

# **RAB Meeting**

## **Munitions Response Program Update**

### **Former Vieques Naval Training Range**

**(VNTR)**

**Vieques, Puerto Rico**

**August 2007**



# Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) Update



- **A TCRA is a response to a release or a threat of release that poses such a threat to the public health or the environment, that clean up or stabilization actions must be initiated within six months**
- **During the planning period of six months or less:**
  - ✓ **An Action Memorandum is submitted**
  - ✓ **Work and Health and Safety Plans are prepared**
  - ✓ **Quality Processes are developed**
  - ✓ **An Explosive Safety Submission is completed**
  - ✓ **Cost estimates are completed and contracts awarded**
  - ✓ **Worker Safety and Skill training is conducted prior to fieldwork**
- **The purpose of the TCRA is to remove the munitions from the land surface as quickly as possible in order to reduce the explosive safety risk to the public**

# The Removal Process Overview



- ❖ The area has been surveyed and divided into manageable work units 30 X 30 meters (100 X 100 feet)
- ❖ In most cases vegetation removal will be required
- ❖ Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Teams remove the scrap and destroy items presenting an explosive hazard
- ❖ Metal scrap is transported to the Central Processing Center (CPC)
- ❖ The scrap is further processed and shipped to an off island recycler



# TCRA Munitions Removal Summary



- ❖ 412 acres surface cleared in the Live Impact Area (LIA)
- ❖ Items located requiring detonation or explosive venting
  - Live Bombs - 291
  - Inert Bombs - 2096
  - Live Projos/Mortars - 3348
  - Inert Projos/Mortars - 2126
  - Live Rockets - 202
  - Inert Rockets - 26
  - Flares-Pyrotechnics - 128
  - Live ICMs - 170
- ❖ Information as of 20 July, 2007



# TCRA Metal scrap removal and processing update



- **Material Removed from the LIA**
  - 4.4 millions pounds (2200 Tons) of metal debris has been removed from the LIA and transported to the CPC
  - 2.7 million pounds (1350 Tons) has been processed at the CPC and shipped to off island recyclers



# Geophysical Surveys



- Digital Geophysical Mapping of beaches and roads commenced in February.
- Approximately 300 acres of beaches and roads will be mapped to identify anomalies that may be MEC.
- The investigation of selected anomalies will begin when the Navy and Regulators develop the most appropriate approach.



# Future Actions

- ❖ **Continue the time critical removal action for remainder of the Live Impact Area and the Eastern Conservation Area**
- ❖ **Conduct a controlled burn in areas that are known to contain exceptionally sensitive munitions**
- ❖ **Conduct Phase II Site Inspection**
  - ❖ Investigate 35 identified munitions response sites
  - ❖ Perform digital geophysical mapping of roads and beaches identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land use plan
- ❖ **Conduct a removal action for subsurface Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) from the roads and beaches**

# Conclusion

- **Reduce the risks associated with Unexploded Ordnance to the public by continuing the removal and informing the public of the hazards that still remain within the former VNTR**
- **Reduce the risks to our workers by providing the appropriate training, equipment and procedures necessary to perform the work in the safest possible manner**