

FINAL

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

VIEQUES ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION PROGRAM

**ATLANTIC FLEET
WEAPONS TRAINING
AREA – VIEQUES**

Vieques, Puerto Rico

March 2022



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFWTA	Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area
AOC	Area of Concern
AR	Administrative Record
ARARs	applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DOI	Department of the Interior
ECA	Eastern Conservation Area
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
EMA	Eastern Maneuver Area
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
FFA	Federal Facility Agreement
GIS	geographic information system
LIA	Live Impact Area
MOV	Municipality of Vieques
MRP	Munitions Response Program
NASD	Naval Ammunition Support Detachment
NAVFAC	Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command
Navy	Department of the Navy
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPL	National Priorities List
PRAP	Proposed Remedial Action Plan
PRCT	Puerto Rico Conservation Trust
PRDNER	Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFI	RCRA Facility Investigation

ROTHR	Relocatable Over-The-Horizon Radar
SIA	Surface Impact Area
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TAP	Technical Assistance Plan
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
TASC	Technical Assistance Services for Communities
TRC	Technical Review Committee
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USPS	United States Postal Service
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VNTR	Vieques Naval Training Range

1 Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

The Department of the Navy (Navy) worked jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) to develop the 2020 Community Involvement Plan (CIP) update. The CIP is designed to facilitate effective communication between the community and the agencies involved in the cleanup of former Navy lands on Vieques, Puerto Rico. It was developed in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the Superfund program.

Community members are key participants in the cleanup process. Therefore, this plan has been designed to foster two-way communication whereby the community can provide input into the site characterization and cleanup activities and the stakeholder agencies can keep the community informed about the cleanup progress. The CIP is a resource for the Navy, EPA, USFWS, PRDNER, and the community to help coordinate informational activities, focus on topics of interest and concern by the community related to the cleanup, and to ensure that the public is kept informed and involved throughout the entire cleanup process.

The 2020 CIP update was developed based on feedback regarding community involvement activities conducted since the last CIP update in 2015 as well as input and review from the public and other stakeholders in the cleanup process regarding the effectiveness of the Vieques community involvement program and modifications to consider to enhance the program. It provides a history of the former Naval facilities; describes the local community, including its background, makeup, and specific concerns; and provides the structure of the community involvement program, including community involvement activities and tools. Community input considered for the 2020 CIP update was received during the spring and summer of 2020 through a questionnaire survey and community feedback at agency-community meetings held since the last CIP update.

2 Site Description

Site History

Vieques is located approximately seven miles southeast of the eastern tip of the main island of Puerto Rico and 20 miles southwest of St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands (**Figure 2-1**). Vieques is approximately 20 miles long and 4.5 miles wide and encompasses 33,000 acres; most of the island's approximately 8,500 residents live in or around two main towns—Isabel Segunda on the north shore and Esperanza on the south shore (**Figure 2-1**).

From the 1940s until 2003, the Navy administered lands on both the western and eastern ends of Vieques. The former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR) was located on 14,573 acres of the island's eastern side and consisted of four separate areas: The Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA), the Surface Impact Area (SIA), the Live Impact Area (LIA), and the Eastern Conservation Area (ECA). It was used primarily for ground warfare and amphibious training, naval gunfire support training, and air-to-ground training. The former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) covered 8,114 acres on the west side of the island and was used to store munitions and for other support facilities for Atlantic Fleet training (**Figure 2-1**).

In January 2000, EPA and the Navy entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (also referred to as "Consent Order") under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to investigate and address potential environmental contamination on east Vieques.

Under the order, the Navy began an RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) of Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and Areas Of Concern (AOCs) to determine whether or not they contained potentially harmful releases of hazardous materials (**Figures 2-2 and 2-3**).

Live-fire training on Vieques ceased in 2001, although periodic training with concrete-filled bombs and blank bullets continued until 2003. On April 30, 2001, 4,250 acres of former NASD lands were transferred to the Municipality of Vieques (MOV), 3,050 acres to the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) to be managed as part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, and 800 acres to the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust (PRCT) (**Figure 2-4**). The Navy retained 100 acres for its Relocatable Over-The-Horizon Radar (ROTHR) system. In 2003, all Navy training on Vieques ceased, and the Navy transferred all 14,573 acres of the former VNTR to the DOI in accordance with Public Law 107-107, to be administered as part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge; the law required the former LIA to be managed as a wilderness area with no public access. The Monte Pirata telecommunication facility on the former NASD was transferred to the DOI in March 2005.

On February 11, 2005, following a request by then-governor of Puerto Rico Sila Calderón, the areas on Vieques and within the surrounding waters were placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) under the designation Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area (AFWTA) – Vieques. The NPL is EPA's priority list of private, federal, and formerly federal properties throughout the United States and its territories with known or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. With the listing of Vieques on the NPL, all sites, including the 12 original RCRA Consent Order sites, were placed under the cleanup authority of CERCLA. Consistent with the legislation ending Navy training activities on Vieques, the Navy funds and conducts all CERCLA cleanup activities on Vieques, with EPA and PRDNER oversight as well as input and oversight by other stakeholder agencies (i.e., USFWS,

Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) are areas formerly used to store or manage waste. Areas of Concern (AOCs) are sites that may be contaminated based on their history of use. UXO sites are those sites where munitions training took place. These terms are used for most Vieques cleanup program sites, and are commonly found in plans and other documents, as well as the CIP.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA], and National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]).

An interagency agreement, called a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), among the Navy, EPA, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and DOI, ensures that potential leftover munitions and environmental contamination due to past Navy activities are properly evaluated and addressed. Most importantly, the agreement establishes the processes and procedures for the cleanup activities and decision-making, and defines the specific roles and responsibilities of the government agencies involved. For a listing of points of contact current as of the publishing of the CIP update, please refer to **Appendix A**. The most up-to-date contact information is available via the Navy's Vieques public website at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>. Instructions on accessing the Navy's Vieques public website are published in flyers and newsletters and made available at public meetings and other events. EPA and Navy field offices can also be contacted for information.

Site Cleanup History

One of the key provisions of CERCLA is a defined process to clean up contaminated sites. The process includes several steps:

- **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection** - A preliminary evaluation/investigation to determine if there has been a release of hazardous waste or materials causing contamination that warrants further study or cleanup.
- **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study** - The Remedial Investigation determines the nature and extent of contamination and associated human health and ecological risks. If cleanup is determined to be warranted, the Feasibility Study evaluates cleanup approaches that may be selected.
- **Proposed Plan** - The preferred cleanup approach, based on the evaluation of various alternatives in the Feasibility Study, is documented in the proposed plan (also referred to as the Proposed Remedial Action Plan [PRAP]), which is provided to the public for formal comment prior to selecting the remedy.
- **Record of Decision** - The Record of Decision documents the selection of the remedy following consideration of public comments received on the proposed plan.
- **Remedy Implementation** - Preparation and implementation of the remedy documented in the Record of Decision.

For more detail on the various CERCLA steps presented, see <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-cleanup-process>.

The Navy's Vieques cleanup is organized into two primary programs: The Munitions Response Program (MRP) and the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The MRP addresses leftover munitions in order to reduce explosive hazards and potential contamination of environmental media (i.e., soil, surface water, sediment, and/or groundwater) associated with munitions. The ERP focuses on addressing potential environmental contaminants (non-munitions related) attributed to past Navy activities that may pose an unacceptable risk to human and/or environmental health.

The Vieques cleanup program comprises 73 sites in various stages of the CERCLA process. **Figures 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4** show the locations of the 19 MRP sites and 54 ERP sites on Vieques and **Figure 2-5** presents the status of these 73 sites within the CERCLA process.

As of the end of September 2020, 51 out of 73 (70%) of the Vieques cleanup program sites have been completed with no need for further action, and without restrictions on land use.

