as much as those of Proposed Action. Base's current ability to maintain and rehabilitate unpaved roads and trails, and to minimize potential impacts of prescribed burning on traffic would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.
Environmental Compliance	POSITIVE IMPACT Would integrate natural resources management with environmental compliance. The current natural resources management component of environmental compliance would be improved.	POSITIVE IMPACT Would integrate natural resources management with environmental compliance but not as much as Proposed Action. The current natural resources management component of environmental compliance would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.
Cultural Resources	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Potential impacts from silvicultural practices. Proposed integration with Base ICRMP, proper planning, and restrictions placed on practices would minimize potential for impacts. Base's current ability to minimize impacts to cultural resources from natural resources management practices would be improved.	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Potential impacts from silvicultural practices. Integration with Base ICRMP, proper planning, and restrictions placed on practices would minimize potential for impacts but not as much as under Proposed Action. Base's current ability to minimize impacts to cultural resources from natural resources management practices would not be improved. Related goals and objectives set for planning period would not be achieved.

TABLE 4-1
Summary of Environmental Consequences
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Resource	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative
Socioeconomics	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor beneficial effect on local economy from contractor labor and expenditures for materials and supplies. Increase in current contribution of Base natural resources management program to the local economy. Overall increase would be negligible.	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor beneficial effect on local economy from contractor labor and expenditures for materials and supplies. No change in current contribution of Base natural resources management program to the local economy.
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	NO EFFECT Would not affect minorities, low-income residents, or children under 17 years of age living in vicinity of area.	NO EFFECT Would not affect minorities, low-income residents, or children under 17 years of age living in vicinity of area.

SECTION 5

List of Preparers

Name	Education	Experience	Role
Tunch Orsoy	Master of Science	16 years	Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
Steve Swingle	Bachelor of Science	22 years	Senior Ecologist/Senior Reviewer
Nancy Brashears	Bachelor of Science	8 years	Senior Engineer
Kira Zender	Master of Science	12 years	Senior Planner
Regi Getis	Literary Arts	15 years	Document Production
Marian Stuart	Associate of Science	16 years	Graphics Specialist

SECTION 6

List of Persons and Agencies Consulted

Wesley Westphal, Natural Resources Manager, 325 CES/CEVN, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Jack Mobley, Wildlife Biologist, 325 CES/CEVN, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Bridget Keegan, Cultural Resources Manager, 325 CES/CEV, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Joseph McLernan, Environmental Restoration Program Manager, 325 CES/CEV, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Kenneth Gleason, Environmental Flight Chief, 325 CES/CEV, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Derryl Sullivan, Base Civil Engineer, 325 CES/CECC, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Wes Smith, Base Planner, 325 CES/CEV, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Bert Lent, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, 325 CES/CEV, Tyndall AFB, Florida

Gail Carmody, Field Office Supervisor, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Panama City, Florida

Hildreath Cooper, Field Office Coordinator, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Panama City, Florida

Lt. Col Louie Roberson, Regional Director, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Panama City, Florida

Laura Kammerer, State Historic Preservation Officer, Tallahassee, Florida

Lauren Milligan, Coordinator, Florida State Clearinghouse, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, Florida

SECTION 7

References

Cowardin, L. M., V. Carter, F. C. Golet, E. T. LaRoe. *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States.* U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Office of Biological Services. 47 pp. 1979.

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APPENDIX A

Tyndall AFB's FCMP Consistency Determination

APPENDIX A

Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) provides assistance to states, in cooperation with federal and local agencies, for developing land and water use programs in coastal zones. According to Section 307 of the CZMA, federal projects that affect land uses, water uses, or coastal resources in a state's coastal zone must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of that state's federally approved coastal zone management plan. The Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) is based on a network of state agencies implementing 23 statutes that protect and enhance Florida's natural, cultural, and economic coastal resources. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) implements the FCMP and makes the state's final consistency determination, which will either agree or disagree with the applicant's own consistency determination.

Table A-1 provides Tyndall AFB's Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination for the Proposed Action.

