



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

4/18/06-02530

TELEPHONE NO:  
(757) 322-4815

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
EV42CTP:lfm  
April 18, 2006

Mr. Craig Lilyestrom  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
Department of Natural and Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 9066600  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906-6600

RE: INSTALLATION OF WARNING BUOYS NOTIFICATION, EAST VIEQUES

Dear Mr. Lilyestrom:

This letter is a notification of the intention of the U.S. Navy to install seven warning buoys within the danger area of the Vieques Navy Training Range. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic (NAVFAC Atlantic) is the Navy command responsible for implementing a clean up program for the former Navy facilities in Vieques. The site was designated by the U.S. EPA a National Priority List (NPL) Site on February 7, 2005, therefore removal actions are undertaken under the authority of CERCLA and exempted from permits. Munitions removal actions are currently under way at the former VNTR to reduce the risk posed by unexploded ordnance left in the area from past military practices.

The enclosed package includes information about the work and the location of the buoys within the danger area.

If you have any question or require additional information, please contact Mrs. Madeline Rivera at (787) 865-4152, extension 460.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER T. PENNY, P.E.  
Vieques Project Coordinator  
Environmental Restoration Section  
Environmental Restoration & Support Branch  
Environmental Division  
By direction of the Commander

Copy to: See Page 2

Copy to:

Felix Lopez Arroyo	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Oscar Diaz	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Bud Oliveira	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Susan Silander	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Yarissa Martinez	Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
Daniel Rodriguez	US EPA Caribbean Office
John Reyes	US Coast Guard San Juan Office
Ernesto Diaz	PR Dept of Natural and Environmental resources
Madeline Rivera	NAVFAC /Naval Activity Puerto Rico

**Project Title:** Installation of warning buoys within danger area of Vieques Navy Training Range, East Vieques

**Type of Activity:** The U.S. Navy will install warning buoys within the designated danger area of East Vieques to warn boaters of the danger present in the area by unexploded ordnance from past military practices.

**Point of Contact:** Madeline Rivera, Naval Facility Engineering Command, US Navy  
PO Box 1418  
Ceiba, PR 00735  
787-865-4152 x460

**Name of Waterway at Work:** Vieques Passage,  
Former Vieques Training Range Danger Zone

**Previous Meetings:**

1. Consultation with Ms. Myrna López of Army Corps of Engineer, San Juan Office on March 2006 (e-mail attached). Ms. López recommended installing buoys within the perimeter of the danger area.
2. Meetings with Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Administrator, Mr. Ernesto Diaz, and Coast Guard Information Specialist, Mr. John Reyes, to discuss the need for placing these warning buoys. Both agencies support the project.
3. The PR Environmental Quality Board Federal Facilities Coordinator, Ms. Yarrisa Martinez, and EPA Remedial Project Manager for the Vieques Clean up Project, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez have knowledge of the project and support it.
4. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vieques National Refuge Manager, Mr. Oscar Diaz, as owner of the lands, has requested that the U.S. Navy install the buoys to prevent unauthorized people from entering the restricted lands.

**Description of Work**

**Background:** Public Law (PL) 106-398 Section 1502 of October 30, 2000 transferred the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment on the West of Vieques to the Municipality of Vieques, and Section 1508 transferred the Conservation Zones on the West of Vieques to Department of the Interior (DOI). PL 107-107 Section 1049 of December 28, 2001, which amended PL 106-398, transferred the former Vieques Navy Training Range on East Vieques to DOI. The same laws designated the Secretary of the Navy responsible for the environmental conditions of the property. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic Division (NAVFAC ATL) was designated by the Secretary of the Navy as the Navy command responsible for executing environmental clean up on those lands identified as contaminated property in the transfer deed or the Public Laws.

In February 7, 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the former Navy facilities in Vieques, including the surrounding waters of the former range a National Priority List site under CERCLA, per the request of former governor of Puerto Rico, Sila M. Calderon. See Attachment A.