Figure 2-1. Regional Location Map

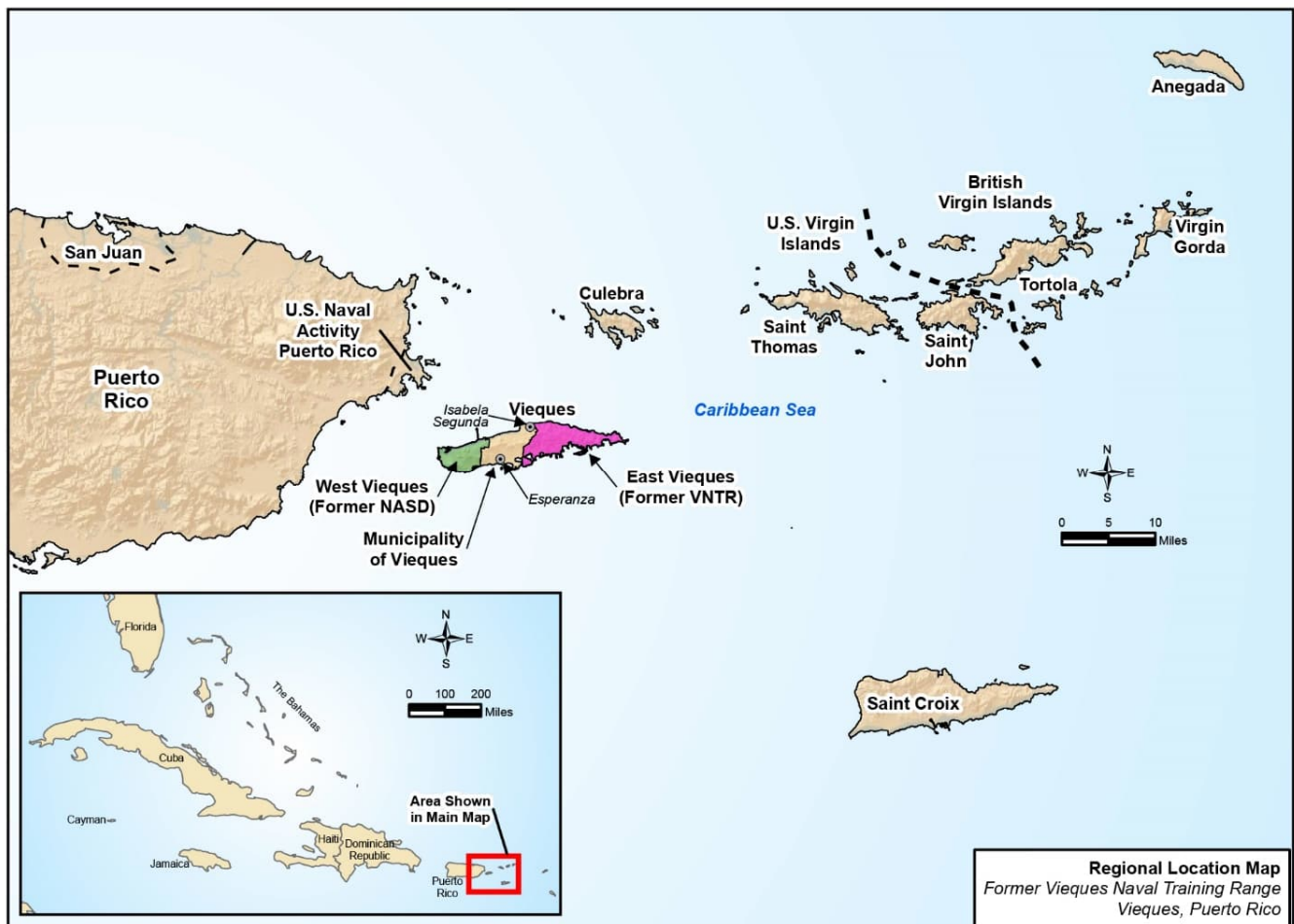


Figure 2-2. East Vieques Environmental Restoration Sites

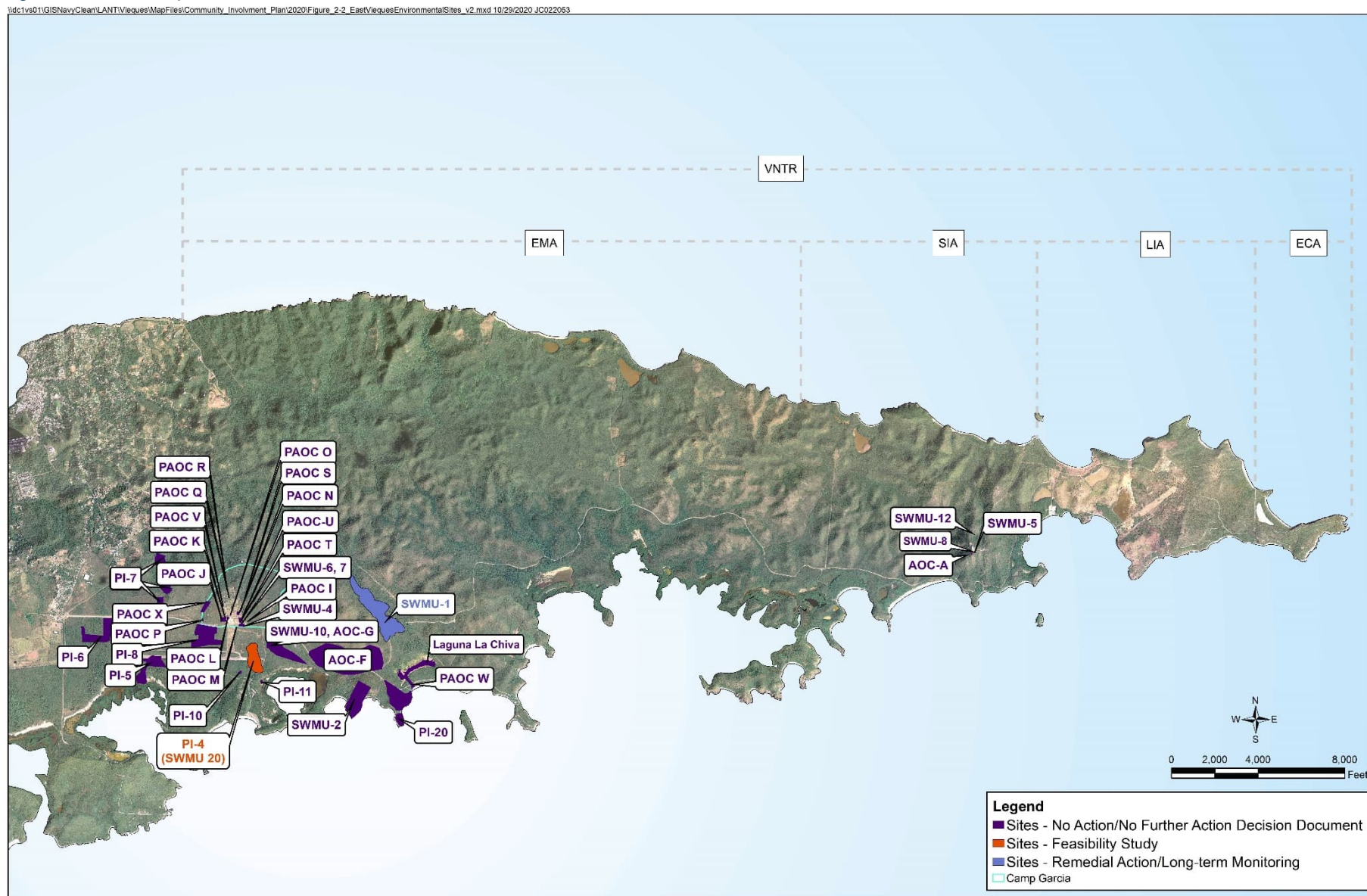


Figure 2-3. East Vieques Munitions Response Sites

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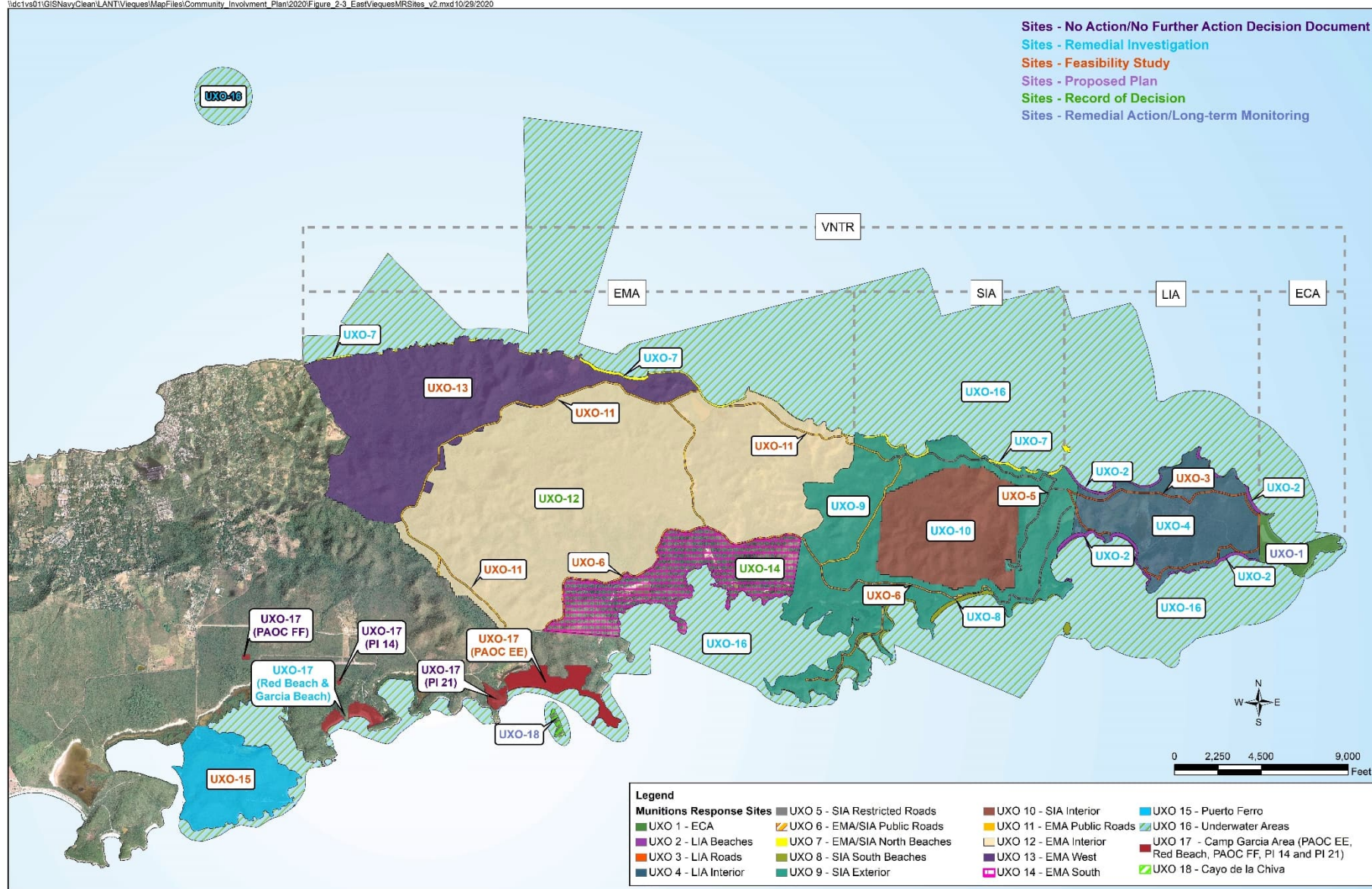


Figure 2-4. West Vieques Environmental Restoration and Munitions Response Sites

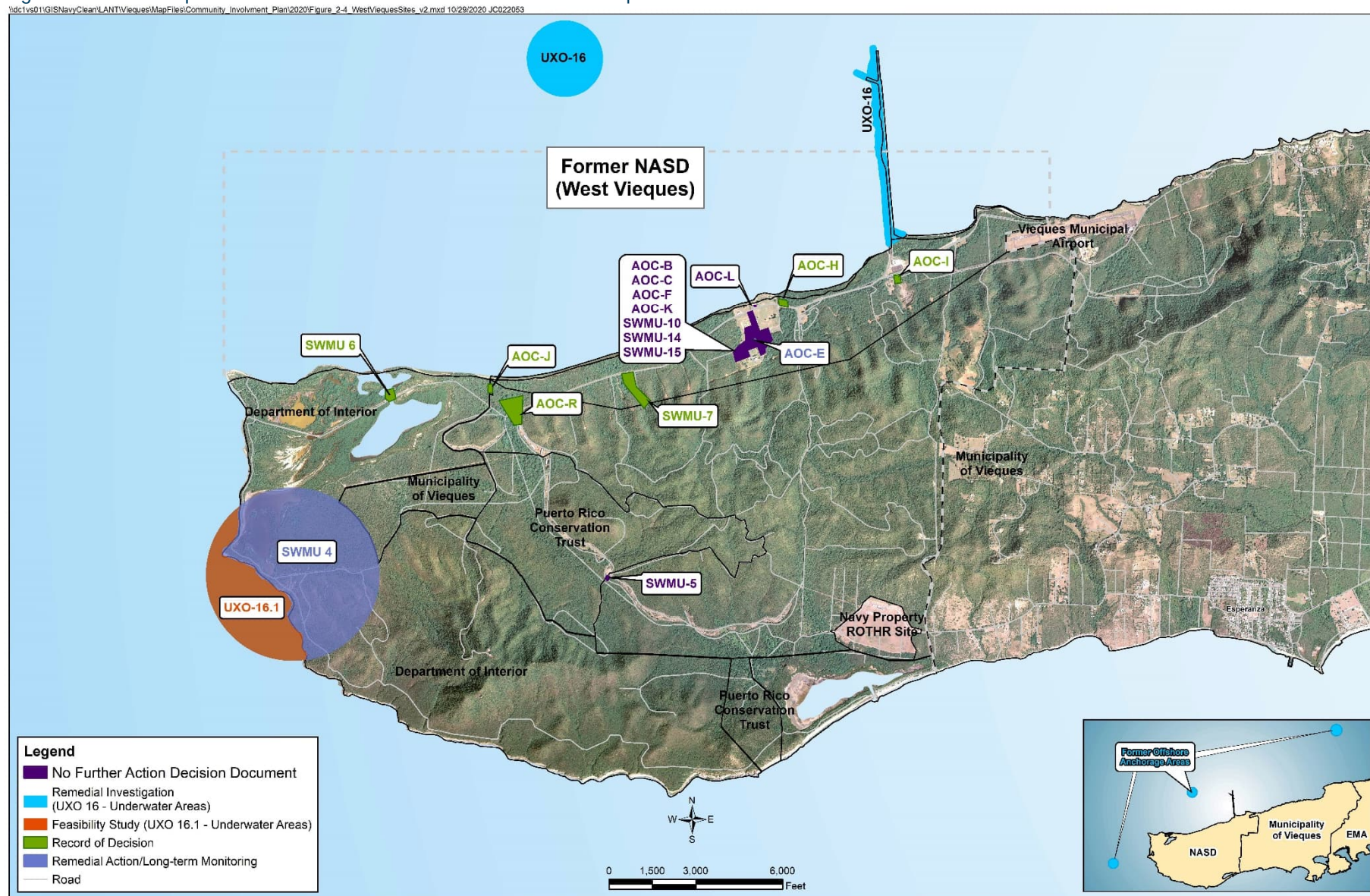
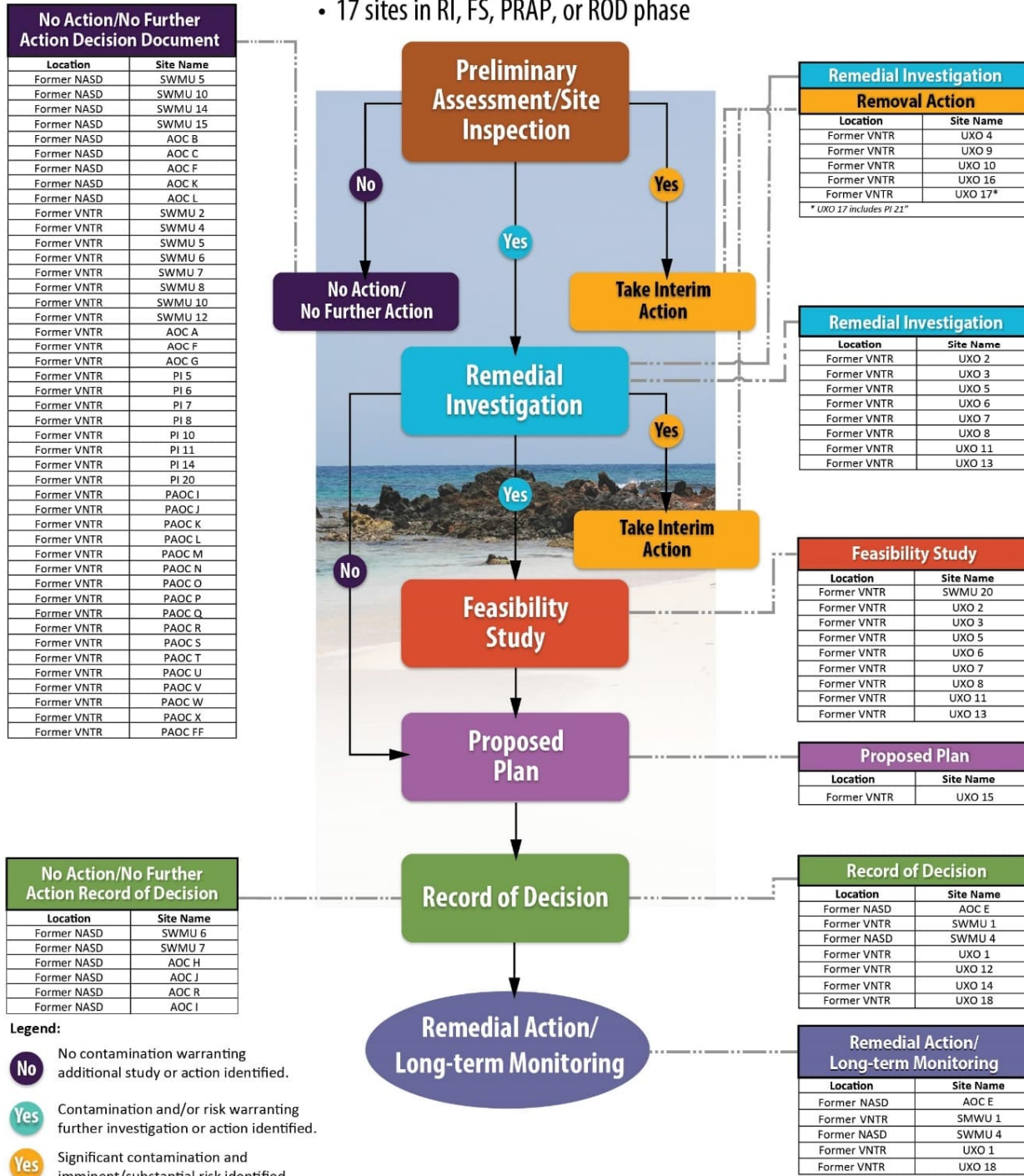


Figure 2-5. Status of Vieques Cleanup Program Sites Under CERCLA

73 Total Sites

- 51 sites completed with no further action
- 5 sites remedy in place with long-term monitoring
- 17 sites in RI, FS, PRAP, or ROD phase



3 Community Background

Community Description

Vieques is surrounded by the Vieques Sound on the north, the Vieques Passage on the west, and the Caribbean Sea on the south and east. Most of the western and eastern thirds of the island make up the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The middle part of the island is composed of private and municipal property.

