

*Sindolfo, Camp Garcia RR-0002
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NEWS RELEASE

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Roosevelt Roads Proves Contamination Charges False

(Vieques, Puerto Rico) Roosevelt Roads Naval Base today made public a letter issued over a year ago by an EPA-contracted environmental firm stating waste sites at the Navy's Camp Garcia in Vieques are within legal limits and require no clean-up action.

Several newspapers carried stories earlier in the week generated by a Spanish wire service indicating that Camp Garcia was among contaminated areas on an Environmental Protection Agency potential hazardous site list. In reality, the EPA's Region II investigation team, NUS, a New Jersey-based corporation that is a dedicated contractor to the EPA, performed an investigation concluding in March 1990 with the recommendation to the EPA that no further action was required at the sites on Camp Garcia.

After reviewing hazardous waste site dossiers, preliminary assessments, site inspections prepared by the EPA Office of Federal Activities and an initial assessment study (IAS) prepared by the Naval Energy and Environmental Support Activity, NUS Corporation concluded that no hazardous substances had been identified or reported at any of the four potential hazardous waste sites on Camp Garcia, and that no further action was required on the part of the EPA. The four Camp Garcia locations were originally placed on the list of potential hazardous waste sites because they were used for waste disposal between 1947 and 1979. One site was capped in 1977, another in 1978 and the remaining two in 1979 in conjunction with the disestablishment of U.S. Marine activities at Camp Garcia. The IAS also concluded that the Camp Garcia landfill sites did not constitute a potential pollution threat to the environment.

Land on Camp Garcia is managed by the environmental engineering division at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station Public Works Department. The division employs five full-time environmental engineers, with a full-time land use manager dedicated to Vieques environmental protection. The division was recently recognized by the Department of the Navy for outstanding natural resource management on Vieques from 1988-90.

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