NAVFAC ATL began in March 2005 the implementation of a Time Critical Removal Action on those munitions sites identified as presenting a greater explosive safety hazard to reduce the risks posed by Munitions and Explosives of Concern, including unexploded ordnance (UXO) present or partially exposed at the ground surface. Any UXO found in the area is treated by demolition in place.

**Problem:** During the course of executing the Time Critical Removal Action, the Navy contractors conducting the daily tasks of identifying, collecting and detonating those items found on the ground surface have encountered trespassers within the work site and on the beaches, or boats anchoring within the danger zone of the VNTR. This not only endangers the lives of those trespassing but also the lives of the workers. The Navy has blocked the roads that lead to the former ranges and placed signs along the beaches not open to the public. The Navy has also published notices about the danger that the UXO present in those areas, including the waters, pose to the public but some visitors are ignoring these warnings. Every time work is disrupted by unauthorized entry into the work area, time and funds are wasted delaying the munitions removal actions.

**Proposed Action:** The Navy will install warning buoys within the designated danger area specified in 33 CFR 334.1470 to warn visitors before they reach the beaches, or boaters not to anchor in these waters. This project is executed as part of the Vieques NPL site following CERCLA process at the direction of EPA.

The project will install seven warning foam buoys in the locations marked on Figure 1, which are within the coordinates identified by the Coast Guard in Attachment B. The buoys were transferred to the U.S. Navy by the Coast Guard San Juan Sector to be installed as Private Aids to Navigation.

The buoys will be white in color with orange retro reflective bands and warning symbols. The warning symbol will be open diamonds painted on the buoys 180 degrees apart, with the wording "No Anchor Area -Unexploded Ordnance" inside the diamonds, and the words "Danger" on top of the diamonds, in English and Spanish (Figure 2). The buoys will be anchored in place with chain and concrete sinkers weighting not less than 1,000 pounds. The buoys will be identified with an alphabetical letter (A-G). Certified UXO technicians will survey each location for unexploded ordnance prior to lowering the sinkers. Also, the buoys will not be placed in areas containing sea grass beds.

