



NAVFAC

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Vieques Clean up News!

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Navy installs Bahia Icacos waterway barrier system to increase safety

It is common knowledge that there are munitions in the waters surrounding the former Navy range on eastern Vieques. But trespassing into areas containing dangerous munitions has continued to increase – despite warning signs and buoys, publication of explosive safety advisories in local newspapers, and flyers and newsletters distributed in the community. For this reason and to increase safety in the area, the US Navy has installed a water way barrier system across entry points to Bahia Icacos, a popular yet dangerous destination adjacent to the former Vieques Naval Training Range.



A warning buoy installed in the bay at Bahia Icacos.

The waterway barrier system is constructed in three sections across Bahia Icacos. The main purpose of the barrier is to restrict recreational vessels, which anchor in Bahia Icacos and may encounter submerged munitions, from entering the bay and exposing everyone aboard to great risks. The barrier will also help control access during the underwater investigations that are scheduled to begin next year.



The barriers warn boaters in English and Spanish about the dangers of trespassing

In addition to the barriers, three mariner warning buoys and six reef marker buoys were installed to advise mariners that potential damage to vessels may occur if they proceed beyond the warning points.

Throughout the water way barrier construction process, the Navy took steps approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service to protect threatened and endangered species in the area.

The barrier system will remain in place until investigations and cleanup efforts are complete and hazards associated with munitions and explosives in the vicinity of Bahia Icacos have been mitigated.