The most developed areas of Vieques are in and around the towns of Isabel Segunda and Esperanza (**Figure 2-1**). To the southeast is the “South La Hueca” area, which consists of privately-owned homes, small pastures, and farms.

The Vieques Municipal Airport is located on the northwest shore of the island, just northeast of the portion of the former NASD that was transferred to the MOV (**Figure 2-4**).

The Island of Vieques has some of the most appealing beaches located on the eastern end of the island and are often rated among the top tourists destinations in the Caribbean for their azure waters and white sands.



Isabel Segunda, Vieques Puerto Rico

Local Community Organizations

Throughout the years several community organizations have expressed interest in the effects of the cleanup process on community life, commercial, economic and leisure activities in the island. Community organizations that have demonstrated an interest in the Vieques cleanup process and progress are presented in **Appendix B**.

Local Government

Vieques is a municipality of Puerto Rico and is in the Puerto Rican electoral district of Carolina and the Puerto Rico Senatorial district VIII, which is represented by two Senators. The MOV government is under the leadership of a mayor, presently José (Junito) Corcino Acevedo, who manages several departments: Human Resources, Financing, Emergency Management, Public Works, Federal Programs, Municipal Police, Planning, and Culture and Tourism.

Water Resources

There are several shallow lagoons on Vieques, with large mangrove forests. Streams on Vieques are intermittent, which means that they flow for only a short time after it rains, through natural drainage channels called quebradas (“breaks”). Vieques residents fish in many of the island's bays and lagoons.

Groundwater has not been used as a source of drinking water on Vieques since 1978, when an undersea pipeline from the main island was installed. Since that time, all potable water on Vieques has been supplied from the main island. The last potable well on Vieques was closed in 1999. Although all potable wells are closed at this time, Puerto Rico's Water Quality Standards Regulation classifies all groundwater in Puerto Rico as potable.

Community Demographics and Economic Profile

An unofficial 2019 Census (QuickFacts) reports a population of approximately 8,386 people living in Vieques. According to QuickFacts Census estimates gathered between 2010 through 2019, approximately 60 percent of the population identify themselves as White, about 10 percent identify themselves as Black or African American, 0.1 percent identify themselves as American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2 percent identify themselves as Asian, and 28 percent identify themselves as two or more races. Regardless of racial self-identification, 94 percent of the population identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

Ethnicity Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau



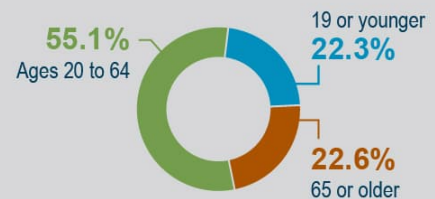
94% of the population identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

Males account for 50.4 percent of the population, women 49.6 percent. Young people, 19 years of age and under, make up 22.3 percent of the population. Individuals 65 years or older represent 22.6 percent of the population.

The arrival of the Navy in Vieques in the 1940s created a sector of construction and support jobs. Prior to the closure of the VNTR and NASD, the Navy provided about 240 jobs, representing nine percent of the 2000 labor force (D. Rivera, 2001). Island residents primarily worked as contract employees either on the island or at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads on the main island, which has since been closed. Since the AFWTA closing, the Navy has trained approximately 50 local residents to assist in the Vieques cleanup work in positions such as unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians.

Age Distribution for the Island of Vieques

77.4% of Vieques residents are under 65 years of age.



The main income for Vieques residents since Navy training activities ended has come from construction and tourism. Inns, guesthouses, and the seasonal rental of houses provide a major source of tourist-related income on the island. Estimated employment rates reported for Vieques is 41.5 percent for individuals 16 years of age and over.

Spanish is the primary language for nearly 100 percent of the population of Vieques. Therefore, summaries of decision documents and reports related to the cleanup are produced in both Spanish and English.

4 Community Involvement History and Path Forward

Community Involvement History in the Cleanup Process

The Navy and EPA began conducting community involvement activities on Vieques in 1998, when EPA issued the Navy an interim permit for burning and open detonation of waste ordnance in the former LIA. The Navy also conducted community involvement activities in 2001, prior to the first transfer of lands in Western Vieques. Since then, the Navy, EPA, USFWS, PRDNER and other federal and Commonwealth agencies have been involved in a number of community involvement activities, including hosting Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings and public forums such as public meetings, poster sessions, and informational sessions; distributing fact sheets, postcards, reports, and newsletters; presenting informational workshops; participating in environmental fairs; and facilitating RAB and public site visits to demonstrate and discuss cleanup activities.

One of the most significant community involvement activities on Vieques was the formation of an active RAB in August 2004, which offers an expanded forum for community input and participation in the Vieques cleanup. The RAB grew out of a Technical Review Committee (TRC) formed in 2001 and consists of community members and members from government agencies (see **Appendix C** for the RAB member list as of September 2020). The



Community members at a Navy's public meeting

RAB was initially governed by a charter that was signed in May 2005 that allows for the exchange of information on the environmental restoration and munitions response processes. The RAB approach and processes have been modified over time through collaboration between the RAB members and the Navy to ensure the program provides the flexibility to meet the needs and interests of the community. RAB meetings are held quarterly; 61 RAB meetings have been held as of February 2020. All RAB meetings are open to the general public, presented simultaneously in both Spanish and English, and are announced via informational flyers, Navy's social media platforms (Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/ViequesRestoration/> and Navy's Vieques public website <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>), and broadcasts by email distribution and megaphone trucks.

In August 2018, the Navy sponsored a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)



Vieques STEM Fair Event

fair at the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The event brought together students, parents, teachers, the Navy, USFWS, and other stakeholders to engage all Vieques high school students on STEM education, careers, and opportunities. The fair was organized around the types of STEM professionals employed in the Vieques cleanup, including biologists, chemists, engineers, geologists, safety experts, UXO specialists, and geographic information system (GIS) professionals. Students received hands-on

experience with metal detectors, water testing equipment, and rock types. The goal of the fair was to impart knowledge, share experiences, and help the students understand how STEM can have a positive impact on their lives and their communities. This invaluable interaction included an open discussion with students about career paths, educational choices, and how to use academic opportunities to achieve professional success and satisfaction. Competencies like teamwork, leadership, and perseverance were emphasized as key to professional and personal success. Each student received educational handouts with information about STEM careers featuring notable Puerto Rican technical professionals as examples.

Community Input to this CIP Update

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, in-person interviews were not conducted as a safety precaution in accordance with government guidance. However, the Navy gathered information regarding questions, concerns, and topics of particular interest to Vieques community members through a public survey distributed via Survey Monkey®, and a printed questionnaire mailed to physical addresses, and also emailed to all individuals who have been added to the Vieques Restoration Program electronic mailing list. The Navy announced the 2020 survey availability on flyers, Facebook Page, the Navy's Vieques public website, and via email. A notice was published on the Navy's social media outlets on March 5, 2020. Printed copies of the survey were mailed between February and March 2020. Due to the pandemic, the Navy opened a second survey period from August 4 to September 4, 2020. An announcement was sent to the community of Vieques via postcards and via email, Facebook, and Navy's Vieques public website. Additionally, prior to the pandemic, the forthcoming CIP survey and update process were presented to the public at the February 2020 RAB meeting to help encourage the public to participate.

The following are the key metrics associated with the information gathering process:

- 2,949 survey questionnaires both in English and Spanish were mailed to addresses on Vieques, and 277 survey questionnaires electronically mailed (emailed) to community members who in the past have requested to receive information from the Navy electronically.
- A total of 142 completed survey questionnaires were returned to the Navy.
- As noted previously, the Navy (1) distributed the questionnaire to every known postal address on Vieques, (2) made it available online via Survey Monkey, and (3) emailed the survey link and a PDF file to all community members who requested electronic information to ensure solicitation of community-wide perspective about the cleanup of the former Navy lands in Vieques. The results of the survey responses are representative of the feedback received. Of note, the Navy received questionnaires back from residents, business owners, civic organization representatives, public and elected officials, community leaders, and members of various environmental groups. **Appendix D** contains the survey tool with the interview questions; a detailed evaluation of the survey data can be found in **Appendix E**.
- The majority of respondents identified themselves as Vieques residents, and most were not members of local organizations or groups.
- Most respondents are aware various areas of the island are restricted and have received information about the Navy's cleanup activities.

Highlights of the community feedback are presented in the graphic that follows, including desires, concerns, and suggestions to improve community involvement and communication about the cleanup activities.

Major Community Concerns

- Health issues and general environmental impacts from contamination, munitions, and open detonations.
- Safety dangers posed by munitions and the need to remove munitions on land and in the waters surrounding Vieques and effective communication to the community.
- Quality of life impacts from beach closures, access restrictions, and other cleanup activities.
- Adequacy of the cleanup and the fact that some areas will continue to be restricted from the community.
- Effects of the cleanup timeframe on the local economy and tourism.
- How cleanup decisions are being made.
- How cleanup information is being conveyed to the community.
- How many areas will open to the public in the future.
- Levels of pollution in the air that could reach the community.
- Insufficient community participation in the decision-making process.

Major Community Desires

- Public access to all public beaches and Puerto Ferro Lighthouse.
- The wildlife refuge to remain protected in the future, and not developed for use.
- The Navy to continue to hire and train local residents as UXO technicians.
- A perimeter road connecting public areas of the island.
- Using fencing (gates) along roads entering restricted areas during cleanup and removing them when cleanup is completed.
- All land on west side of Vieques where no further action for unrestricted use is needed to be returned to the Vieques people.
- Road improvements.
- A hospital in Vieques.
- Reliable ferry service.
- Regulatory agencies to work with younger generations to help them understand and teach them about cleanup efforts in Vieques.
- The Navy to provide additional information and include the community in the decision-making progress.
 - Enhance an effective two-way communication method between Navy, regulators, and community.



Preferred Communication Methods

- Current translation services at RAB meetings, public forums, and public meetings.
- Translated text on Website.
- Handouts written in a simple manner so that non-technical readers can understand.
- Written updates preferred over meetings.
- Meetings including all cleanup partners/agencies sharing information at the same time.
- Community events such as Environmental fairs.
- Flyers distributed in key areas of the island residents frequently visit.
- Newsletters distributed by both email, and mail.

Additional Methods Suggested

- Social media, local radio stations, newspapers, and television.
- Continue outreach via regular mail to ensure all residents receive the information, not only those who have access to a computer or smart phone.
- Provide and post in public places such as clubs, businesses, schools, City Hall, and churches with information about the cleanup and munitions awareness and safety.
- Provide site visits for the public to see first-hand the progress the Navy has made in cleaning up the island.
- Announcements of public and RAB meetings, decision-making document available for public review on Mainland Puerto Rico.

Discussion and Path Forward: Community Involvement Goals

The Navy received valuable information from the community survey. As part of updating the CIP, the Navy has integrated this information, as well as knowledge gained from questions and concerns raised at RAB meetings and from public outreach efforts since the last CIP update in 2015, to refine and enhance community involvement for environmental restoration and munitions response efforts on the island. Based on this, the following are the goals for enhanced community involvement and a brief description of how these goals will be achieved. The Navy is committed to a proactive community involvement program, supplying complete information to the community in a timely fashion and in a clear, concise form. More detail regarding the activities and the communication tools that will be used is presented in Section 5.

GOAL #1: Designate Program Contacts to provide information and respond to inquiries from the public. The Navy and stakeholder agencies will achieve this goal by:

- The Navy, as the lead agency for the Vieques cleanup efforts will work to provide accurate, timely, and easy-to-understand updates to the community members seeking information about the cleanup program at Vieques. The Navy will publicize the information in articles, flyers, newsletters, announcements, and advertisements via traditional methods (i.e, local newspapers) and on Navy social media outlets (Navy's public website, Facebook page). Similarly, points of contact within the other stakeholder agencies, including EPA, PRDNER, and USFWS, will provide similar information from the perspectives of the regulatory community and the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge.

GOAL #2: Enhance timely information-sharing mechanisms, such as fact sheets focusing on key topics of interest associated with the cleanup program, and newsletters and flyers to inform the Vieques community stakeholders about the Vieques cleanup program and address concerns and questions on a regular basis. Emphasis will be placed on continuing to present the information in a manner that is readily understandable by diverse Vieques community. The Navy will achieve this goal by:

- Providing information directly to residents via electronic and traditional methods. Many people prefer to receive information at their homes or businesses, as attending meetings is often cited as being inconvenient. Fact sheets, flyers, and newsletters are well received, especially by those who do not have access to email. Therefore, flyers will continue to be distributed by United States Postal Service (USPS) mail, as well as email, approximately every other month. Newsletters, containing more detail about the cleanup, will be produced about every three months. English and Spanish versions of the newsletters and flyers will be distributed by USPS to all registered addresses on the island. English and Spanish versions of newsletters and flyers will be distributed to the Vieques email list and posted to the Navy's Vieques public website, and distributed by email to the site email list (including RAB members), Hard-copies will also be made available at local public places, with consideration of government restrictions or guidance based on local or global health or other concerns.
- The Navy will continue to update on a regular basis the color-coded maps and charts that provide visual snapshots of the cleanup progress. A project timeline (**Appendix G**) will also be added the Navy's Vieques public website.