Attachment A - NPL Listing  
Attachment B - CG forms

Figure 1 - Buoys location within danger area  
Figure 2 - Buoys specifications

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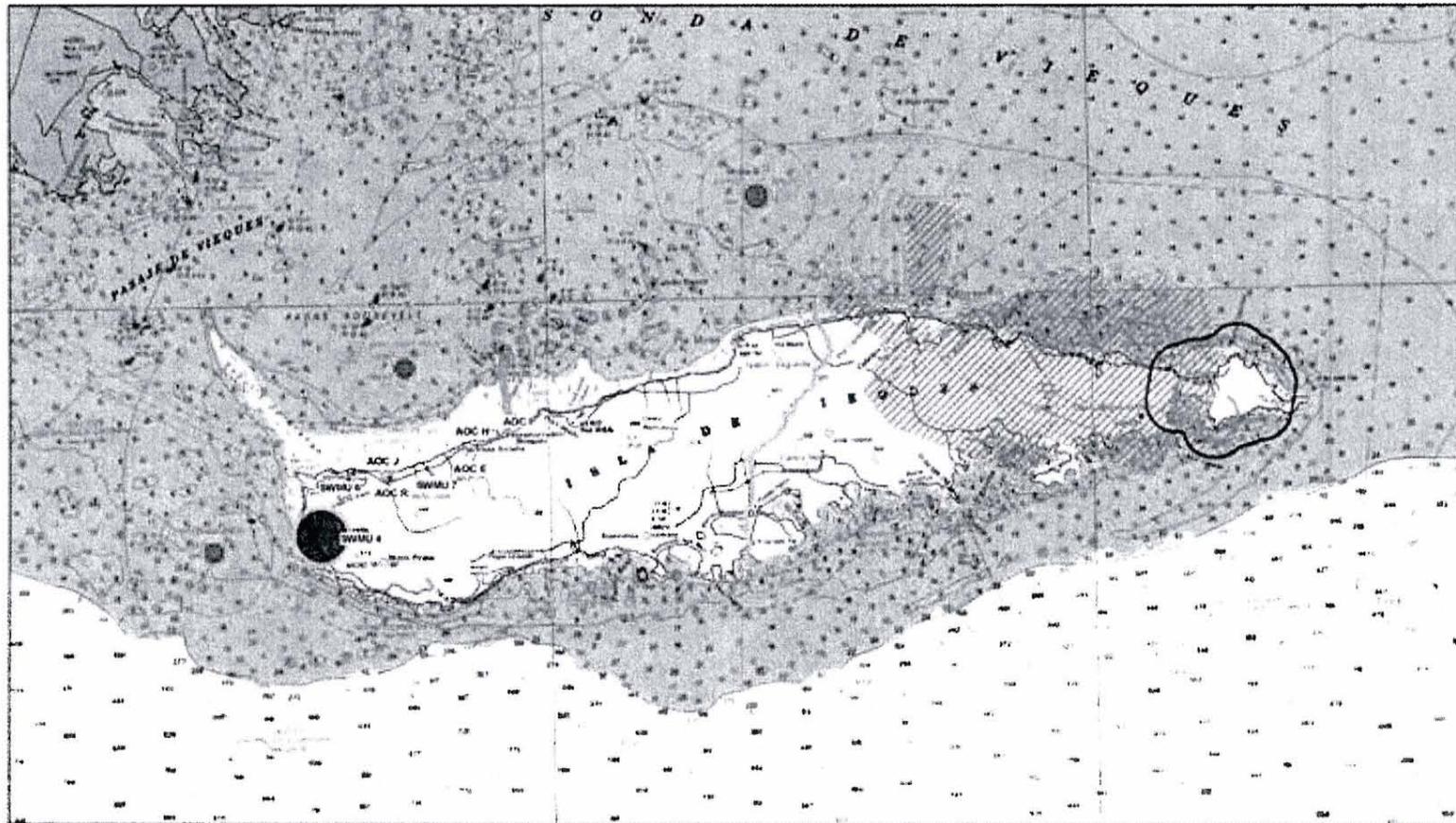
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Attachment A - NPL Listing

Attachment B- CG forms

Figure 1 - Buoys location within danger area

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**Legend**

- |                                   |   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Explosive Safety Quarry Distance  | Western Vieques Environmental Site            | <b>Water Depth</b>    |
| Agreed Areas of Proposed NPL Site | SWMU 4 (Former OROD Site)                     | 0-10 Feet             |
| Anchorage Location Boundary       | Greater Than 9.9 Naval Gunfire Rounds/Airbase | 10 - 150 Feet         |
| Artillery Safety Fan              |   | Greater Than 150 Feet |



Figure 1  
NPL Agreed Areas  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

# EPA Places the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area on Vieques on the Superfund National Priorities List

**En Español** [PDF 93 KB, 1 pp]

**FOR RELEASE: February 7, 2005**

**(05011) New York, New York** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the formal listing of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area (AFWTA) - Vieques on the National Priorities List (NPL) of the most hazardous waste sites. The listing is the next step in a process that began in June 2003 with a request from former Puerto Rico Governor Sila Calderon to list this site as the Commonwealth's highest priority facility on the NPL.

"The listing is a critical step in the cleanup of this magnificent island, so important to Vieques residents and visitors alike," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Kathleen C. Callahan. "EPA will work with Puerto Rico and the Navy to ensure that the cleanup is performed properly and conducted with full public input."

The AFWTA facility includes land areas, waters and cays in and around the islands of Vieques and Culebra impacted by 100 years of military training operations, largely by the U.S. Navy. The Navy used the eastern portion of Vieques for training from the 1940's until it ceased operations there on May 1, 2003. Areas of Culebra were used for military exercises between 1902 and July 1975. Due to these activities, some land and water may be contaminated with mercury, lead, copper, magnesium, lithium, perchlorate, TNT, napalm, depleted uranium, PCBs, solvents and pesticides.

Today's listing includes areas of Vieques, but postpones a final determination on areas of the AFWTA on Culebra pending the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commonwealth and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which is currently responsible for the areas on Culebra. The MOA will govern the actions necessary to protect human health and the environment on Culebra. Puerto Rico and the Army have agreed to pursue this alternate arrangement. If an agreement can be reached, it will not be necessary to list Culebra on the NPL. The government of Puerto Rico and the Army have begun discussions with the goal of reaching an agreement on the timely investigation and cleanup of Culebra through the Army's Formerly Utilized Defense Sites (FUDS) program. The Army, through the Corps, executes the FUDS program in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, known as CERCLA, and its National Contingency Plan. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Commonwealth may request that Culebra be listed on the NPL.

Notice of the NPL listing will appear shortly in the Federal Register. Supporting documents can be found online. The documents will also be available in hard copy at information repositories on Vieques and Culebra, and in San Juan, Washington, DC and New York City. To make arrangements to view the documents, contact Daniel Rodriguez in Vieques at (787) 741-5201, Brenda Reyes in San Juan at (787) 977-5869, or Dennis Munhall in New York at (212) 637-4343

**PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION APPLICATION**  
(See attached instructions and copy of Code of Fed. Reg., Title 33, Chap. 1, Part 66)

NO PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION MAY BE AUTHORIZED UNLESS A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM HAS BEEN RECEIVED (14 U.S.C. 83; 33 C.F.R. 66.01-5).

1. ACTION REQUESTED FOR PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION: A.  ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN B.  DISCONTINUE C.  CHANGE D.  TRANSFER OWNERSHIP

2. DATE ACTION TO START  
IMMEDIATE

3. AIDS WILL BE OPERATED: A.  THROUGHOUT THE YEAR B.  TEMPORARILY UNTIL \_\_\_\_\_ C.  ANNUALLY \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

4. NECESSITY FOR AID (Continue in Block 8)  
MARK AREAS TO WARN VESSELS

5. GENERAL LOCALITY  
EAST VIEQUES

6. CORPS OF ENGINEERS AUTHORIZED THIS STRUCTURE OR BUOY BY  
 PERMIT OR  LETTER (file and date)

FOR DISTRICT COMMANDERS ONLY		7. APPLICANT WILL FILL IN APPLICABLE REMAINING COLUMNS										
LIGHT LIST NUMBER OR PAGE	NAME OF AID	NO. OR LTR. (7a)	LIGHT			POSITION (7e)	DEPTH OF WATER (7f)	CAN-DLE POWER (7g)	HT. ABOVE WATER (7h)	STRUCTURE		REMARKS (See Instructions) (7i)
			PER. (7b)	FLASH LGTH. (7c)	COLOR (7d)					TYPE, COLOR, AND HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND (7i)		
	USN INFO BUOY	A	-	-	W	18° 07' 30" N 065° 18' 24" W	27FT	N/A	4FT	WHITE W/ ORANGE RETRO BANDS -NO ANCHOR-UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE	BUOYS ARE USE FOR INFORMAT AND ARE WHITE IN COLOR W/ ORANGE RETROREFLECTIVE BANDS AND WARNING SYMBOLS	
	USN INFO BUOY	B	-	-	W	18° 09' 24" N 065° 18' 30" W	27FT	N/A	4FT	SAME AS ABOVE		
	USN INFO BUOY	C	-	-	W	18° 09' 42" N 065° 19' 36" W	27FT	N/A	4FT			

8. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS  
BUOYS TO ADVISE VESSELS OF DANGERS AT VIEQUES EAST. THIS WAS THE FORMER NAVY TRAINING RANGE. NAVY CONTRACTORS ARE REMOVING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE AND BUOYS ARE TO ADVISE VESSELS NOT TO ANCHOR, VISIT BEACHES, OR ENTER RESTRICTED LANDS WITHIN DANGER ZONE.

9a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON IN DIRECT CHARGE OF AID NAVFAC ENG COMMAND ATLANTIC DIV MADELINE RIVERA 787-865-4152 X460		10a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON OR CORPORATION AT WHOSE EXPENSE US NAVY COMMANDER ATLANTIC DIVISION NAVFAC ENGINEERING COMMAND 6505 HAMPTON BLVD NORFOLK VA 23508-1278		10b. THE APPLICANT AGREES TO SAVE THE COAST GUARD HARMLESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY CLAIM OR CLAIMS THAT MAY RESULT ARISING FROM THE ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OF THE MAINTENANCE OR OPERATION OF THE APPROVED AID(S).	
9b. TELEPHONE NO. (787) 865-4152				10c. DATE 04-07-06	10d. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF OFFICIAL SIGNING <i>M. Rivera</i> - Env. Engineer GS-12
FOR USE BY DISTRICT COMMANDER		RECD.		DATE APPROVED	SIGNATURE (By direction)
SERIAL NO.	CLASSIFICATION OF AIDS	CHART	25650		
		L. N. M.			

**REQUISITION AND INVOICE/SHIPPING DOCUMENT**

Form Approved  
OMB No. 0704-0246  
Expires Feb 28, 2006

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Executive Services and Communications Directorate (0704-0248). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

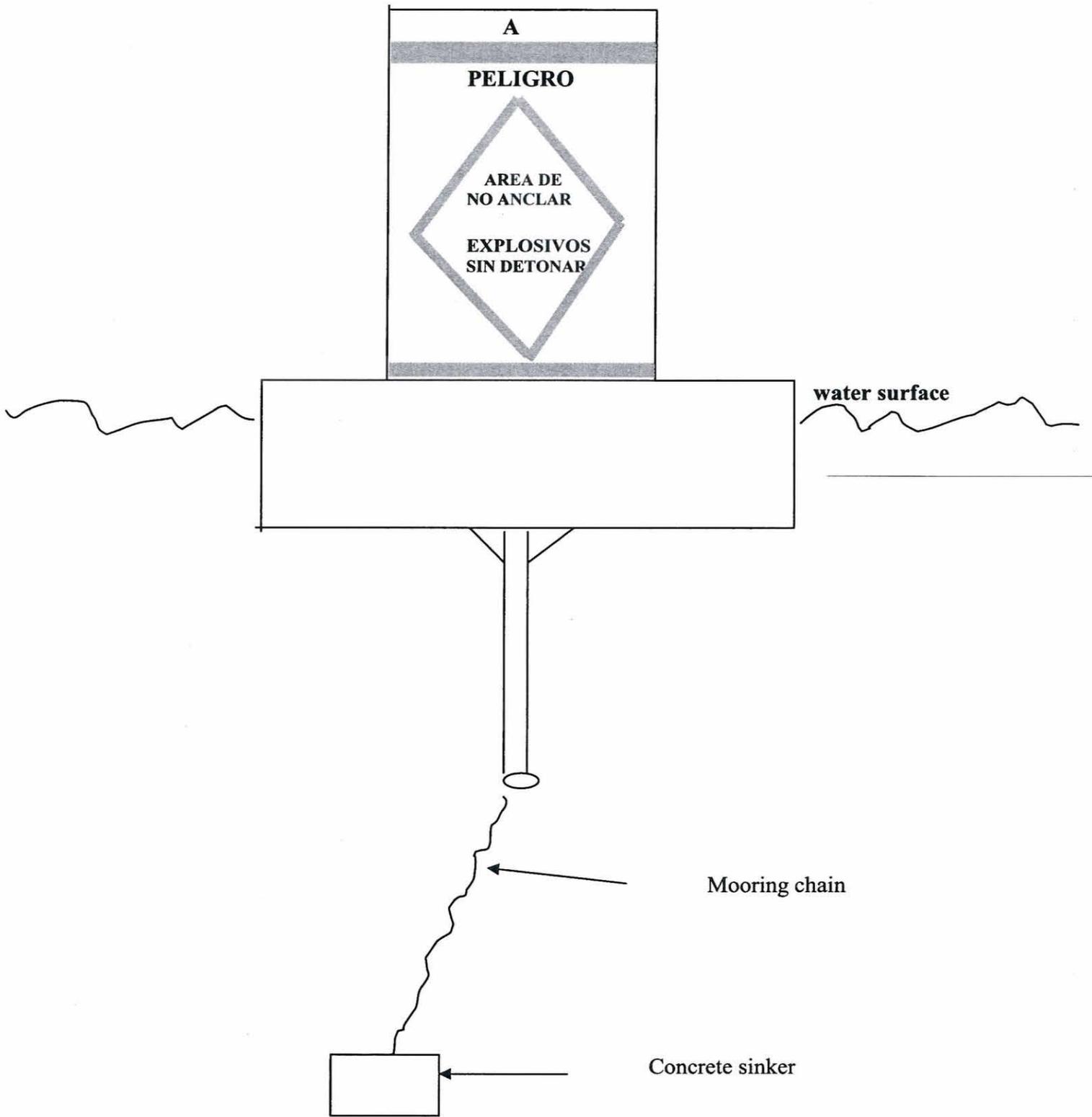
**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE ADDRESS IN ITEM 2.**

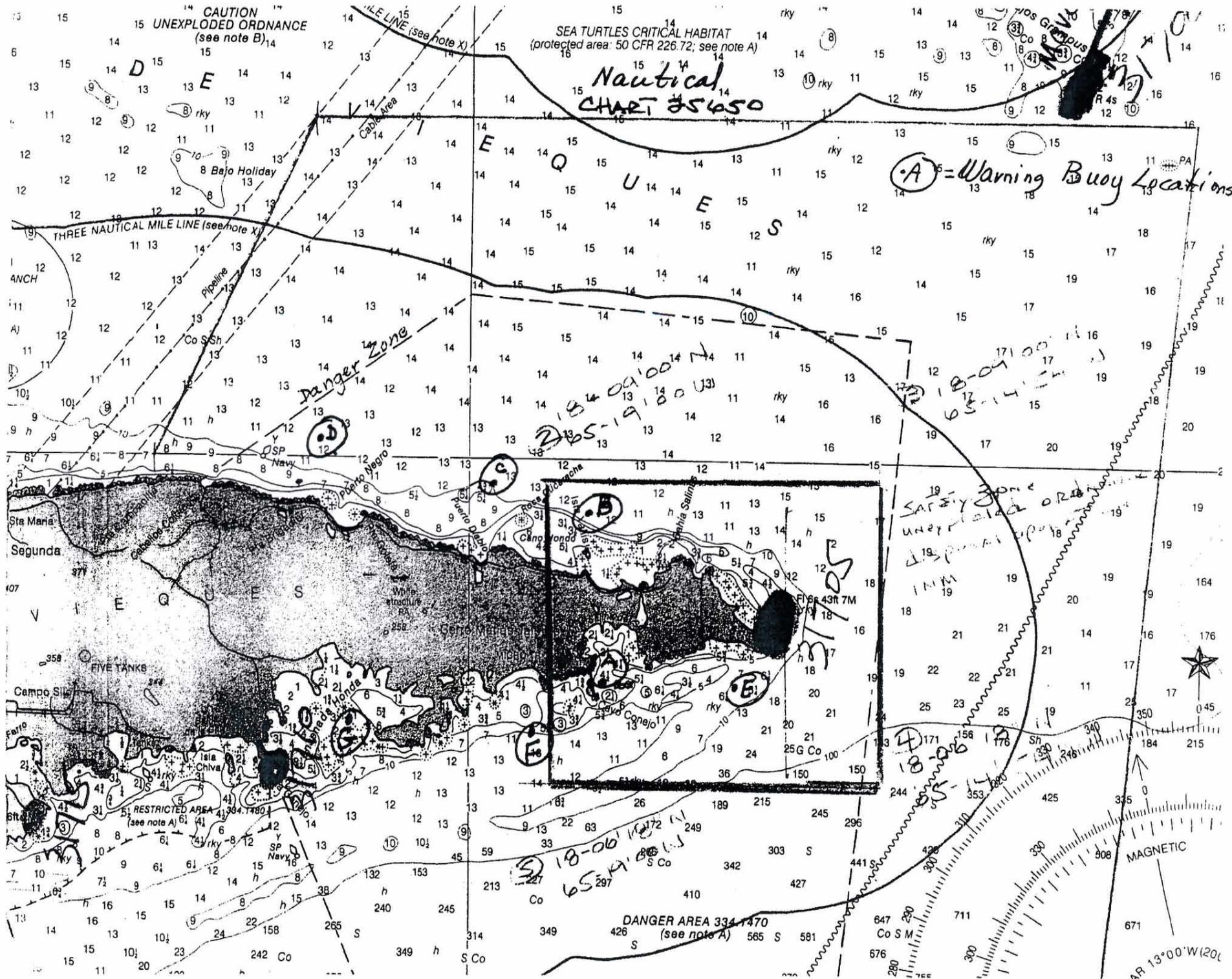
1. FROM: (Include ZIP Code) SECTOR SAN JUAN PREVENTION DEPARTMENT US COAST GUARD, 5 LA PUNTILLA FINAL STREET, SAN JUAN PR 00901		SHEET NO. 1	NO. OF SHEETS 1	5. REQUISITION DATE APRIL 18, 2006	6. REQUISITION NUMBER 001
2. TO: (Include ZIP Code) COMMANDER ATLANTIC DIVISION (EV-2) <i>Madeline Rivera G-12</i> NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND <i>TRT-865-4152 X460</i> 6506 HAMPTON BLVD NORFOLK, VA 23508-1278 <i>Call for</i>		7. DATE MATERIAL REQUIRED (YYYYMMDD) 2006/04/07		8. PRIORITY 1	
3. SHIP TO - MARK FOR MEMBER WILL PICK UP BUOYS AT BASE SAN JUAN, LA PUNTILLA OLD SAN JUAN		9. AUTHORITY OR PURPOSE INFORMATION TYPE BUOYS			10. <del>REMARKS</del>
		11a. VOUCHER NUMBER & DATE (YYYYMMDD) N/A		12. DATE SHIPPED (YYYYMMDD) 2006/04/18	
		13. MODE OF SHIPMENT PICK UP BY MEMBER		14. BILL OF LADING NUMBER N/A	
		15. AIR MOVEMENT DESIGNATOR OR PORT REFERENCE NO. N/A			

