

Place stamp here



Remotely operated magnet recovered six, 25-lb practice bombs from excavated roadbed during the test.

Remotely Operated Vehicle for Underwater Investigations

The munitions investigation and response teams have begun using a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to help with underwater biological surveys, underwater equipment inspections, and munitions surrogate tracking in situations where safety can be enhanced by the use of the ROV while providing the same or enhanced information traditionally provided by divers.

Recently, ROV surveys for federally listed Caribbean coral species and sensitive habitats were conducted in two coastal locations. The ROV allowed on-boat biologists to document if and where these species occur relative to munitions locations so proper procedures can be developed and implemented to ensure protection of these resources during munitions removal activities.



ROV equipment is used for underwater investigations in Vieques.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are the munitions clean-up data recorded and stored?

Data are collected using hand-held global positioning system (GPS) devices that are equipped with specialized software. The GPS and software allow the field teams to record the item locations as well as specific information about the items. The data are then loaded to a central database at the end of each day, then reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

Following this quality review, the data are used by the project team for tracking, planning, and reporting, as well as communicating clean-up progress with the community.



How can I find information about the specific sites that are being cleaned up now and about future plans for the cleanup?

The Site Management Plan (SMP) documents the status of all sites and provides a schedule for planned investigation and clean-up activities. The SMP identifies the funding expected to be allocated to the Navy for clean-up activities. The SMP also lists all final documents submitted from the start of clean-up activities. The Navy and other stakeholder agencies update the SMP every year and makes it available for public review prior to finalizing it. Following a 30-day public comment period on the Draft Final SMP, the Final Fiscal Year 2016 SMP will be issued in November 2016, and will be accessible on the Navy's Public Website at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques> under Site Descriptions and in the Administrative Record.

How can the community get involved in the cleanup?

There are multiple ways that interested parties can stay informed and engaged in the cleanup process:

- Attend RAB meetings. The RAB provides a valuable link between the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, FWS, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and the local community, as the investigation and cleanup of Vieques sites continues. The RAB meets every 3 months and meetings are open to the public.
- Become a RAB member by contacting Madeline Rivera, Navy Vieques Site Manager by telephone at 787-741-4792 or email at madeline.rivera@navy.mil.
- Provide comments on proposed clean-up decisions. The Navy publishes public notices seeking comments from the community on documents such as Proposed Plans and Engineering Evaluations/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs) in a local newspaper, newsletters and flyers, and posts them on the Navy's public website.
- Attend Environmental Fairs, workshops, poster sessions, and site visits to learn more about the cleanup process and munitions safety.
- Visit the Navy's public website at www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ViequesRestoration to find information about site activities and opportunities for community members to participate in the cleanup process.
- Find documents associated with the clean-up process in the Administrative Record (AR). The AR is available on the Navy's public website.



NOVEMBER 2015

Community Activities Update

Community Involvement Plan Update

After review and input by the regulatory agencies and the public, the Final Community Involvement Plan (CIP) Update was issued on October 9, 2015.

The updated CIP includes outreach and communication tools that have been and will continue to be used to help keep the community safe, informed, and engaged during the cleanup activities. It also provides for new and improved methods, such as the use of social media, a suggestion made by the community during the data gathering process in 2014.

The document is available in the Administrative Record at www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques. Internet access is available at the

Vieques Public Library (Oficina de Asuntos de la Juventud) and the Luz de la Esperanza Public Library. Paper copies are available at the EPA Region 2 Vieques Field Office.

Restoration Advisory Board and Community Activities

The Vieques Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and community members participated in the following activities related to the cleanup during the last six months:

- The RAB visited several areas (SWMU 4 and SWMU 6) on west Vieques in May 2015 to observe the cleanup progress.
- The RAB and community participated in RAB meetings in February, May, and September 2015. The meetings addressed munitions safety and removal, environmental studies, underwater investigations, and overall site status.
- A total of 10 draft final documents related to various cleanup sites were provided to the RAB for review.
- The Vieques Independent Scientific Commission visited Laguna Anones in July 2015.

Get Involved

✓ Attend quarterly RAB meetings to hear about the latest cleanup activities, ask questions, and provide input.

The next RAB meeting will be held on November 17, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Punta Mulas Lighthouse, Route #200, Vieques, P.R.



Restoration Advisory Board meetings provide a venue for two-way communication about cleanup activities in English and Spanish.



911 or (787) 741-2020

For more information contact:
James Brantley, NAVFAC ATLANTIC Public Affairs Officer (757) 322-8005

Vieques Cleanup Program Information Update Request

Fill-out and return this request form if you are interested in receiving Vieques cleanup program updates. **Please print legibly.** You may also send an email to any of the Navy contacts indicating your interest in receiving information about the cleanup program. If you have already signed up or emailed us, you already are part of our contact list and will receive our updates.

Name _____

Email Address (if available) _____

Mailing Address _____

I would like to receive NAVFAC updates by email. I would like receive NAVFAC updates by regular mail.

Return information update request by mail to:
CH2M HILL, Attention: Vieques Community Involvement Team, 5701 Cleveland Street, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Fair

The Navy shared cleanup information and safety tips, and engaged the public in interactive activities at the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Visitors Center during the National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Fair on October 16, 2015.

Young attendees participated in a magnetometer demonstration and explained how the instrument is used to look for metallic objects in the sand. More than 200 attendees visited the NAVFAC tent.