GOAL #3 Continue extending the reach of communication with Vieques community stakeholders by using non-traditional platforms. The Navy will achieve this goal by:

- Conducting social media and other forms of digital outreach. Although many community members do not have access to or do not prefer communicating by email and other forms of electronic

communication, interest in social media, websites and other forms of digital communication continues to grow. The Navy will continue to maintain and regularly update the Vieques public website, and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ViequesRestoration/>) to post news and updates about the cleanup process, and will continue to explore other possible social media outlets. The Navy will post instructions to access and navigate Navy's public website at the Electronic Municipal Library located at 29 Street Victor Duteill, Vieques, PR (across the street from the post office).

GOAL #4: Maintain focus on interactive communication to enhance collaboration. The Navy will achieve this objective by:

- Continuing to hold public meetings that will provide stakeholders with interactive opportunities to learn about the status of site cleanups, receive responses to their questions and concerns, and have an opportunity to submit comments on proposed actions or decisions. The Navy may consider using other methods in conjunction with the megaphone announcements, flyers and/or newsletters to advertise and encourage the community to attend and participate in public meetings. Suggested methods include publishing ads in local newspapers, and/or advertising on the local radio stations.
- Continuing with RAB meetings. The RAB continues to be a valuable way for community members to learn and share information about the Navy's environmental restoration and munitions response programs. RAB meetings will continue to be held quarterly, with consideration of government restrictions or guidance based on local or global health or other concerns. The Navy will also continue offering RAB membership opportunities for interested stakeholders. Applications will be made available at all Navy public meetings and events.

5 Community Involvement Activities and Tools

The Navy, in conjunction with EPA, USFWS, PRDNER, and other government agencies and interested stakeholders, will collaborate to utilize the tools and implement the activities presented in this CIP. The Navy will update the CIP periodically so that it remains an effective and efficient tool to promote two-way communication and assist the public in understanding the cleanup process so they can provide informed input.

The Navy, EPA, and USFWS have representatives on Vieques and other government agencies, such as PRDNER, are located in San Juan. Some are assigned to the island permanently; others work on the island on a regular basis. Agency representatives attend RAB meetings regularly as ex-officio members (**Appendix A**). The Navy, working together with EPA, USFWS, and PRDNER and other interested parties, including the RAB, will work to coordinate and implement community involvement activities identified in this CIP.

Activities and Tools Implementation

The following are the primary community involvement tools associated with the Vieques cleanup program. Similar or associated tools are grouped into the following categories: Internet Resources, Public Notification Tools, Information Resources, and Stakeholder Interaction.

Internet Resources

The following resources are used and updated as needed or as requested to inform stakeholders virtually.

Social Media (Facebook)

Description: Facebook is a social media platform designed to share Vieques cleanup program information among subscribers to the page and other Facebook users. The page includes important links and information related to the cleanup work.

Objective: To provide a venue for two-way communication with the Vieques community and other interested parties by sharing concise, timely posts regarding cleanup program information.

Method: Regular updates to the Facebook page will continue to be provided. Notice of all public meetings, forums, and information sessions and announcements related to the cleanup are also posted on this page. Comments and questions will be monitored, and responses will be provided accordingly.

Websites

Description: Internet access to the Administrative Record, which includes technical reports, progress reports, and updates on the cleanup progress, is available on the Navy's Vieques public website at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques> and EPA's Vieques website at <http://www.epa.gov/region2/vieques/>.

Objective: The websites noted provide general and site-specific information about the cleanup and are valuable resources for the public. Access to both websites is available through personal and public computers.

CLEANUP INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Navy Vieques Public Website

<https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>

EPA Public Websites

www.epa.gov/region2/vieques/index.html

<http://www.epa.gov/students/index.html>

Method: Updates to the Administrative Record are posted on the Navy's Vieques public website shortly after they are finalized. Notice of all public meetings, forums, and information sessions and announcements related to the cleanup are also posted online.

Virtual Engagement (MS Teams, WebEx, Zoom)

Description: The Navy will use online technologies, such as MS Teams video conferencing, to share cleanup progress updates. The virtual engagements and updates could include a five-minute video that will provide important information related to the Vieques cleanup work progress.

Objective: To implement additional virtual engagement informational resources that involves and allows for the Vieques community and other interested parties to interact with Navy online. The Navy will share concise, timely cleanup program information utilizing appropriate virtual tools available to reach the Vieques community.

Method: Cleanup program updates will be made available via public hosting events, and in addition on Navy's social media outlets (Facebook and Navy's Website pages) as needed. In-person interactions will continue; however, a combination of virtual and in-person tools will be used on Vieques to continue to provide meaningful public participation opportunities on the cleanup process for all community sectors.

Public Notification Tools

The following resources are used as needed to notify or inform the community of specific cleanup activities. Flyers and newsletters are released regularly.

Informational Flyers/Newsletters



ERP and MR Informational Flyers, Factsheets

Description: Informational flyers are brief documents (one page double-sided) written in plain language and containing clear graphics that help the community learn about upcoming events such as RAB meetings and public comment periods, munitions safety, and the progress of environmental and munitions response activities. Newsletters are community-oriented publications that are longer and explore topics in greater detail than flyers. The Navy's Vieques public website contains all informational flyers and newsletters.

Objective: Informational flyers and newsletters keep the public informed and up to date by providing site-related information in an easy-to-understand format. Flyers are also used as a means to solicit input from the public during specific project milestones, such as obtaining public comments on proposed plans and

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs).

Method: Informational flyers and newsletters are produced approximately every other month and on quarterly basis, respectively, in both Spanish and English, to promote an understanding of the cleanup processes and progress. Informational flyers and newsletters are distributed via email to individuals and organizations (such as clubs, businesses, and churches) on the Vieques email distribution list, posted on the Navy's Vieques public website, and Facebook pages and are available at agency offices and RAB meetings.

Paper copies of these documents are disseminated throughout the town of Vieques, reaching a wide audience in the community, including local government offices, businesses, and organizations. English and Spanish versions of the newsletters and flyers are distributed by USPS to all registered addresses on the island. The documents are also sent via USPS to those subscribers of the mailing list that do not have Internet access. Frequency of these tools may be adjusted based on continual evaluation of their effectiveness (e.g., informal discussion at meetings, community input, and other feedback).

Mailing Lists

Description: Mailing lists include RAB members, regulators, Navy, contractor personnel, organizations, businesses, and community stakeholders that have expressed an interest in receiving regular updates about the cleanup activities. Email addresses as well as postal mail addresses, as provided, are kept for these individuals and cleanup information updates are sent per their mailing preference. Commercially available mailing lists will be used to mail flyers and newsletters to all postal addresses in Vieques.

Objective: The goal of maintaining mailing lists for Vieques is to maintain contact and engage interested stakeholders by providing timely notifications of cleanup activities and important documents on which the community can provide input.

Method: According to the community survey, the preferred method for receiving information about the cleanup activities is by email. For individuals who have expressed a preference for hard copy mailings due to not having email access, newsletters and flyers are mailed via USPS mail. In addition, a hard copy of the English and Spanish versions of flyers and newsletters are mailed to all postal residential addresses in Vieques using a commercial mailing service (authorized user of USPS mass mailing lists). Instructions on how to be placed on the mailing list are featured at the EPA field office on Vieques, on the Navy's Vieques public website, in flyers and newsletters, and announced at RAB meetings and other public events.

Email

Description: Electronic mail (email) is available to contact Navy, EPA, PRDNER, and other government agency representatives with questions or requests for information about the cleanup activities on Vieques.

Objective: Email allows residents to provide input, ask questions, and request information.

Method: Email contact information can be found in **Appendix A**. It can also be found in flyers, newsletters, and specific documents where community input is solicited per the CERCLA process, as well as on the Navy's Vieques public website at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>.

Public Notices

Description: Public notices are announcements published in local newspapers or sent through mailings that publicize public comment periods for proposed cleanup decisions, public meetings, and major cleanup milestones. In accordance with CERCLA, these notices are required for the announcement of proposed plans, EE/CAs, and emergency removal actions.

Objective: The goal of public notices is to communicate an upcoming important event so members of the community can be informed and, as applicable, plan to attend and/or participate.



Program Factsheets and
Informational Flyers

Method: Public notices are used to announce public comment periods and public meetings. They are published in Spanish and in English in local newspaper(s) (e.g., *El Vocero*, *Primera Hora*) and distributed via email. In certain cases, they may be included in radio announcements. Public comment periods are also announced in flyers and newsletters that are regularly disseminated to the public.

Safety Notifications

Description: The Navy, EPA, PRDNER, or USFWS, as appropriate, post advisories, access restrictions, and explanatory signs to clearly mark project work areas.

Objective: Advisories, restrictions, and explanatory signs are intended to keep the public informed and maintain safety.

Method: Advisories, explanatory signs, and restrictions on land access or to project work areas are posted as needed.

Informational kiosks have been constructed, one each at Playa La Chiva (formerly Blue Beach), Playa Pata Prieta, Punta Arenas (formerly Green Beach), and Playa Caracas (formerly Red Beach), two leading to the historic lighthouse at Puerto Ferro (one at the entrance and another one close to the Faro Berdiales lighthouse), and one on Cayo La Chiva.

The kiosks help visitors learn about munitions safety and the importance of avoiding restricted areas.



Information Resources

The following resources are used as needed to notify or inform the community of specific cleanup actions, documents, and activities. In addition, the EPA Field Office and Technical Support resources are available continually to support and involve the community.

EPA Vieques Field Office

Description: The EPA Vieques Field Office provides a location for the Vieques community to receive information and provide comments or questions in person.

Objective: To reach community members who prefer direct or interactive communication and may not otherwise be receiving information or providing input regarding the cleanup program.

Method: EPA personnel are normally available during business hours at the Field Office to answer cleanup program questions, provide information, or receive comments to documents in public review period.

EPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Division

ADDRESS:
Vieques Office Park
Carr. 200, Km 0.4
Vieques, PR 00765-1537
(787) 741-5201

Navy's Vieques Field Office

MAILING ADDRESS:
Camp Garcia
Building 4525
Vieques, PR 00765

Technical Support

Description: The Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP), Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), Technical Assistance Plan (TAP), and Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) programs are Department of Defense (TAPP) and EPA (TASC, TAG, and TAP) programs available to the public to provide independent technical support to community members.

Objective: To provide independent technical support to community members to help them better understand and provide input on topics of local concern, such as site investigations and cleanup activities.

Method: Links are provided in the box to the right for these resources, which include information on how to apply for any of these grants or assistance.

To obtain this information, community members without computer access may contact RAB members, or Navy or EPA contacts provided in this CIP.

Information Repositories

Description: The Navy maintains an information repository, including the official Administrative Record, at the Vieques public website at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>.

The public website is accessible from any computer with access to the Internet, including at the Vieques Electronic Municipal Library (*Biblioteca Electronica Municipal*) located at 29 Street Victor Duteill, Vieques, PR –(across from the post office); the Navy has posted written instructions on how to access the Vieques public website and the Administrative Record, which is a repository of the publicly available documents associated with the cleanup.

Instructions on accessing the Navy's Vieques public website are also publicized in flyers, newsletters and postcards, RAB meetings, and other events. The EPA and Navy Field Offices can also be contacted for information.

EPA maintains a repository of documents at its Vieques Field Office. See **Appendix F** for the address, phone number, and location map of EPA's Vieques Field Office.

Objective: Information repositories are locations available to the public at which residents can access official documents and other pertinent information about the cleanup process.

Method: EPA maintains a Vieques cleanup information repository at the EPA office in Vieques that will continue to be updated as documents become available. See **Appendix A** for contact information for the EPA Vieques Field office. The Navy maintains project-related cleanup information, including the

TECHNICAL SUPPORT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Department of Defense Resources

- **Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)**
https://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac_worldwide/specialty_centers/exwc/products_and_services/ev/go_erb/overview/cercla-process/community-involvement.html

EPA Resources

- **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)**
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>
- **Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)**
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-plan-tap>
- **Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)**
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

Administrative Record, on the public website at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques> and at the Electronic Municipal Library (*Biblioteca Electronica Municipal*).

Maps and Visual Aids

Description: Maps and visual aids help people understand where past Navy training activities took place and the locations of cleanup activities, and areas open to the public or restricted from public access.



Poster Session Display

Objective: The objective of using visual aids is to help the public understand where it is safe to go and areas that are restricted, as well as convey other information related to the cleanup and island resources.

Method: Maps, photographs, and other visual aids are used regularly in documents and fact sheets, at public sessions, on the various Vieques websites, and on signs and kiosks posted around the former VNTR and NASD.

Reports/Work Plans

Description: These documents detail the investigations, findings, and recommendations associated with the Vieques cleanup and are made available on the Navy's Vieques public website once finalized.

Objective: To provide the public with access to detailed information on the cleanup process and associated decision making.

Method: Because these work plans and reports tend to be very technical, their availability is supported with other community involvement activities, such as those discussed previously. In addition, the Navy prepares summaries in both Spanish and English to accompany the release of many reports and work plans to the public. Reports and work plans are available at the EPA office, and online at the Navy's Vieques public website at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>.

Stakeholder Interaction

The following resources are used at various times to directly involve the community in the cleanup activities being implemented in Vieques and many of these allow real time input and communication between the public and stakeholder agencies. The timeframes range from continual interaction with regulatory agencies to as-needed or as-requested interaction with the community such as seminars, workshops, and public meetings/comment periods.

Coordination Among Federal and Local Government and Agencies

Description: The Navy, EPA, USFWS, and PRDNER coordinate with other local and federal agencies to keep them informed and to get feedback on their goals and concerns. A sample of the agencies and local government entities involved is presented in **Table 5-1**.

Objective: Coordination ensures government officials and agencies are informed of cleanup activities, provide input, and work collaboratively during administration of the cleanup activities.

Method: Relationships among agencies will continually be fostered through meetings and dialogue.

