

**Munitions Response Activities
Former Vieques Naval Training Range
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
April 2009**



April, 2009 RAB Presentation Overview



- Munitions Response Areas Removal Status
- MEC items Recovered and Destroyed
- Metal Debris Recovered
- Remote Vegetation Removal Test
- Future Activities
- Questions/Comments

Data presented through 10 April, 2009

Progress Map



ACRES Surface Cleared



- LIA 811 Acres
- ECA 120 Acres
- SIA 149 Acres
- 1080 total acres surface cleared



Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Items Removed and Destroyed



❖ Bombs	562
❖ Projectiles	5,535
❖ Rockets	406
❖ Pyrotechnics	467
❖ Sub-Munitions	10,121
❖ MEC Components	1,515
❖ Igniters	70



18,676 TOTAL MEC ITEMS THAT ARE
NO LONGER A THREAT TO ANYONE

- Over 13 million pounds of metal debris collected
- Almost 7 million pounds already processed and shipped to recyclers



Remote Vegetation Removal Evaluation



Equipment and technical expertise provided by the U.S. Army Humanitarian Demining Group to determine if:

- their equipment would be appropriate for humanitarian demining operations in areas of the world where there was dense vegetation and difficult terrain

NAVFAC provided access and personnel to determine if:

- this method of vegetation removal may be appropriate for areas of the VNTR that are heavily vegetated and have a high density of sensitive Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) items

Remote Vegetation Removal Evaluation



- ❖ commercially available equipment modified for remote operation
- ❖ cuts approximately a five foot swath with each pass
- ❖ operators during our evaluation were approximately 1200 feet from the area being cut
- ❖ multiple cameras are mounted on the equipment for observation

Remote Vegetation Removal Evaluation



- ❖ operator training occurred in areas previously cleared
- ❖ when operators were proficient in the operation, an evaluation was conducted in an area of heavy vegetation and known to have numerous sub-munitions
- ❖ a detonation occurred within 3 hours after the evaluation was conducted in the un-cleared area damaging the cutting attachment





Remote Vegetation Removal Evaluation



Observations:

- limited evaluation data available
- equipment leaves a dense “mat” of cut vegetation which is not acceptable nor safe for workers to enter and remove munitions
- system works well except for leaving dense vegetation behind

Demining Group to evaluate if modifications or additional methods may solve the problem of cut dense vegetation remaining

Future Activities



Sub-surface Removal of MEC on Roads and Beaches
To begin end of April or early May





Questions/Comments?

