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Mr. Esteban Mujica Cotto
Chairman, Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 11488
Santurce, PR 00910

Dear Mr. Mujica Cotto:

This letter is in reply of your letter of April 21, 2003, related to the inspection performed on April 15, 2003 on Red and Blue beaches located on the Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR), Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Since some aspects of the land transfer of the VNTR are still under negotiation with the Department of the Interior, this letter will only address the debris noted during the inspection.

The weight lifting bench located at Red beach has been removed. The topped 55-gallon drum buried in the sand was used as a latrine during the time public was allowed to use those beaches. The drum has also been removed. The fiberglass landing mats will be completely removed by May 1, 2003.

As might be expected in any beach, users leave trash behind, and debris is brought up to the surface by tide exchanges. We policed the beaches once again and removed any large pieces of debris, various bottles and cans, and the fluorescent light bulbs.

Should you need additional information, please contact Mrs. Madeline Rivera, Environmental Program Manager, Environmental Engineering Division, Public Works Department, at (787) 865-4152 ext. 460.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. WARNECKE
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer