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## Pensacola base may be put on Superfund cleanup list'

**Associated Press -**

PENSACOLA — The Pensacola Naval Air Station is expected to be added to the nation's Superfund list of serious hazardous waste sites in the near future, but cleanup and prevention already are under way, a Navy spokesman said yesterday.

Fuel oils, paint strippers, pesticides, gasoline, jet fuel, industrial sludges and other wastes have been buried at up to 17 on-base dumps and some have caused groundwater pollution, said Harry White, a civilian spokesman for the base.

However, he added, there has been no pollution of adjacent bayous or Pensacola Bay or drinking water, which is drawn from an aquifer far below the tainted groundwater, White said.

"We don't have any slimy, green ooze coming out of the ground or anything of that nature," White said.

He said base officials decided to announce the likely addition of the air station to the Superfund list although they are uncertain exactly when the Environmental Protection Agency will make the designation.

"We don't want it to be a shock to the locals," White said. "What we want to do is allay the fears of the people."

White has scheduled a news conference for Friday to present detailed information on the locations of the sites and what has been buried in each.

Although as many as 17 dumps have been identified, most have been cleaned up or are under control, White said. The pollution is most serious at two sites, one near the station's golf course and the other at a retired landing field where wastes were buried from the 1930s through the early 1960s.

Once on the list, additional studies would be conducted to determine how the sites should be cleaned up or contained.

Federally owned sites were not eligible for the Superfund until 1984 when Congress amended the 1980 law that created the National Priorities List. Military bases, however, do not draw money from the Superfund itself, but from a separate pool of dollars set aside for the Defense Department.

After preliminary studies indicated a problem, the air station established the Navy's first Environmental Compliance Board last year to coordinate cleanup and prevention efforts of various units on the base.

The station is home to a maintenance depot that refurbishes aircraft; various flight and other aviation training activities; the aircraft carrier USS Lexington, which is temporarily docked in downtown Pensacola; the U.S. Naval Aviation Museum; the Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron; and historic forts under supervision of the National Park Service.

A program also has been launched to minimize the production of hazardous wastes including waste-control training and modifications of a metal plating shop and efforts to contain, collect or reclaim paint stripping waste and solvents. The base's wastewater treatment plant also has been upgraded and a hazardous waste storage facility has been built.

The Naval Aviation Depot has developed a Hazardous Material Control Program that base officials say is a showcase for the Navy. Each production shop has a computerized list of hazardous materials to help control them.

The Navy has removed or replaced 60 underground storage tanks for fuels and other hazardous liquids at a cost of \$500,000. Additional tank removal and replacement is planned to put the base in compliance with Florida's first-in-the-nation underground tank law.

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