TABLE A-1
Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 161 *Beach and Shore Preservation*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on the State's beaches. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats.	Authorizes the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems within FDEP to regulate the construction on or seaward of the state's beaches.
Chapter 163, Part II *Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Requires local governments to prepare, adopt, and implement comprehensive plans that encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources in a manner consistent with the public interest.
Chapter 186 *State and Regional Planning*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Details the state-level planning requirements. Requires the development of special statewide plans governing water-use, land development, and transportation.

TABLE A-1
Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 252 *Emergency Management*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Provides for the planning and implementation of the state's response to natural and manmade disasters, efforts to recover from natural and manmade disasters, and the mitigation of natural and manmade disasters.
Chapter 253 *State Lands*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the state's administration of public lands and property the state and provides direction regarding the acquisition, disposal, and management of all state lands.
Chapter 258 *State Parks and Preserves*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the administration and management of state parks and preserves.
Chapter 259 *Land Conservation Act of 1972*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Authorizes acquisition of environmentally endangered lands and outdoor recreation lands.
Chapter 260 *Recreational Trails System*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Authorizes the acquisition of land to create a recreational trails system and to facilitate the management of the system.
Chapter 267 *Archives, History, and Records Management*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on the State's cultural resources. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to minimize impacts to cultural resources from natural resources management practices.	Addresses the management and preservation of the state's archaeological and historical resources.
Chapter 288 *Commercial Development and Capital Improvements*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Provides the framework for promoting and developing the general business, trade, and tourism components of the state economy.
Chapter 334 *Transportation Administration*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the state's policy concerning transportation administration.
Chapter 339 *Transportation Finance*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system.
Chapter 370	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be	Addresses the management and protection of the state's saltwater

TABLE A-1
Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Saltwater Fisheries	inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on the State's saltwater fisheries. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats and fisheries.	fisheries.
Chapter 372 *Wildlife*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on the State's wildlife resources. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance wildlife populations, including threatened and endangered species.	Addresses the management of the wildlife resources of the state.
Chapter 373 *Water Resources*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on the State's water resources. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to protect and enhance groundwater, surface water, and coastal/marine habitats.	Addresses the state's policy concerning water resources.
Chapter 375 *Outdoor Recreation and Conservation*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Develops a comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation plan to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate the need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose the means to meet the identified needs.
Chapter 376 *Pollutant Discharge, Prevention and Removal*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on pollutant management. The Proposed Action would improve the current natural resources management component of environmental compliance at the Base.	Regulates the transfer, storage, and transportation of pollutants, and the cleanup of pollutant discharges.
Chapter 377 *Energy Resources*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the regulation, planning, and development of the energy resources of the state.
Chapter 380 *Land and Water*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Establishes land and water management policies to guide and

TABLE A-1
Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination
EA for Implementation of Tyndall AFB INRMP

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Management		coordinate local decisions relating to growth and development.
Chapter 381 *Public Health; General Provisions* Sections 381.001, 381.0011, 381.0012, 381.006, 381.0061, 381.0065, 381.0066, 381.0067	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Establishes public policy concerning the state's public health system.
Chapter 388 *Mosquito Control*	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the mosquito control effort in the state.
Chapter 403 *Environmental Control*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on environmental control. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to manage natural resources.	Establishes public policy concerning environmental control in the state.
Chapter 582 *Soil and Water Conservation*	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would not involve any activity that would be inconsistent with this statute. Implementation of the Tyndall AFB INRMP would have a positive impact on soils. The Proposed Action would improve the Base's current ability to prevent soil erosion.	Provides for the control and prevention of soil erosion.

APPENDIX B

Regulatory Agency and Native American Tribal Correspondence

Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

March 16, 2006

Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr.
Environmental Conservation
325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403

RE: Department of the Air Force – Draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Tyndall Air Force Base – Bay County, Florida.
SAI # FL200601311859C

Dear Dr. Mobley:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced draft INRMP and EA.

Based on the information contained in the draft INRMP and EA and the comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the proposed federal activities are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

Sincerely,

Sally B. Mann

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm
Enclosures

Florida State Clearinghouse

Project Information	
Project:	FL200601311859C
Comments Due:	03/02/2006
Letter Due:	03/16/2006
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE - BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	USAF - DRAFT INRMP AND EA FOR TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE - BAY CO.
CFDA #:	12.200
Agency Comments:	
WEST FLORIDA RPC - WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
No Comments - Generally consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.	
BAY - BAY COUNTY	
No Comment	
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
NO COMMENT BY HUGH BOYTER ON 3/2/06.	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No Comment/Consistent	
TRANSPORTATION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
Released Without Comment	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
No Comments	
NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
No Comment	

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the Clearinghouse Home Page to query other projects.

