

12/9/05-02461



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
ATLANTIC
6506 HAMPTON BLVD
NORFOLK VA 23508-1278

TELEPHONE NO:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 9, 2005

State Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Ms. Aida Belen Rivera Ruiz
State Historic Preservation Officer
Cuartel de Ballaja
Office 336A
Old San Juan
San Juan, PR 00906-6581

Re: Environmental Investigations at the Former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR), Vieques, Puerto Rico

Dear Ms. Rivera Ruiz:

The Department of the Navy is currently in the process of conducting evaluation and remediation work on portions of Vieques where contamination may be present as a result of past Navy practices. The evaluation and remediation is being conducted under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program, with the intention of identifying, locating, and treating or removing environmental contaminants. In the course of implementing this program, archaeological resources may be encountered. While many of the study areas are in previously disturbed locations and in areas where archaeological surveys have been completed, some of the areas may not be where significant Navy activities occurred in the past. Therefore, the Navy is submitting the attached information for your review and comment pursuant to Section 106.

In early November, two work plans detailing the environmental investigations to be conducted on the former VNTR were sent to you. These work plans are entitled:

Draft Final Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Work Plan for Eight PI/PA OC Sites, Former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR), Vieques Island, Puerto Rico (CH2M HILL, September 2005)

Revised Draft Final Work Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan, Soil Inorganics Background Investigation, Former Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico (CH2M HILL, March 2005)

In a follow-up call to you made by our contractor representative, Mr. Brett Doerr/CH2M HILL, on November 9, 2005, Mr. Doerr summarized to you how the Background Investigation is to take place. Soil samples are to be collected at approximately 29 background locations across the western portion of the former VNTR. At each of these locations, a hand-held probe rod (i.e., several inches in diameter) will be pushed into the ground at a single boring location to collect the soil samples. Further, no mechanized vegetation clearance activities will be required at these locations. Based on this information, you indicated to Mr. Doerr that an archaeological survey would not be required at the background sample locations.

December 9, 2005

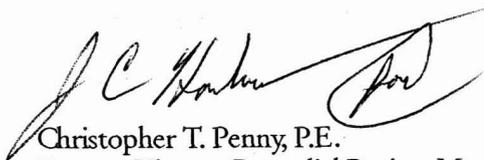
this information, you indicated to Mr. Doerr that an archaeological survey would not be required at the background sample locations.

In addition to the background sampling activity discussed above, an environmental investigation will be conducted at eight PI/PAOC sites within the western portion of the former VNTR, as described in the work plan sent to you in early November. In support of the planned investigation, Geo-Marine, Inc. was contracted to perform an archaeological survey of the eight PI/PAOC sites. Their work comprised an historical records search for previously conducted surveys and performance of field surveys for areas where no historical survey had been conducted. During the course of their work, no archaeological sites were identified within the environmental study areas, and no additional archaeological investigations are recommended. A copy of the Geo-Marine letter summarizing their survey activities, findings, and recommendations is enclosed.

The environmental investigations at the former VNTR sites described above are planned for early January 2006. Therefore, the Navy requests a reply to the Navy's determination of no effect on the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2005.

We appreciate your input in this process and look forward to continue the communication flow between the agencies. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate in contacting me at 757-322-4815.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Penny, P.E.
Eastern Vieques Remedial Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic
Environmental Division
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure

Copy to:

PREQB (Ms. Yarissa Martínez)

NAVFAC ATLANTIC (Messrs. Byron Brant, Jeff Harlow, Bruce Larson, Johnny Noles; Ms. Madeline Rivera)

USEPA (Mr. Daniel Rodríguez)

DOI (Ms. Susan Silander; Messrs. Bud Oliviera, Oscar Díaz)

CH2MHILL (Messrs. Brett Doerr, John Tomik, Ms. Susana Struve)



GEO-MARINE, INC.
ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SM

November 22, 2005

Mr. Brett Doerr
CH2M HILL
5700 Cleveland Street
Suite 101
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**RE: Archaeological Survey of Land Parcels at the Former Vieques Naval Training Range,
Vieques, Puerto Rico, Purchase Order No. 911838, Project No. 183719 CTO-039
Contract No. N62470-02-D-3052**

Dear Mr. Doerr:

Archaeological fieldwork for the Phase I Archaeological Survey of land parcels at the Former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR), Vieques, Puerto Rico was conducted by Geo-Marine, Inc. (GMI) on November 14-18, 2005. The overall purpose of the survey was to determine the presence or absence of National Register-eligible sites that could be impacted from vegetation removal and soil sampling activities associated with work being conducted by CH2M HILL for NAVFAC Atlantic, under the Comprehensive Long-term Environmental Action Navy (CLEAN) III Contract on Vieques Island.

The archaeological investigation was conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended through 1992 (Public Law 89-665 *et seq.*), and in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (Federal Register 1983). Also applicable are OPNAVINST 5090.1B, Chapter 23, *Historic and Archaeological Resources Protection*, and 36 CFR Part 800, *Protection of Historic Properties*. The investigation included a review of known previous archaeological work and relevant studies associated with the project area and fieldwork. Background research was conducted through review of documents held at the Office of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Norfolk, Virginia and Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, Puerto Rico. Archaeological site files, previous reports, maps, historic aerial photography, digital orthophotography, and other documents were examined.

The following summarizes the archaeological work conducted for this project.

CH2M HILL has identified eight land parcels sites in and around Camp Garcia that will be subject to environmental investigations. These areas are located in the former Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA) and consist of:

PI-4 (44 acres)
PI-7 (40 acres)
PAOC-J (2 acres)
PAOC-K (2 acres)
PAOC-L (2 acres)
PAOC-N (2 acres)
PAOC-S (2 acres) & 1500-m former pipeline
PAOC-U (1 acre)

Prior to initiation of this Work Order, GMI determined through background research that all of PI-4, 39 acres of PI-7, PAOC-J, PAOC-K, PAOC-L and the eastern 600-m of the PAOC-S former pipeline had been previously surveyed according to professional archaeological standards in 1995-1998 by R.C. Goodwin & Associates. No sites were found in the survey areas corresponding to the PI and PAOC areas, and these



areas were thus eliminated from the current survey. However, numerous Historical and Precolumbian archaeological resources are known to exist in the vicinity of Camp Garcia and remaining unsurveyed areas are thus considered sensitive for archaeological resources. Pedestrian archaeological survey and systematic subsurface testing was therefore conducted in the following areas:

- PI-7 – former Radar Site northwest of Camp Garcia (1 acre)
- PAOC-S, PAOC-N, PAOC-U – a seven acre block located in eastern portion of Camp Garcia
- PAOC-S – the western 900 meters of former pipeline located on northern fringe of Bahía Tapón

In total, 93 shovel test pits were systematically excavated at 20-m intervals in all areas of less than 10% slopes and undisturbed areas. One isolated find was recorded in shovel tests but no archaeological sites were recorded. The recovered artifact consists of a metal alloy religious pendant recovered from ST A-5 at Camp Garcia. Other materials observed in shovel tests included glass, metal, and rubber fragments of modern origin and were not collected. The artifact find is considered to be a casual discard and is not part of a larger archaeological site. GMI recommends that no additional archaeological investigations are warranted in the project areas.

We will be submitting a Draft Report for your review and distribution within 30 days. Should you have any questions regarding these findings please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 799-3643 or (757) 873-3702. We appreciate the opportunity to assist CH2M HILL with this project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Sara".

Timothy R. Sara, RPA
Project Manager/Principal Investigator

cc: J. Swenfurth (CH2M HILL)
D. Franz (GMI)
File 35000.37.01