

Tyndall receives \$10M in 2021 REPI Challenge

By Shawn Rose

AFCEC Installations Directorate

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – A total of \$10.05 million could help Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, become an Installation of the Future.

In June, the installation received a \$4.8 million in funding from the Department of Defense, Readiness Environmental Protection Integration program's REPI Challenge and \$5.25 million more from the Nature Conservancy. The project will support a multifaceted approach to improve the resiliency of the base, including constructing up to 1,000 feet of living shorelines and up to 3,500 feet of submerged shoreline. Additionally, the project will create 1,500 feet of oyster reef habitat and protect or enhance the shoreline habitat next to Tyndall's drone runway, a critical base operation.

The conservancy was the nominating partner and will serve with Tyndall AFB as the execution agent. The Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Installation Directorate will serve as management and program oversight.

Tyndall is still recovering from Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 hurricane that hit the installation in October 2018 and caused more than \$3 billion in damage. Located on the Florida's Gulf Coast, Tyndall hosts fifthgeneration aircraft training and development with direct access to training airspace over the Gulf of Mexico. The base is currently home to numerous U.S. Air Force organizations and units, including AFCEC's Energy, Operations and Readiness Directorates and the 325th Fighter Wing.

The REPI program fosters multi-agency initiatives and collaboration to preserve compatible land uses near military installations and ranges. These efforts preserve and enhance Department of Defense assets and capabilities in support of military readiness through the creation of unique cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and private conservation organizations.

REPI awarded \$15.6 million in program funds to be coupled with almost \$21.6 million in partner contributions to implement seven projects that limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience, and protect local habitat to preserve and enhance key capabilities. By spreading funding across seven projects, the 2021 REPI Challenge contributed to initiatives benefiting 12 installations and their communities across the country.