



# Vieques Cleanup News!

For more information, please contact:

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<http://public.lantops-ir.org/sites/public/vieques>

June 2010

## Members of the RAB visit the Eastern Conservation Area



Members of the Vieques Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) visited the Eastern Conservation Area (ECA). During the site visit on May 19, 2010, representatives from the Vieques Wildlife Refuge – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB), the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Navy shared information and answered questions about the ongoing munitions response and environmental investigations in this area.

The site visit was preceded by a RAB meeting May 18, 2010, at the Icehouse in Isabel Segunda. Participants heard updates on cleanup activities from the Navy, EPA, EQB and FWS.

### The RAB looks for new members

NAVAC Atlantic invites interested members of the public to participate in the investigation and cleanup process by joining the RAB. RAB membership forms area available through the following link <http://public.lantops-ir.org/sites/public/vieques>. Hard copies are available in EPA's office in Vieques and at Camp Garcia. Please submit the completed forms to Madeline Rivera at [made-line.rivera@navy.mil](mailto:made-line.rivera@navy.mil) or submit them in person at Camp Garcia. The deadline to submit renewal applications or new applications is August 18, 2010.

## Vieques Clean Up partnership is recognized

The Vieques Environmental Restoration Program has received two prestigious awards for excellent environmental stewardship. On June 1, 2010, the Vieques team was awarded the Secretary of the Navy Environmental *Restoration Team Award for FY09* and the *Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Restoration Team Award for FY 09*.

These awards reflect the successful partnership among Navy, Puerto Rico Government, Dept. of Interior, regulatory agencies and supporting contractors. Key accomplishments include working together to reach the Program's goal: reducing munitions and environmental risks and making Vieques a safer place for residents and visitors.

## NOAA Study: Vieques Marine Environment Contamination Levels Similar to Rest of Region

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has published a new study on the health of the marine environment of the island of Vieques.

A June 4, 2010, news release from NOAA stated, "Scientists are reporting that contamination of coastal sediments and corals is generally low and the condition of fish populations, coral reef ecosystem conditions, and contaminant levels around Vieques are comparable to those for other coral reef ecosystems in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Their condition appears to be shaped primarily by regional-scale processes such as nutrient enrichment and overfishing rather than local factors."

The full report, *An Ecological Characterization of the Marine Resources of Vieques, Puerto Rico*, can be found online at <http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coralreef/vieques.html#products>.