4. APPROPRIATIONS DATA N/A	AMOUNT N/A
-------------------------------	---------------

ITEM NO. (a)	FEDERAL STOCK NUMBER, DESCRIPTION, AND CODING OF MATERIAL AND/OR SERVICES (b)	UNIT OF ISSUE (c)	QUANTITY REQUESTED (d)	SUPPLY ACTION (e)	TYPE CONTAINER (f)	CON-TAINER NOS. (g)	UNIT PRICE (h)	TOTAL COST (i)
1	SCRAP 2NFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00
2	SCRAP 3NFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00
3	SCRAP 3CFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00
4	SCRAP 2CFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	4	N/A	-	-	0	0.00

16. TRANSPORTATION VIA MATS OR MSTs CHARGEABLE TO						17. SPECIAL HANDLING				
RECEIPT DATE	ISSUED BY	TOTAL CONTAINERS	TYPE CONTAINER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL WEIGHT	TOTAL CUBE	RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	SHEET TOTAL
	CHECKED BY						QUANTITIES RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	GRAND TOTAL
	PACKED BY						POSTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	20. RECEIVER'S VOUCHER NO.
	← TOTAL →									





CAUTION  
UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE  
(see note B)

SEA TURTLES CRITICAL HABITAT  
(protected area: 50 CFR 226.72; see note A)

Nautical  
CHART #5450

(A) = Warning Buoy Locations

Danger Zone

18-00  
18-01  
18-02

SAFETY ZONE  
UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

RESTRICTED AREA  
(see note A)

DANGER AREA 334 1470  
(see note A)

MAGNETIC

VAR 13°00' W (20)