Copyright and Disclaimer
Privacy Statement

COUNTY: BAY

DATE: 1/30/2006
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 3/2/2006
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/16/2006
SAI#: FL200601311859C

SCH-USAF-TY
2006-00925

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD		
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
X STATE			
TRANSPORTATION			

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2006
OIP / OLGA

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

_ Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

_ Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

_ Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE - BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA

- [x] No Comment
- [ ] Comment Attached
- [ ] Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- [x] No Comment/Consistent
- [ ] Consistent/Comments Attached
- [ ] Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- [ ] Not Applicable

Division of Historical Resources
Bureau of Historic Preservation

From:

Division/Bureau: _____

Reviewer: James E. Joner Lauma R. Kammerer Deputy SHPO

Date: 3/7/06 3.7.2006

COUNTY: BAY

DATE: 1/30/2006
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 3/2/2006
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/16/2006
SAI#: FL200601311859C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	X NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD		
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
STATE			
TRANSPORTATION			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

_ **Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.**

X **Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.**

_ **Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.**

_ **Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.**

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE - BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA

- [x] No Comment
- [ ] Comment Attached
- [ ] Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- [ ] No Comment/Consistent
- [ ] Consistent/Comments Attached
- [ ] Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- [ ] Not Applicable

NO COMMENTS

From:

Division/Bureau: NWFWMD
Resource Management Div.
Duncan J. Cairns

Reviewer: _____ Date 24 FEB 2006

Date: _____

RECEIVED
FEB 27 2006
OIP / OLGA

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Field Office
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405-3721

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tel: (850) 769-0552
Fax: (850) 763-2177

March 9, 2006

Department of the Air Force
Attention: Mr. Wesley J. P. Westphal II
Chief, Environmental Conservation
325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

Re: FWS No. 4-p-05-240
Comments/Recommendations for the
Tyndall AFB Draft INRMP EA

Dear Mr. Westphal:

Thank you for your letter received by our office on January 25, 2006, requesting our review and comment on the Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the implementation of the 325th Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). Your letter requested comments within 30 days after receipt. However, you concurred with our request to provide comments on or before March 10, 2006. Our comments and recommendations on the draft INRMP are made in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.),* and the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997, (16 U.S.C. 670a *et seq.*).

On November 2, 2005, we provided comments on the second draft INRMP. Since that date we have not reviewed, nor have we been provided with any subsequent drafts of the INRMP. Below is a summary of the coordination that has thus far taken place between our offices in the INRMP review process:

June 9, 2005	Dr. Jack Mobley of your staff met with the staff of this office and provided us with a copy of the INRMP preliminary draft.
July 15, 2005	We provided comments on the preliminary draft INRMP.
July 27, 2005	We met with Dr. Mobley and discussed our comments on the preliminary draft.
Sept. 22, 2005	Dr. Mobley provided us with the second draft INRMP with your letter requesting our comments.
August 31, 2005	Ms. Gail Carmody and I met with you to discuss the INRMP coordination process.
November 2, 2005	We provided comments on the second draft INRMP.

We wish to provide some clarification on the section 7 process under the Act that is discussed in section 4.5.5.1 of the DEA. The DEA states "*ESA Section 7 Consultation with the USFWS is required for the Tyndall AFB INRMP and has been initiated by 325 CES/CENN. Through the consultation process, USFWS would issue a Biological Opinion that provides recommendations on implementing the proposed management practices, including any potential mitigation measures for minimizing impacts.*" Our two agencies are currently in the informal consultation phase of the section 7 consultation process. Informal consultation is a process that includes all discussions and correspondence between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and a Federal agency prior to formal consultation to determine whether a proposed Federal action (in this case the implementation of the INRMP) may affect listed species or critical habitat. If a proposed Federal action may adversely affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required. However, consultation may be concluded informally when the Service concurs in writing that a proposed action is not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat. For our office to provide that concurrence, we would require the biological report referenced in our discussion of "Section 7 Requirements" in our letter of November 2, 2005.