Table 5-1. Agencies and Local Government included in Vieques Cleanup Coordination

Agency	Description and Involvement
Navy	Lead agency in charge of cleanup of lands previously owned by the Navy. Coordinates activities with the other agencies and the community as part of the CERCLA process.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Stakeholder federal agency with oversight role over the cleanup activities.
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)	Stakeholder commonwealth agency tasked with oversight role over the cleanup activities and protecting, conserving, and managing Puerto Rico's natural and environmental resources.
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Stakeholder federal agency whose mission includes working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for future generations. USFWS manages the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge for this purpose and to provide opportunities for wildlife dependent recreational activities.
Municipality of Vieques (MOV)	Stakeholder local government and landowner.
United States Coast Guard	Federal agency that regulates and disseminates information on restrictions of the navigable waterways (including the waters around Vieques).
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Federal agency whose mission includes conserving and managing coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) division of NOAA is responsible for stewardship and management of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat.
State Historic Preservation Office	Commonwealth stakeholder agency whose mission is protecting historic properties. State Historic Preservation Office supports Vieques cleanup by helping to ensure requirements associated with protecting cultural artifacts are met.

Restoration Advisory Board Meetings

Description: The Vieques RAB comprises community members and representatives from stakeholder government agencies.

Representatives from the public, Navy, PRDNER, EPA, and USFWS participate on the RAB. RAB meetings are held quarterly and are open to the general public. The agencies provide presentations on topics of interest, including the cleanup progress. RAB members have an opportunity to provide formal input at the RAB meetings and RAB members and visitors may ask questions and offer comments during and at the end of each RAB meeting.



Downtown Vieques, Puerto Rico

Objective: To foster communication among the community, regulators, and other stakeholders associated with or interested in the cleanup on Vieques. RAB meetings serve as a forum to share information on the environmental restoration process and remediation technologies.

Method: RAB meetings are held quarterly and are open to the general public. Attendees have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input during and at the end of each meeting. Simultaneous interpretation is provided for non-bilingual participants. RAB meetings are advertised to the public in informational flyers, in the Navy's Vieques public website, Facebook page, and by broadcasts on the megaphone trucks typically used to announce public events on Vieques. RAB meetings are held at the Vieques Multiple Use Center, the Icehouse, the Lighthouse, or other facilities, depending on the availability of the facilities.



Translation Equipment

Stakeholder agencies (Navy, EPA, USFWS, and PRDNER) schedule, prepare for, and attend all RAB meetings. When scheduling and other logistical considerations allow, the Navy will provide RAB members with the agenda and presentations in advance of the meetings.

School/Law Enforcement Education Outreach Activities

Description: If a school or public law enforcement organization expresses interest, the Navy, EPA, USFWS, and/or PRDNER can provide munitions safety and cleanup information to assist them in developing related educational projects and/or munitions safety awareness.

Objective: Educational activities help expand awareness and understanding of the project and strengthen the relationships with the community.

Method: Educators, students, and law enforcement personnel can visit or call the Navy, EPA, USFWS and/or PRDNER for information and to request a visit to their schools, meeting, or other educational outreach event (see **Appendix A** for Navy, EPA, USFWS and PRDNER contacts), or visit the websites described previously.

Media Distribution/Media Events

Description: Periodic updates and important information are provided to local media (newspapers, and radio) on Vieques and mainland Puerto Rico in both Spanish and English.

Objective: Working effectively with the media allows a large audience to be reached quickly and further reinforces important information.

Method: Navy and regulatory agency representatives provide information about upcoming events and actions that are accessible to the news media. Media briefings may be used to summarize the purpose and main points of public events and to enhance accuracy of media coverage.

Community Events

Description: Navy, EPA, PRDNER, USFWS and other agency representatives sponsor and attend community events such as the STEM Fair discussed previously, a “Photo Voice” event, a participatory action tool that employs photography and group dialogue, which would include a program progress update with before and after images, and other activities where cleanup and munitions safety information is distributed and answers to community questions are provided.

Objective: Community events provide the opportunity to build and maintain relationships with the public for mutual exchange of information. Community events also foster an understanding and appreciation of the daily lives of community members and the events and activities important to them. Information can support munitions awareness and safety, updates on project activities, and other data about environmental protection and conservation.

Method: An information area or booth may be supplied and staffed at community events. Local clubs, businesses, and churches are included in mailing lists and receive hard copies of flyers and other information. These entities may also request additional cleanup information for sharing with their respective groups and audiences.

Project Site Visits/Tours

Description: Site visits and tours are conducted when possible and as requested based on the interest and audience. Members of the RAB and public are periodically given opportunities for guided tours to view cleanup activities when such tours are feasible and safe.

Objective: Site visits give the public a better understanding of the cleanup process and progress.

Method: Representatives of the Navy, EPA, USFWS, PRDNER and other agencies lead and/or participate in tours of the sites to provide a project update and answer questions from the public. Community members interested in a site visit or tour can contact the Navy or other stakeholder agencies listed in **Appendix A**.



3Rs of Safety Training Events for local community members



UXO Awareness Signs

Public Comment Periods and Public Meetings

Description: The public comment period is an opportunity provided under CERCLA for community members to review and provide formal comments on proposed interim or final actions. Comment periods are legally required for, among other things, EE/CAs for removal actions and proposed plans.

Public meetings are structured, formal meetings that are open to the general public, featuring a presentation and/or interaction with the public regarding the document that has been submitted for formal public comment.

Objective: Comment periods allow the public to offer formal input on significant decisions associated with the cleanup and provide the agencies with valuable information for use in making those decisions. Public meetings are opportunities to present the key aspects of the proposed action and address community questions, concerns, ideas, and comments.

Method: Each comment period is announced in a variety of ways that may include public notices in the newspaper(s) (e.g., *Primera Hora*, the main newspaper that serves the local community), the EPA's and Navy's websites, the Navy's email list, and informational flyers. These announcements ensure the public is informed about the availability of cleanup proposals being made, how comments can be submitted, and how long the comment period will be open.

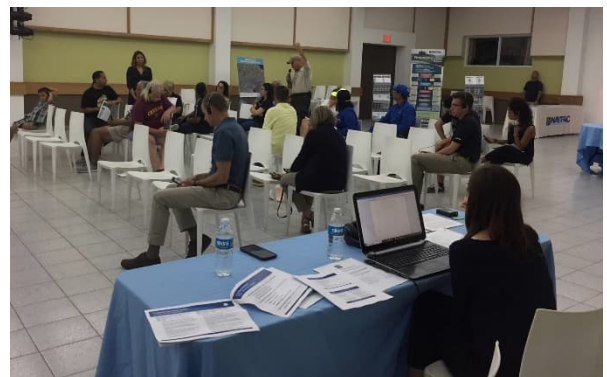
Public meetings are held when required by regulation or requested. Stakeholder agencies (Navy, EPA, PRDNER, and USFWS) schedule, prepare for, and attend public meetings. Public notification of public meetings is provided in advance of the public meetings. Simultaneous interpretation (English and Spanish) is provided and involves the use of a court reporter and preparation of a meeting transcript. Public meetings are held at the Vieques Multiple Use Center, the Icehouse, the Lighthouse, or other facilities depending on their availability.

Public Information Sessions

Description: Public information sessions are informal meetings open to the general public. They generally feature posters, displays, presentations, question-and-answer sessions, and other interaction between government experts and the public. Detailed information about particular cleanup activities is presented and individuals are encouraged to freely express their concerns and ask questions of government personnel.

Objective: The goal of these sessions is to provide the public with additional opportunities for face-to-face discussions on specific cleanup activities and to enable community members to ask questions in a comfortable and informal setting. Public information sessions also provide an opportunity for detailed discussions of aspects of the cleanup process that the community find confusing or troublesome.

Method: The Navy conducts these sessions as needed at available locations (see **Appendix E**) and at times representatives from the Navy and/or other stakeholder agencies are available and when most



UXOs 12 and 14 Proposed Plan Public Meeting

community members are likely available (e.g., evenings). Information sessions are commonly scheduled for specific technical topics yet they can also be arranged based on input from the RAB and/or general public.

Simultaneous interpretation or Spanish speaking Navy and/or contractor staff is available at information sessions to facilitate bilingual communication unless it is determined prior to the meeting that Spanish translation is not needed. Public information sessions are publicized through one or more of the following methods: informational flyers (via email or regular USPS mail), RAB meetings, megaphone trucks, Navy's Vieques public website and social media).

Workshops/Seminars

Description: Workshops and seminars are classroom-style sessions used to provide more detailed technical information to interested citizens. Workshops are used to explore cleanup-specific topics and general regulatory or scientific processes.

Objective: Workshops are used to educate small groups of community members on select topics associated with the processes used in the cleanup program.

Method: If there is sufficient interest, focused workshops can be coordinated among key representatives of the agencies, technical experts, and interested community members. As a key component of the Navy's Vieques community involvement program, the RAB plays an important role in suggesting topics for workshops. Potential for workshops can be discussed in RAB meetings and attendees are encouraged to request workshops. Attendance at the workshops requires advanced sign-up as coordination of appropriate resources is required. The workshops are announced to the public so that interested community members can sign up.



RAB Members Workshop

Community Interviews

Description: Community interviews allow the government agencies to listen to, document, and address questions and concerns of community members, groups, and other stakeholders.

Objective: To obtain public input on topics related to cleanup activities being conducted on former Navy land.

Method: Interviews are generally conducted at residences, businesses, during community events, and at public forums. Interviews are conducted informally in a casual conversation style. Participants are able to speak openly in a comfortable atmosphere with the interviewer. Interviews may be conducted throughout the cleanup process to collect information for a specific site or cleanup activity.

6 Community Involvement Timing of Activities

Throughout the CERCLA process, the activities and tools presented in Section 5 are used to involve and inform the appropriate stakeholders of site cleanup options, program status, and periods where stakeholder input is needed or required. Based on the community survey results, these tools and activities have been correlated with the community concerns identified and applicable stakeholders **Table 6-1**. An approximate frequency has been estimated for each; however, the appropriate frequency and tools will be based on specific needs identified and the requirements of the corresponding CERCLA step.

Table 6-1. Vieques Community Involvement Activities and Tools Schedule

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Internet Resources								
Social Media (Facebook)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and safety• Cleanup status• Availability of information• Upcoming activities• Beach accessibility and use• Current access restrictions• Community involvement in cleanup activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vieques community• RAB members• Businesses• Community organizations• Government• Regulatory agencies• Visitors to Vieques• Other stakeholders outside Vieques		X				
Web Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community health and safety• Cleanup status• Availability of information• Upcoming activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vieques community• RAB members• Local Businesses• Community organizations• Local government• Regulatory agencies• Other stakeholders outside Vieques		X				
Virtual Engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleanup status• Availability of information• Upcoming activities• Beach accessibility and use• Current access restrictions• Community involvement in cleanup activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vieques community• RAB members• Businesses• Community organizations• Government• Regulatory agencies• Visitors to Vieques• Other stakeholders outside Vieques	X					

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Public Notification Tools								
Flyers/ Newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Health and safetyCleanup statusCommunity involvement in cleanup activitiesUpcoming activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vieques communityRAB membersBusinessesCommunity organizationsLocal governmentRegulatory agenciesOther stakeholders outside Vieques	X (Flyers likely every other month)		X (Newsletters)			
Mailing Lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicating information to the communityCommunity involvement in cleanup activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vieques communityRAB membersBusinessesCommunity organizationsLocal governmentRegulatory agenciesOther stakeholders outside Vieques	X					
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Availability of informationCommunity involvement in cleanup activitiesUpcoming activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vieques communityRAB membersBusinessesCommunity organizationsLocal governmentRegulatory agenciesOther stakeholders outside Vieques	X					
Public Notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicating information to the communityCommunity involvement in cleanup activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vieques communityOther stakeholders outside Vieques	X					

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Safety Notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community Vieques visitors Businesses Government Regulatory agencies 	X					
<i>Information Resources</i>								
EPA Vieques Field Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating information to the community Cleanup status Health and safety Upcoming activities Community involvement in cleanup activities Current access restrictions Beach accessibility and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community Businesses Community organizations Visitors to Vieques 		X				
Technical Support (TASC, TAPP, TAG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating information to the community Cleanup status Health and safety Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members 		X				
Information Repositories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup status Availability of Information Current access restrictions Health and safety Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems Beach accessibility and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members Businesses Community organizations Local government Regulatory agencies Other stakeholders outside Vieques 	X					

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Maps and Visual Aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup status Availability of information Current access restrictions Health and safety Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems Beach accessibility and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB Members Businesses Local government Regulatory Agencies 	X					
Reports/Work Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of munitions General environmental impacts Health and Safety Cleanup status Communicating information to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members Businesses Community organizations Government Regulatory agencies Other stakeholders outside Vieques 	X					
<i>Stakeholder Interaction</i>								
Coordination with local, commonwealth, and federal government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup status Health and safety Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems Current access restrictions Beach accessibility and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and commonwealth government and regulatory agencies 		X				

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Restoration Advisory Board Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup status • Health and safety • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use • Communicating information to the community • Upcoming activities • Community involvement in cleanup activities • Information on cleanup process and progress • Community involvement and input to cleanup activities • Real time questions and answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vieques community • RAB members • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Businesses • Community organizations • Other stakeholders outside Vieques 			X			
School Education/Outreach Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety • 3Rs safety awareness trainings • Communicating information to the community • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vieques community 	X					
Media Engagements (Events and Media Kits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup status • Communicating information to the community • Health and safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vieques community • Other stakeholders outside Vieques 	X					