NAVFAC personnel and contractors shared cleanup information with the community at the FWS Environmental Fair.

Munitions Response and Environmental Restoration Activities Update

Site Updates

SWMU 4 (West Vieques)

The Navy is removing munitions at the former Open Burn/Open Detonation Area (SWMU 4) to facilitate FWS plans to open portions of the area to the public. As of October 2015, more than 130 acres have been cleared of munitions as part of two Non-Time Critical Removal Actions (NCRAs) and related activities. Areas that have been or are anticipated to be cleared by early 2016 are:

- 1) Roads and planned hiking trails
- 2) Beach
- 3) Planned parking and picnic areas
- 4) Planned observation tower
- 5) Areas planned for hunting
- 6) Former OB/OD locations

Beach Dynamics Investigation

An evaluation of the dynamic nature of beaches and how munitions may move between the beaches and underwater areas continued into its seventh month in October. Data collected to date include effects of Tropical Storm Erika on the beaches and near-shore areas, which will be critical to understanding how major storm events may affect movement of near shore munitions, bury munitions previously exposed, or expose previously buried munitions on beaches. Elevations of the seabed and beaches will be coupled with oceanographic and weather data to model the amount of change that can

be anticipated over time. This information can then be used to best plan clean-up and long term monitoring of the beaches and near-shore areas.

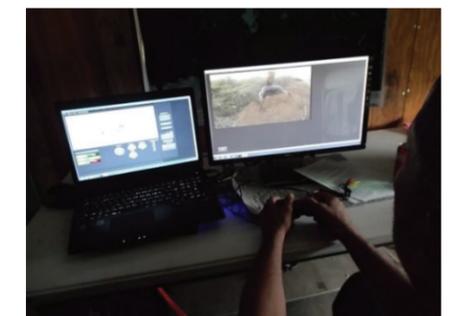
Underwater Investigations and Clean Up

In addition to the work being conducted as part of the Beach Dynamics Investigation, other underwater investigations and clean ups are in the planning stages. For example, the work plan for removing munitions items identified in the waters around Cayo la Chiva is currently being prepared. The munitions removal is planned for 2016. In addition, the work plan for conducting the Wide Area Assessment across the underwater munitions site (UXO 16) is nearing completion. The assessment is intended to identify areas within UXO 16 where large clusters of munitions may be present. This information can then be used to prioritize areas for further, more focused investigations. The Wide Area Assessment is anticipated to be conducted in 2016.

Technology Highlights

Clean-up Program Tests Use of Robotics Technology for Munitions Removal

In 2014 and 2015, the Navy tested un-manned, remotely-operated equipment, referred to as "robotics," for munitions removal on Vieques. The robotics equipment demonstrated that in certain areas it may provide a safer, more cost-effective and efficient alternative to the traditional manual methods of munitions removal. Robotics can significantly reduce the potential for worker contact with munitions by performing a number of activities remotely (e.g., vegetation cutting, lifting and moving munitions, etc.). Further testing and use of robotics equipment for certain munitions removal activities is planned for 2016.



Control Center provides the operator with multiple camera views and global positioning system (GPS) tracking of the robotics equipment, which is operated using a modified game console controller.

Munitions Safety



Recognize, retreat, and report (the 3Rs) if you encounter munitions or any item of which you are unsure.

Recognize

If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition or see something of which you are unsure, consider it extremely dangerous. Remember, munitions are sometimes hard to identify.

Retreat

If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, do not touch, move or disturb it, but immediately and carefully leave the area following the same path on which you entered. If you can do so safely, mark the general area, not the munition, in some manner (for example, with a hat, piece of cloth, or by tying a piece of plastic to a tree branch, but do not touch the item).

Report

When you think you may have encountered a munition, call 911 or the police at 787-741-2020 to report what you have found.

Important Contacts

Dan Waddill
 Head of Vieques Restoration Section
 Telephone: (757) 322-4983
 E-mail: Dan.Waddill@navy.mil

Daniel Hood
 Remedial Project Manager
 Vieques Restoration Section
 Telephone: (757) 322-4630
 E-mail: Daniel.R.Hood@navy.mil

Kevin Cloe
 Remedial Project Manager
 Vieques Restoration Section
 Telephone: (757) 322-4736
 E-mail: Kevin.Cloe@navy.mil

Madeline Rivera
 Vieques Site Manager
 Vieques Restoration Section
 Vieques Field Office, Camp Garcia
 Telephone (757) 741-4792
 E-mail: Madeline.Rivera@navy.mil

Daniel Rodriguez
 EPA Remedial Project Manager
 Vieques Field Office
 Telephone: (787) 741-5201
 E-mail: Rodriguez.Daniel@epamail.epa.gov

Mike Barandiaran
 Vieques National Wildlife
 Refuge Manager
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Telephone: (787) 741-2138
 E-mail: Mike_Barandiaran@fws.gov

Susan Silander
 Refuge System Supervisor, Wildlife
 Refuge Administration
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Telephone: 787-851-7258, ext. 238
 E-mail: susan_silander@fws.gov

Gloria Toro
 Environmental Permits Officer
 Puerto Rico Environmental Quality
 Board
 Telephone: (787) 767-8181, ext. 3586
 E-mail: GloriaToro@jca.pr.gov

Craig Lilyestrom
 Director, Marine Resources Division
 Puerto Rico Department of Natural and
 Environmental Resources
 Telephone: (787) 772-2022
 Email: craig.lilyestrom@drna.pr.gov