Only as part of the formal consultation process would we issue a Biological Opinion. In the Biological Opinion, we would not include potential mitigation measures for minimizing impacts as erroneously stated in the DEA, as Federal agencies are not required to mitigate incidental take under section 7 of the Act. However, we would identify reasonable and prudent measures that are necessary to minimize the incidental take of federally listed species and associated terms and conditions that are necessary to carry out the reasonable and prudent measures that we describe. These terms and conditions would not be considered as recommendations, but would be non-discretionary in order for you to be exempt from section 9 prohibitions of the Act.

In light of the discussion above, we suggest editing the Section 4.5.5.1 of the DEA to more accurately reflect the section 7 process. We are available to provide you further guidance and information on your responsibilities under section 7 of the Act.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review the draft DEA We hope you find these comments helpful and look forward to working with you in completing the INRMP. For further project coordination, please contact Ms. Janet Mizzi at extension 247.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Mizzi
Deputy Field Supervisor

cc:
Louie Roberson, Regional Director, FWC, Panama City, FL
Tom Sinclair, Sikes Act Coordinator, FWS, Atlanta, GA

PCFO:S.Simpkins:sks:kh:03-25-06: 850-769-0552:c:/stan3/4p05240iiityndallINRMP.word.doc

From: Eric Hawk [Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 2:56 PM
To: jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil
Cc: Robert Hoffman; David Bernhart
Subject: request for review of 325 Fighter Wing's Integrated Natural Resources Managment Plan EA and FONSI

Dear Dr. Mobley,

This responds to your January 23, 2006, letter requesting review of the 325th Fighter Wing's INRMP (integrated natural resources managment plan) EA and FONSI. You have stated that none of the natural resourcs management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect any living marine resources or their habitat, that implementation of the INRMP would improve your current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats during the planning period, and that you will consult individually with NMFS on any individual projects within the INRMP planning period that may require NEPA consultation, to fulfill all NMFS requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures for projects.

For those actions which may affect listed species or designated critical habitat (an updated species list is attached to this e-mail), please initiate ESA consultation with NMFS at the appropriate time.

For proposed actions that will not affect listed species or designated critical habitat, "no effect" is the appropriate conclusion and ESA consultation is unnecessary. No-effect determinations made by a federal action agency (e.g., USAF) do not require ESA consultation with NMFS/FWS; also, no-effect determinations do not require NMFS/FWS concurrence with the determination.

Sincerely,

Eric Hawk

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please review the enclosed 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs by the applicable state single point of contact and applicable state agencies prior to implementation of the INRMP. The EA and FONSI are being submitted in electronic form on Compact Disks (CD).

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 45 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (15 CD's)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR GAIL A. CARMODY
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs by the applicable federal and state agencies prior to implementation of the INRMP. The EA is also being coordinated with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect any state or federally listed species or their habitats. Implementation of the INRMP would improve the Base's current ability to protect, restore, and maintain listed species populations during the planning period. Some individual projects proposed by the INRMP for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. 325 Fighter Wing will consult with USFWS on all such projects and fulfill all requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures for the projects.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR LT. COL. LOUIE ROBERSON, Regional Director
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, Florida 32409-1658

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP was developed in coordination with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC).

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs by the applicable federal and state agencies prior to implementation of the INRMP. The EA is also being coordinated with USFWS and NMFS, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect any state or federally listed species or their habitats. Implementation of the INRMP would improve the Base's current ability to protect, restore, and maintain listed species populations during the planning period. Some individual projects proposed by the INRMP for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. 325 Fighter Wing will consult with FFWCC on all such projects and fulfill all FFWCC requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures for the projects.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:

325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. DAVID BERNHART
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Ave South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP was developed in coordination with your office.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs by the applicable federal agencies prior to implementation of the INRMP. The EA is also being coordinated with USFWS and FFWCC, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect any living marine resources or their habitats. Implementation of the INRMP would improve the current ability to protect and enhance coastal/marine habitats during the planning period. Some individual projects proposed by the INRMP for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. 325 Fighter Wing will consult with NFMS on all such projects and fulfill all NMFS requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures for the projects.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BILLY PORTER
Chickasaw Nation
1001 Country Club Road
Ada, Oklahoma 74820