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Community Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety 3Rs safety awareness information Cleanup status Communicating information to the community Community involvement in cleanup activities Availability of information Current access restrictions Beach accessibility and use Upcoming activities Photo Voice (before and after images showcase) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members Businesses Community organizations Vieques visitors Government Regulatory agencies Other stakeholders outside Vieques 	X					
Project Site Visits/Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup status Health and safety Communicating information to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members Government Regulatory agencies 	X					
Public Comment Periods and Public Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community involvement in cleanup activities Current access restrictions Health and safety Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems Beach accessibility and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members Businesses Community organizations Local government Regulatory agencies Other stakeholders outside Vieques 	X					
Public Information Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on cleanup process and progress Timeline of cleanup activities Address concerns related to clean-up activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community RAB members Local businesses Community organizations 	X					

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Every 6 Months	Annually	Every 2 Years
Workshops/ Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety 3Rs safety awareness trainings Current access restrictions Beach accessibility and use Cleanup status Community involvement in cleanup activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques Community RAB members Local government Regulatory agencies Businesses Community organizations 	X					
Complete Research (Methods could include community interviews, focus groups, and/or surveys)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community involvement in cleanup activities Availability of information Meeting with personnel involved with the cleanup program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vieques community Businesses Community organizations Other stakeholders outside Vieques 	Every five years, before each CIP update, or as determined/warranted by the project team					

Appendix A: Program Points of Contact

The Navy, EPA, USFWS, and PRDNER have designated the following staff as points of contact for public information and inquiries:

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING SYSTEMS COMMAND

Dan Waddill

Head Vieques Restoration Branch
Attn: Code EV31
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278
Email: dan.w.waddill.civ@us.navy.mil

Kevin Cloe

Remedial Project Manager Vieques Restoration
Section
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Daniel Hood

Remedial Project Manager Vieques Restoration
Section
Attn: Code EV31
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278
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Maria Danois

Vieques Site Manager Vieques Restoration
Section
Vieques Field Office, Camp García
P.O. Box 1532
Vieques, PR 00765
Email: maria.m.danois.civ@us.navy.mil

JC Kreidel

NAVFAC Atlantic Director, Public Affairs and
Communications
Attn: Code EV31
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278
Email: julianne.c.kreidel.civ@us.navy.mil

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Daniel Rodríguez

Remedial Project Manager Vieques Field Office
PO Box 1537
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Jessica Mollin

Remedial Project Manager
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
Email: mollin.jessica@epa.gov

Denise Zeno

Remedial Project Manager
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Email: zeno.denise@epa.gov

Donette Samuel

Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 2
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Email: mailto:samuel.donette@epa.gov

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mike Barandiarán

Refuge Manager, Vieques National Wildlife
Refuge
PO Box 1527
Vieques, PR 00765
Email: mike_barandiaran@fws.com

Ana Román

Deputy Project Leader, Caribbean Islands
National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Road 301 Km 5.1
Cabo Rojo, PR 00623
Email: ana_roman@fws.gov

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Juan Baba Peebles

Federal Facilities Coordinator
Auxiliary Secretary of Environmental Compliance
Department of Natural and Environmental
Resources
Environmental Agencies Building
Urbanización San Jose Industrial Park
1375 Avenida Ponce De Leon
San Juan, PR 00926
Email: juanbaba@jcs.pr.gov

Damaris Delgado

Department of Natural and Environmental
Resources
Cruz A. Matos Building
Sector El Cinco, 8838 Road, Km. 6.3
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, 00926

PRDNER/Rec & Sport Fishing Div.
PO Box 366147
San Juan, PR 00936-6147
Email: ddelgado@drna.pr.gov

Appendix B: Community and Stakeholder Organizations

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

Ecological, Conservation, Scientific, Cultural

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casa Pueblo • Center for Public Environmental Oversight • Centro de Acción Ambiental • Centro Cultural Yaureibo • Instituto de Cultura de Puerto Rico, Oficina de Vieques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museo Conde de Mirasol • Ticatove • Union for the Protection of the Environment of Vieques • Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust • Vieques Humane Society |
|---|---|

Academic

- University of Puerto Rico
- Escuela Intermedia 20 de Septiembre
- Escuela Superior Germán Rieckehoff

Religious

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship of Reconciliation • Iglesia Católica Inmaculada Concepción • Iglesia Fuente de Salvación | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iglesia Metodista • Iglesia Episcopal |
|---|--|

Political, Government and Utilities

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Fortaleza, Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico • Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Office • Puerto Rico Senate • Puerto Rico Legislature • Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puerto Rico Electric Authority • Puerto Rico Ports Authority • Puerto Rico Police • Puerto Rico Fire Department • Vieques Municipal Government |
|--|--|

Economic, Health and Community- Related

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación Alianza de Mujeres • Asociación Caballos Paso Fino • Asociación de Comerciantes de Vieques • Asociación Dueños y Criadores de Caballos de Vieques • Campamento Luisa Guadalupe • Centro Salud Familiar Susana Centeno • Comité Pro-Rescate y Desarrollo • Environmental Defense Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isla Nena en Progreso, Inc. • Juventud Viequense Unida • Liga de Béisbol Papo González Foster • Movimiento Integral Viequenses • Navy League of the United States - Vieques Chapter • Veteranos Viequenses Unidos por la Paz • Viequenses Unidos Hacia Mejor Futuro • Vieques Legislature |
|--|--|

Appendix C: Vieques Cleanup RAB Members

VIEQUES CLEANUP RAB MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2020

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Jorge Fernández Porto	Community RAB member
Colleen McNamara	Community RAB member
Lirio Márquez D'Acunti	Community RAB member
Stacie D. Notine	Community RAB member
Luther Landrum	Community RAB member
Linda LaViolette	Community RAB member
Myrna Pagán	Community RAB member
James E. Larkins	Community RAB member
Genoveva Rodriguez Paez	Community RAB member
Dan Waddill	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Kevin Cloe	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Daniel Hood	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Maria Danois	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Mike Barandiarán	Ex-Officio RAB Member, USFWS
Ana Román	Ex-Officio RAB Member, USFWS
Juan Babá Peebles	Ex-Officio RAB Member, PRDNER
Daniel Rodríguez	Ex-Officio RAB Member, EPA
Jessica Mollin	Ex-Officio RAB Member, EPA
Denise Zeno	Ex-Officio RAB Member, EPA

Appendix D: Community Survey Tool

INTERVIEW AND SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

VIEQUES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE MARCH 2020

We Need Your Help!

YOU can help the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program update its "Community Involvement Plan" and learn how people would like to be kept informed and aware of the environmental investigations and munitions response actions being done at Vieques. We encourage you to participate and take a few minutes to fill out this confidential questionnaire.

You have several options to return the completed survey - You can return a copy at the Post Office, Center of Integrated Services of Vieques, City Hall, or at Electronic Library on Victor Duteill street in front of the public plaza.

You can also fax it back to 714-424-2136 or if you prefer you can fill out the online questionnaire at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FQ7FWR7>

Please respond by April 3, 2020.

Date:	Name (optional):
COMMUNITY PROFILE	
1. Are you a resident of Vieques?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, how long have you lived in this community? If you are a part time resident of Vieques, how many months per year do you live on the island?
2. How would you describe your involvement in the community? (please check all the apply and provide additional details if you prefer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local resident <input type="checkbox"/> Local business owner <input type="checkbox"/> Local employee <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of homeowner or civic organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public or elected official <input type="checkbox"/> Representative or member of an environmental group <input type="checkbox"/> Community leader <input type="checkbox"/> Other Description:
GENERAL AWARENESS AND INTEREST	
3. Are you aware that the Navy is removing unexploded munitions (for example, projectiles, bombs, mortars, rockets, etc.) and cleaning up the former training ranges on Vieques?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, aware <input type="checkbox"/> Vaguely aware <input type="checkbox"/> No, not aware If "Yes", please describe your general understanding of the cleanup activities on the former training ranges on Vieques.

INTERVIEW AND SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

VIEQUES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE MARCH 2020

<p>4. Have you received or seen information about these cleanup activities?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If No, are there ways of communicating this information you recommend the Navy consider?</p>
<p>5. Are you aware of public access restrictions on certain areas?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If "No", are there ways of communicating this information you recommend the Navy consider?</p>
<p>LEVEL OF CONCERN</p>	
<p>6. Do you have concerns about the Vieques cleanup program?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes, please rank your top 5 concerns in order of importance, with 1 being your top concern.</p>	<p>___ Health of residents</p> <p>___ Natural or Cultural Resources impacts</p> <p>___ Economic impacts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Businesses (i.e., restaurants, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Employment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property Value</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Outfitters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tourism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns (describe):</p> <p>___ Access restrictions to certain areas within the refuge</p> <p>___ Potential to encounter munitions on land</p> <p>___ Potential to encounter munitions underwater</p> <p>___ Use of open detonation</p> <p>___ Level of information available regarding cleanup activities</p> <p>___ Level of public involvement in the decision-making process</p> <p>___ Level of regulatory agencies oversight</p> <p>___ How cleanup decisions are made</p> <p>___ Timeline for cleanup</p>
<p>7. What specific areas would you most like to see prioritized for opening to the public (for example, a particular beach or point of interest)?</p>	

2

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT	
8. Do you think the Navy has been effective in providing the community with information about the cleanup program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, are there methods of communicating information to the public not currently being used that you recommend the Navy consider?
9. Have you participated in meetings/events about the Vieques cleanup program during the last five years? (please check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> RAB meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Navy's Poster sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Public meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Technical workshops <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup-related meetings led by other agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Field site visits <input type="checkbox"/> STEM fairs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):
CLEANUP INFORMATION	
10. Have you ever used the Navy's Vieques cleanup public website to access the online Administrative Record or other documents related to the cleanup?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, please explain why.
11. How would you like to get information about the Vieques cleanup program? (please rank your top 5 in order of importance, with 1 being the most preferred and 10 being the least preferred)	<input type="checkbox"/> Community events (Fairs) <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Factsheet, flyers, newsletters (distributed around town) <input type="checkbox"/> Local news media <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter <input type="checkbox"/> Navy's Vieques cleanup public website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):
12. Apart from Vieques cleanup information, what source do you use to get local news? (please check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local radio stations <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspapers (online or print) <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input type="checkbox"/> Websites <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

INTERVIEW AND SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

VIEQUES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE MARCH 2020

13. If you had questions about the Vieques cleanup program, who would you contact?	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please list name and/or affiliation)			
14. Do you feel community concerns have been considered by the:	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Yes	No	Somewhat
	Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)	Yes	No	Somewhat
	Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	Yes	No	Somewhat
	Navy	Yes	No	Somewhat
15. Have you attended any public meetings about the Vieques cleanup program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not aware of any public meetings			
	16. Have you attended any cleanup Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not aware of any RAB meetings If "No" or "Not aware of any RAB meetings," would you be interested in attending RAB meetings or becoming a RAB member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

<p>17. Provide your thoughts about past efforts by the Navy to involve the public in decisions regarding cleanup.</p> <p>a. Are there aspects of past public participation that worked well?</p> <p>b. Are there aspects of past public participation that should be considered for improvement?</p> <p>c. Are there aspects of past public participation that should be considered for discontinuation?</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>
<p>18. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive information about the Vieques cleanup program, please fill out the contact information to the right.</p> <p>Please confirm your preferred method of contact:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mailing address to receive paper copies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email address for electronic distribution</p>	<p>Mailing address (optional):</p> <p>Email (optional):</p> <p>Phone (optional):</p>
<p>19. Please provide additional information that you would like to receive regarding the Vieques cleanup program.</p>	
<p>20. If you have any suggestions of other groups or individuals, we should talk to please provide name and contact information, if possible.</p>	

Thanks! We value your input!

Appendix E: Community Survey Results and Summary

COMMUNITY PROFILE									
1. Are you a resident of Vieques?								RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes								118	
No								4	122
If Yes, how long have you lived in this community?								Range from 15 months - 76 years	
If you are a part time resident of Vieques, how many months per year do you live on the island?								Range from 2-9 months per year	
2. How would you describe your involvement in the community? (please check all the apply and provide additional details if you prefer)								RESPONSES	TOTAL
Local resident								91	
Local business owner								22	
Local employee								11	
Representative of homeowner or civic organization								7	
Public or elected official								3	
Representative or member of an environmental group								7	
Community leader								8	168
Other: Vieques National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer TICATOVE Board member; art gallery/gift shop/real estate developer; part of the group that wanted to keep the Navy in our Bases and to negotiate for better understanding between the Defense Dept and Vieques Islanders; Concerned citizens; TICATOVE beach clean up Vieques Conservation & Historical & Trust, Corefi, Vieques Love, Hope Builders; Artist; Rotary member: Episcopspal season; Guest house owners; Visitors; Retiree; Small business owner. Founding member and president of the 501(c)(3) organization; Board Member of Vieques Humane Society; Volunteer for Senos Mammogram Testing; Music & art contributor; An independent member of the Governing Board of PREPA (Autoridad de Energia Electrica) and works closely with the Municipality of Vieques; Retail-Rental-Tours; Rental property owners								19	
GENERAL AWARENESS AND INTEREST									
3. Are you aware that the Navy is removing unexploded munitions (for example, projectiles, bombs, mortars, rockets, etc.) and cleaning up the former training ranges on Vieques?								RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes, aware								99	
Vaguely aware								16	
No, not aware								3	
If "Yes", please describe your general understanding of the cleanup activities on the former training ranges on Vieques:									
Understand that Navy is locating and removing unexploded ordnance from the range, that you are doing it section by section, and eventually creating a Wildlife refuge that people can enjoy safely; my specific interest is what decisions are made after the cleanup, in regards to access to the Refuge; RAB Member; I read all notices and communications; We know this cleanup has been going on for a long time; It's not happening fast enough; The Navy needs to increase personnel and equipment and get this finished; Too much of the island is still off limits; It's holding back the economy of the island which is primarily dependent on tourism; The Navy needs to open the areas that have been cleared; I keep up with the notices from NAVFAC; my understanding/hope is that the Navy will eventually open large areas of the range for public use; I am friendly with some of the people working with UXO; Occasional beach closings due to cleanup; Completion date; it was to be done by now									
Find, remove, or explode; Ongoing, slow, tedious and dangerous work, requiring skilled personnel; That's what we are told but new clean up contracts keep coming up.									
Too many restrictions; That it is a team project that will take 50 years more to finish ;This in untrue; It's expensive and ongoing ;Various contractors involved									
Is ongoing and is including some marine cleanup at present ;I know people who are involved in the cleanup and I can hear when they explode ordnance from our home									
Contact crews, removing ordnances from east end of island; General understanding; I believe that Navy contractors have been hired to remove unexploded ordnance in areas to the west of the populated lands of Vieques; Removing and detonating munitions to clear Vieques of unexploded munitions; The cleanup crews are burning the vegetation in selected areas, identifying munitions collecting them and openly detonating them; I'm not sure what the process is for removing munitions from the water; Clean land, square by square, still to do water									
At the beginning my family, friends, and neighbors, we were very involved in all the activities but when everything turned political we decided to stay out of it.									
We read about the publications and studies that have been done									
Cross cutting by Chiva, la Plata to check for unexploded ordnance; also Chiva island. Removal and clean up area beyond these areas survey, study, plan and execute the removal of UXO in the former Camp Garcia and the west end of Vieques									
The Navy is in the midst of a multi-decade cleanup of this Superfund site; I have been receiving monthly e-mail clean-up progress reports for years and find them both useful and adequately informative.									
Daily work cleaning munition areas; they are cleaning where it used to be the training area of the Navy; It's been more than 10 years detonating bombs; we can't use our beaches because of the program, we don't know what will happen to our land under USFWS management; we are worried about our means for our wildlife, beaches, and land for development purposes for Vieques; I've heard information about the cleanup, in addition I've heard the detonations and have smelled particular smells. Navy is eliminating potential dangers; after contaminating for 70 years, it's time for cleanup; cleanup progress is slow; Cleaning crews are in danger and risk of getting ill; cleanup in necessary to avoid a potential fatality; Glad the work is being done; understand the technicians from PR were trained to remove UXO, there is no access to these areas; I am just learning about the cleanup efforts and the work being performed									