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WAYNE WILEY
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Steven Terry
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Post Office Drawer 440021
Miami, Florida 33144

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KENNETH CARLETON
Mississippi Choctaw
Post Office Box 6257
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LESTER WIGGINS
Creek Capital Complex
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT THROWER
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, Alabama 36502

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

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3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EMMAN SPAIN
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 1498
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

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3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BILLY CYPRESS
Seminole Tribe of Florida
3170 North 64th Avenue
Hollywood, Florida 33024

FROM: 325 CES/CEVN
119 Alabama Avenue
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403

SUBJECT: Request for Review of 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

1. Please find enclosed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Implementation of the 325 Fighter Wing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The EA assesses the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with implementing the INRMP during the 2006 – 2010 planning period. The INRMP is closely integrated with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which was developed in coordination with your Tribe and other Native American Tribes who have ancestral ties to Florida.

2. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670) and the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require preparation and implementation of INRMP's by Department of Defense Agencies. 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (32 CFR 989) require review and coordination on EA's and FONSIs regarding Native American Tribes. The EA is also being coordinated with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, and is undergoing public and coastal zone management consistency reviews.

3. Based on the findings of the EA, none of the natural resources management practices proposed by the INRMP are expected to adversely affect Native American cultural resources. Some individual projects proposed for the planning period may require separate, project-specific NEPA consultation and permitting. Consultation with your Tribe will be conducted to fulfill all Tribal requirements regarding survey and resource protection measures.

3. Comments should be submitted to 325 CES/CEVN within 30 days after receipt. The 325 CES/CEVN point of contact is Dr. Jack E. Mobley, Jr. at (850) 283-2641, or E-mail jack.mobley@tyndall.af.mil.

WESLEY J. P. WESTPHAL II, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Conservation

Attachment:
325 Fighter Wing Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

APPENDIX C

Public Involvement

Florida Freedom Newspapers, Inc.

PUBLISHERS OF THE NEWS HERALD
Panama City, Bay County, Florida
Published Daily

State of Florida
County of Bay

Before the undersigned authority appeared _____

Glenda Sullivan, who on oath says that (s)he

is Classified Manager of The News Herald, a daily

newspaper published at Panama City, in Bay County Florida; that the attached copy of

advertisement, being a Legal Advertisement - 1302

in the matter of Public Notice

Review of Environmental Assessment

in the Bay County

Court, was published in said newspaper in the issue of _____

JAnuary 22, 2006

Affiant further says that The News Herald is a direct successor of the Panama City News and that this publication, together with its direct predecessor, has been continuously published in said Bay County, Florida, each day (except that the predecessor, Panama City News, was not published on Sundays), and that this publication together with its said predecessor, has been entered as periodicals matter at the post office in Panama City, in said Bay County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

Glenda Sullivan

State of Florida
County of Bay
Sworn and subscribed before me this 23rd day of January, A.D., 2006 by Glenda Sullivan, Classified Manager of The News Herald, who is personally known to me or has produced NA as identification.

Marie Forrest

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large

Marie Forrest
MY COMMISSION # DD219621 EXPIRES
May 5, 2007
BONDED THRU TROY FAIN INSURANCE, INC.

1302
PUBLIC NOTICE

REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) has prepared a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and supporting Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Tyndall AFB Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The Tyndall AFB INRMP will provide management guidelines for the conservation, rehabilitation, and multipurpose utilization of natural resources on the Base during the 2006 - 2010 planning period. The INRMP has been developed to support the military mission; provide sound ecosystem management; maximize the multiple benefits of natural resources; and promote collaborative stewardship between the Base and various agencies, organizations, and affected public. The Draft FONSI and EA have been prepared as part of the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR 989) to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968, as Amended (NEPA). The Draft FONSI and EA are available for public review and comment beginning 23 January 2006 at the Bay County Public Library, located at 25 West Government Street, Panama City, Florida 32401, and at the 325 Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, located at the address below. The comment period will close on 21 February 2006. Address written comments to the 325 Fighter Wing Public Affairs, 445 Suwanee Road, Suite 129, Tyndal AFB, Florida 32403. The telephone number is (850) 283-4500.
January 22, 2006