4. Have you received or seen information about these cleanup activities?											RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes											78	116
No											38	
If No, are there ways of communicating this information you recommend the Navy consider?												
Web site with scheduled updates would work.												
I think it would be helpful to see maps detailing where the current efforts are occurring, and more information on timelines.												
Posting info at common public areas, stores, mailboxes, etc.												
Have a website with visual info and text in Spanish and English												
Mail												
Email												
Must wear divers gear												
Newsletters, flyers, public meetings												
5. Are you aware of public access restrictions on certain areas?											RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes											89	115
No											26	
If "No", are there ways of communicating this information you recommend the Navy consider?												
Establish reliable communication via Facebook, Municipality, Schools, Sports and Community Organizations												
Navy Base website												
Provide information to the entire Vieques community												
Leave Vieques												
Radio, newsletters, Web, TV, Newsletters												
Send information by mail												
LEVEL OF CONCERN												
6. Do you have concerns about the Vieques cleanup program?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes (If Yes, please rank your top 5 concerns in order of importance, with 1 being your top concern)											92	115
No											23	
Ranked top concerns in order of importance (1 being top concern, 10 being the least concern)												
Health of residents	71	2										73
Natural or Cultural Resources impacts	4	32	4	2								42
Economic impacts												0
– Businesses (i.e., restaurants, etc.)	1	2	5	2						1		11
– Employment		2	10	4	3						1	20
– Property Value		2	4	6	3	2				2		19
– Outfitters					3	2	1	1		1		8
– Tourism	1	3	5	7	7	5	3	2	1	1		35
– Other concerns (describe):												0
Access restrictions to certain areas within the refuge	2	8	13	5	4	4		1		1		38
Potential to encounter munitions on land			6	8	2	3	2		3			24
Potential to encounter munitions underwater		2	2	7	8	3	7	3	1	1		34
Use of open detonation	3	8	4	6	6	3	3	5	3	1		42
Level of information available regarding cleanup activities	1	3	3	3	6	1	5	3	5	2		32
Level of public involvement in the decision-making process		1	6	3	4		5	7	3	4		33
Level of regulatory agencies oversight		1		2	2	2		1	1	4		13
How cleanup decisions are made	1	1	3	3	6	3		1		6		24
Timeline for cleanup	4	4	2	3	6	1	3			1		24

7. What specific areas would you most like to see prioritized for opening to the public (for example, a particular beach or point of interest)?								RESPONSES	TOTAL
Federal lands, restricted ones managed by USFWS Other beaches mentioned were: Playa las Huecas, Malecon Morropo, Media Luna, Calle de Tierra Lugares, la Bahia, Punto Real, Rompeolas, Mountains, Cayo la Chiva, Ensenada Honda, Playa Voltara, Caracas (Red Beach), Blue Beach, Allende, Cayo Pepsi Cola, La Yaki, Monte Pirata, Puerto Diablo, Purple Beach, Black Beach, and Yellow Beach, Punta Arena, Garcia, Punta Jalova, Salinas Sur, beautiful south beaches Other areas include: Public access to roads, horseback trails, new parts of the preserve areas. All beaches should be cleaned, we want piece of mind Faro Antiguo A hospital All beaches, all areas All four corners of the island are used by the community, we want the entire island Cleanup is important for health, economic development, and safety Timeline supervision and tasks completed passed due dates All areas previously used by the Navy Restricted areas; I like to fish but these have warning signs								89	
8. Do you think the Navy has been effective in providing the community with information about the cleanup program?								RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes								54	116
No								62	
If No, are there methods of communicating information to the public not currently being used that you recommend the Navy consider?									
Develop an effective communication method: Digital Platforms, Municipality Local Community Groups, Schools Groups, and Sports Clubs Television, local newspapers, local radio stations, newsletters, flyers, Navy's social media (Facebook, Navy's web site), Email Monthly or quarterly public meetings to offer concrete and specific evidence Information about what they have done so far through Notify community of meetings and cleanup updates by mail Vieques community members working together with those in management (NAVFAC) Reunion con los ciudadanos Viequesenses. Dejarnos saber sobre la limpieza. No estamos seguros viviendo en Vieques Información sobre lo que han hecho hasta ahora a través de periódicos Prensa escrita, radio, tv, web, hojas informativas Tienen que hacer limpieza con mucho cuidado Place information at public places (i.e., Pescaderia Norte) Libre acceso a la prensa en general; al público y rotulación adecuada Email with residentes de Vieques Quarterly Reports (every 3-4 months) Provide information at all public places, with constant information being made available.									
9. Have you participated in meetings/events about the Vieques cleanup program during the last five years? (please check all that apply)								RESPONSES	TOTAL
RAB meetings								15	120
Navy's Poster sessions								9	
Public meetings								34	
Technical workshops								5	
Cleanup-related meetings led by other agencies								10	
Field site visits								9	
STEM fairs								3	
Other (describe)									
Not informed/aware of meetings								35	
Meetings should be announced in English and Spanish									

CLEANUP INFORMATION													
10. Have you ever used the Navy's Vieques cleanup public website to access the online Administrative Record or other documents related to the cleanup?												RESPONSES	TOTAL
Yes												27	115
No												88	
If No, please explain why.													
I don't have information of public webpage, need to provide more information													
I don't like to use the internet													
Don't have access to the web or internet													
I don't believe we are getting honest information													
Provide link to the website													
Don't have a computer													
I don't know how to access													
I was not aware of a website													
Not interested													
11. How would you like to get information about the Vieques cleanup program? (please rank your top 5 in order of importance, with 1 being the most preferred and 10 being the least preferred)												RESPONSES	TOTAL
Community events (Fairs)	24	5	8	8	8	3		1				57	501
Email	27	7	5	1	6	2	2					50	
Facebook	15	10	5	8	4	3	3	1			1	50	
Factsheet, flyers, newsletters (distributed around town)	21	23	16	11	7	1	1		1			81	
Local news media	1	11	23	8	4	4	2			2		57	
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings	3	8	3	9	8	3	7	5				46	
Mail	19	18	13	10	7	4	3	2	1			77	
Twitter			2		1		1	6	5		3	18	
Navy's Vieques cleanup public website	3	10	3	6	11	2	1	3	7			46	
Other:													
The language used to describe what you are doing is not understandable to most people.													
Completion date													
Please be sure they are bilingual													
The info "I" want you all won't provide. This info I rather not give.													
Publicize the website - This survey should include the URL of Navy's website, all communication should have the website													
Navy cleanup information through Fish and Wildlife poster sessions periodically at entrance, at beaches, and at placards													
Schools and sport clubs													
General information													
12. Apart from Vieques cleanup information, what source do you use to get local news? (please check all that apply)												RESPONSES	TOTAL
Local radio stations												43	246
Local newspapers (online or print)												54	
Television												47	
Websites												24	
Facebook												61	
Other:													
Word of mouth													
Schools and sports clubs													
Talking to others, friends													
Community comments													
Local people in person or texting													
Know some of the cleanup people													
DNEPR													
Friends													
Look for the information that I am interested to know													
Both individual and group Facebook pages -- e.g., Vieques Peeps													

13. If you had questions about the Vieques cleanup program, who would you contact?								RESPONSES	TOTAL	
Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)								17	109	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)								12		
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)								31		
Navy								13		
Other: (please list name and/or affiliation)								36		
Not sure										
All										
EPA & Navy										
FWS & Navy										
DRNA, EPA, & Navy										
DRNA, EPA, & FWS										
DRNA & FWS										
Most trustworthy and one who has the information										
Do you feel community concerns have been considered by:				Yes	No	Somewhat	RESPONSES		TOTAL	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)				36	29	34			99	383
Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)				33	33	30			96	
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)				45	23	29			97	
Navy				34	34	23			91	
TOTAL				148	119	119				
For any "No" or "Somewhat" answers, please provide specific information and any recommendations for consideration.										
They are doing everything quietly and blindly. We Viequesenses, we demand to participate in the decision-making in our lands and to be able to make a good Economic and Educational Development Plan.										
DRNA is not seen around here working on anything and the Navy continues with detonations in the open air										
They do not provide much information, need better communicators, and communication methods										
They deny the existence of chemicals. They deny the fact of the cancer numbers, they deny the truth. They hide the results. They are politicians like the government										
They are not doing their job properly. Open detonations are worrisome										
I do not see interest from these agencies because the process is clear, transparent and efficient. Many seek their own financial benefit										
I have not been aware of this										
Not worth it. The Navy is going to do whatever it wants.										
Poor communication with town										
When people (he / she) want to know something they look for a way how to find out										
Why are bombs keep being exploded										
Most of the agencies response is to comply with Navy pressure and financial support. The agencies do not for the most part defend or respond to community interest										
Navy needs to get more done regarding the cleanup and in a much timelier fashion										
Seems like little is being done and slowed, especially post Hurricane Maria										
USFWS had been the best agency to respond to local community needs and suggestions. However, being the selected policing agency on the reserve, on occasion this presents areas of conflict with local interest.										
15. Have you attended any public meetings about the Vieques cleanup program?								RESPONSES	TOTAL	
Yes								43	114	
No								44		
Not aware of any public meetings								27		
16. Have you attended any cleanup Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings?								RESPONSES	TOTAL	
Yes								19	114	
No								60		
Not aware of any public meetings								35		
If "No" or "Not aware of any RAB meetings," would you be interested in attending RAB meetings or becoming a RAB member?										
Yes								41	76	
No								35		

17. Provide your thoughts about past efforts by the Navy to involve the public in decisions regarding cleanup.	RESPONSES	TOTAL
<p>a. Are there aspects of past public participation that worked well?</p> <p>I have not experienced any aspects of the past public participation that works. The RAB is not a member of the decision making team. So it is impossible for the public to have an active and meaningful participation in the cleanup project. The cleanup process by its design and definition cannot respond to the Vieques Community interest.</p> <p>Being Transparent</p> <p>Not that I am aware of</p> <p>Making sure enough notice of meetings</p> <p>Public fairs, flyers, RAB meetings</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Navy does not want public decisions; only what they stipulate</p> <p>Frankly, I'm not aware of any particular Navy function that has attendees. And this can't offer any helpful answers here.</p> <p>Unaware of these activities but unlikely to participate</p> <p>The environmental fairs were an excellent way to teach everyone, especially the children.</p> <p>Unaware of past public participation</p> <p>I tend to think you get the same engaged and obstinate people attending the meetings; the Navy needs to break through to the people and the best way is to involve youth with the offer of training, educational opportunities, and summer jobs.</p> <p>The truth is that every time the Navy tries to bring data to the public consideration in open meeting everything is twisted and politically used to make the Navy lose its credibility.</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Not to my knowledge. Personally, I cannot identify as aspect of the cleanup process which was the results of a requested change from the community. In all of the RAB meetings in which I have participated I cannot identify one aspect requested that was included in a clear up or land use plan. The plans are determined by the Navy and FWS. What is implemented is only that plan. Participation from the Vieques community is irrelevant to the plan that is presented. If Vieques Community participation was a valid consideration, then the community should be involved in developing the strategic direction of the cleanup and restoration process.</p> <p>Never been on one.</p> <p>Youth programs, Navy League YCC</p> <p>Would like more information about RAB, purpose, what is being cleaned, does Navy care</p> <p>I don't have detailed information to answer, however I believe it is very important to involve the community on the cleanup process</p> <p>They [Navy] have had good disposition and availability</p> <p>For those [meetings] that I attended, everything worked well</p> <p>No, we are tired of the same failed promises</p> <p>For what, you still do as you please</p> <p>Why get the community involved if you don't listen to the community, you are still detonating bombs</p> <p>I was not aware of past meetings, just learning about these</p> <p>I'm a government employee and the Vieques community has mixed politics with public health and I don't support that.</p>		
<p>b. Are there aspects of past public participation that should be considered for improvement?</p> <p>The RAB should have at least 2 members participation on the cleanup decision making team. Currently there are NO Vieques residents that directly participate in cleanup planning or decisions. This is not participation if we only are told what decision has already been made. Open detonation is still happening, Just yesterday, and the majority of Vieques is against open detonation and has demanded that it be stopped. How is this participation?</p> <p>The navy should offer guided tours through the area so that people can see exactly what has been done. These tours could be in closed vehicles to keep participants safe.</p> <p>What percentage of population actually participates? Is the public who participates Viequeses?</p> <p>An area to place suggestions</p> <p>Be truthful; 15 years and nothing to show for progress</p> <p>No, just keep doing what you do. Some people don't want to change, just want/think they want things to be different.</p> <p>More communication with community</p> <p>Unaware of these activities but unlikely to participate</p> <p>More effective information from the Navy and other participating groups about the cleanup program and where residents can get information, how residents can become involved, date, time and location regarding meetings.</p> <p>Meetings to be in Spanish and English.</p> <p>I think having a good facilitator is always good . Drawing on my experience as a member of the Gowanus Superfund Community Advisory. There were over 50 community members with widely different points of view but having a goof fair facilitator helped bring everyone together. I also think you need to package the science in a more digestible form since people without a science background are insecure and distrustful of science.</p> <p>Don't know what they are for the most part</p> <p>Inform community that meetings can be done in Spanish language</p> <p>Cayo La Chica land use plan (To mention 1) that was develop by the community but ignored in the final plan approved by and implemented by the Navy, FWS, DNR, EPA. This same applies to the plans implemented in mosquito.</p> <p>Communication and engagement from the Vieques community</p> <p>Provide real information</p> <p>Can always be improved</p> <p>Advertise cleanup activities on local Facebook pages</p> <p>You need to stop detonating bombs for our health. We're in the middle of a pandemic and you're still exploding bombs</p> <p>Yes, invite residents to participate and get involved</p> <p>Provide more information to the community</p>		

c. Are there aspects of past public participation that should be considered for discontinuation?									
What meaningful participation, when the Navy does what they want irrespective of what people of Vieques want.									
Completion date									
Open burning; hurry up and return land to the people of Vieques									
I don't know or care									
Not enough information to answer									
Frankly, I'm not aware of any particular Navy function that has attendees. And this can't offer any helpful answers here.									
Unaware of these activities but unlikely to participate									
The RAB meetings are always attended by the same small number of residents who ask the same questions									
Get rid of the activists									
Start by actually including the requests of the community in the plans									
Listen to local contacts with personal interests, an not from Vieques									
Last meeting was good, not the lies to the community									
Remove attendees who interrupt meetings									
18. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive information about the Vieques cleanup program, please fill out the contact information to the right.									
Please confirm your preferred method of contact:									
– Mailing address to receive paper copies									35
– Email address for electronic distribution									33
19. Please provide additional information that you would like to receive regarding the Vieques cleanup program.									
Jobs, educational opportunities, decision making participation									18
List all beaches open to the public, and a list of those restricted with no public access									
What is happening at the moment; What is going to happen, plans, and how to carry it out; More open and honest communication									
That they notify in time and give the opportunity to organize in advance									
All the information they have to be provided in Spanish									
All available cleanup related information; About the work to be done and how long the cleaning will last if possible									
What is the participation of the people? How much can the community influence the decision-making of NAVFAC?									
In Vieques there are people with cancer. What is going to pay us for the bombardment noises that we have heard in Vieques since we were young? We are traumatized by everything									
Unnecessary accidents have occurred due to depositing those materials on my island.									
Let them end now; that they leave Vieques and hand over the lands and structures.									
They could help people that I know who need work/a job									
The Navy never denied us camping on the beaches of Vieques, on the contrary, they helped us. They had a lot of interaction with the beach officials and staff. In the camps, the civilians believed that the base was theirs. You are going the same way.									
Analyze yourselves. I'm dying and I don't see my beaches									
Send information via regular mail & email									
What level of pollution is exposed in the air and reaches the population - when detonated?									
Much evil in Vieques to retaliate against people when they have an opinion									
What and how many areas have been cleaned									
The people need work and money.									
Yes I would like it. I am a teacher in the Social Studies class and it is important in history									
I think recently it is fine as they are handling it so far. Updates of progress made. Opening of cleared areas. Future plans and estimated completion plan.									
The Containments in the ground are causing Cancer and for the Navy to recognize this for us Veterans that served there and came down with Cancer									
When are you opening more beaches? When are you returning the land to the people of Vieques? When are you giving space for a new landfill? Why did you not compensate every citizen for the damage done? Why did you not rebuild the hospital? Why do you not purchase new vessels for the ATM?									
Text or email notification of public meetings/fairs and RAB meetings									
What areas may be open in the future?									
How much it is costing and who is paying									
New trails and public access									
I would like to know if the funding for this site has been cut and for what reason? Is it still a priority? How can we make it one?									
I would like to receive meeting notes and distributed information from the last three years.									
Timeline. Where you are specifically and where you are going specifically rather than general and vague information									
So far what's been done and I heard of, it's fine.									

20. If you have any suggestions of other groups or individuals, we should talk to please provide name and contact information, if possible.	RESPONSES	TOTAL
<p>MANTA- The Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust. Sports Club Atletico, German Rieckehoff Morales de Vieques. (G.R.M.) school, Isla Nena Basquetbol (I. N. B.) Vieques Boys N Girls Club</p> <p>Vieques Law Enforcement Athletic League</p> <p>ifmccadi.wordpress.com www.taino-tribe.org</p> <p>EL MAESTRO CENTRO CULTURAL Y EDUCATIVO PRESIDENTE: PONCE LASPINA https://www.puerto-rican-congress.com/ Independencia.net ppdpr.net</p> <p>Why was this area known a wildlife refuge when "wildlife" is the least abundant? Was it to use the least amount of cleanup? What if it was selected as a National Park? or to expand the town and living areas? Do you know the answers? Tell me. Thank you.</p> <p>All that interests me is "when" will all the lands be given back to us with formal apologies for damage done</p> <p>AS A FORMER ACADEMIC, YOU COULD HAVE ASKED OTHER QUESTIONS AND HAD THE SURVEY REVIEWED BEFORE SENDING OUT. AS ALREADY MENTIONED, ANY COMMUNICATION SHOULD HAVE THE PUBLIC WEBSITE URL ON IT .</p> <p>Advertise on Vieques Love, TV</p> <p>Navy should publish if there are any job opportunities. Thank you for allow me, the reside to give my opinion.</p> <p>The Navy never denied us camping on the beaches of Vieques, on the contrary, they helped us. They had a lot of interaction with the beach officials and staff. In the camps, the civilians believed that the base was theirs. You are going the same way.</p> <p>Analyze yourselves. I'll die and I don't see my beaches</p>		20

Summary of Community Responses to Vieques CIP Survey Conducted During March and August 2020

Community Profile

The vast majority of respondents (96 percent) identified themselves as Vieques residents

- Those who identified themselves as part-time residents live on the island an average of two to nine months out of the year.
- The majority of respondents (85 percent) have no affiliation with any local organization or groups
- Some do have connections with nonprofit organizations
- Some identified themselves as home or business owners
- Some are associated with a religious group
- Few have association with an education entity
- Few associated themselves with sports groups
- Few belong to an organized political group

General Awareness and Interest

Most of the respondents are aware and have received information about the cleanup activities.

Respondents suggested various methods of communication including:

- Flyers and newsletters (in both languages)
- Social media and website updates
- Detailed maps and timelines to be made available to the public
- Information to be made available at public areas, stores, mailboxes, etc.

The vast majority of the respondents have knowledge about access restrictions to certain areas.

Level of Concern

Concerns related to the Vieques environmental restoration program include:

- Health issues related to open detonation activities, general environmental impacts, removal of munitions on land, economic impact, and quality of life were identified as the top concerns
- Regulatory oversight, timeline of cleanup activities, and effects of the cleanup activities ranked lower on the list of concerns.
- Additional concerns mentioned include:
 - Dangers posed by munitions
 - Communicating the dangers to the community
 - Concern the community will never have access to the lands

- Current access restrictions to beaches
- Concern for the next generations and how the contamination will affect them
- Less than a third of the respondents do not feel affected by the Navy's activities on Vieques
- Nearly 60 percent of the respondents have concerns about the Navy's cleanup activities on Vieques

Respondents would like the following areas prioritized for opening with unrestricted access to the public.

- All restricted beaches and those managed by USFWS
- Other areas/beaches mentioned were: Cayo la Chiva, Ensenada Honda, Playa Voltara, Caracas (Red Beach), Blue Beach, Allende, Cayo Pepsi Cola, La Yaki, Monte Pirata, Puerto Diablo, Purple Beach, Black Beach, Yellow Beach, Punta Arena, Garcia, and Punta Jalova.

Additional comments and topics mentioned: Public access to roads, horseback trails, and to open new areas of the preserve areas.

Level of Involvement

About 47% of the respondents indicated the Navy has been effective in providing the community with information about the cleanup program, while 53% responded negatively.

Suggestions for communicating with the public include:

- Provide specific information and answer specific questions by:
 - Informing the community using easier and less technical mailings, flyers
 - Create an effective communication method, join digital platforms, local municipal groups, schools
 - Providing a timeline for opening other beaches
 - Offering limited guided site tours of the site
 - RAB meetings to take place at accessible venues for most of the population
 - Informing the public about the dangers
 - Allowing the press, the public in general to obtain information
 - Adding effective signage
 - Providing federal funding cleanup information
 - Allow for the Vieques community to work with NAVFAC management team
 - Being honest
 - Providing quarterly updates, reports
 - Providing number of bombs removed, and details of the level of explosive in each artifact encountered
- Information about the progress of the cleanup should be readily available
 - Invite the public to see progress and to be part of the decision making

- Distribute more information to schools and youth
 - EPA to create learning opportunities for young people to introduce them to the committed people and scientist behind the EPA's cleanup efforts
 - Use social media (Website)

Most of the respondents indicated they have participated in public meetings/events about the Vieques environmental cleanup program during the last five years.

- Those who did attended meetings mentioned attending the following:
 - RAB meetings
 - Public meetings
 - Cleanup-related meetings led by their agencies
 - Field site visits
 - Environmental fairs (STEM Fair) and other public events
- Those who have not attended a meeting mentioned that:
 - They were not informed/aware of meetings
 - Suggested meetings should be announced in English and Spanish

Cleanup Information

Most of the respondents indicated they have not used the public website to access the Administrative Record or other project related documents about the cleanup.

- Main reasons mentioned:
 - Not informed/not aware of website existence
 - No computer and/or internet access
 - Limited knowledge of computer usage/internet functionality
 - Rely on mailed items

Highest ranked preferred methods (top 5) for receiving information about the Vieques cleanup program include:

- Social media (Facebook page, Navy's Vieques public website, and Twitter)
- Newsletter and flyers mailed and distributed around town
- USPS Mail
- Informational fairs and public events
- At RAB and public meetings, poster sessions

Lowest ranked suggestions include:

- Local news media (i.e., television)
- Churches, sports centers
- USFWS service building

Respondents identified using one or more of the following sources to get local news:

- Local Radio
- Local Newsletter
- Regional TV Stations
- Other: Word-of-mouth, other Facebook pages (i.e., Vieques Peeps)

Respondents were asked who they would contact for any questions about the Vieques cleanup program. Their highest ranking response was USFWS followed by PRDNER, Navy, and EPA.

Additional feedback as to whom they would call for information regarding the cleanup, the following organizations were mentioned:

- Vieques Historic Conservation Trust
- Local Community Leaders
- El Fortin/Kathy Gannet

Some individuals responded not knowing who to call for information.

Respondents were asked if they felt that community concerns have been considered by the regulatory agencies. Summarized responses are as follows:

- USFWS and EPA scored the highest with a total of 99 and 97 (respectively) total responses each: USFWS received 45 "Yes," 23 "No," and 29 "Somewhat;" EPA received a total of 36 "Yes," 29 "No," and 34 "Somewhat" answers; PRDNER received a total of 96 total including 33 "Yes," 33 "No," and 30 "Somewhat;" the Navy received a total of 91 responses including 34 "Yes," 34 "No," and 17 "Somewhat."
- Additional feedback provided by respondents:
 - Most of the agencies respond to comply with Navy pressure and financial support; the agencies do not for the most part defend or respond to community interest
 - Need better communicators and communication methods
 - More needs to be done regarding the cleanup and in a much timelier fashion
 - Seems like little is being done and slowed, especially post Hurricane Maria
 - I don't think the EPA cares about Vieques, and I don't think the Navy cares either (since they left)
 - It seems that not enough is being done; more resources need to be deployed
 - The public concerns raised regarding open detonation have not been addressed
 - EPA responds to the US government's regulations, sometimes they are not applied in the best interest of the local community
 - USFWS had been the best agency to respond to local community needs and suggestions. However, being the selected policing agency on the reserve, on occasion this presents areas of conflict with local interest.
 - PRDNER is totally absent from the local communities needs and act as a rubber stamp to the imposed decision of the Navy. They are a politically originated agency that responds to

the political party rather than the needs and suggestions of the community. There are some individuals that attempt to present a positive face for the agency, but the overall results are always unresponsive to the community's needs.

- The Navy does what the Navy does, follow the orders from the top and ignore the seaman (the communities) request for participating in decisions that affect our daily lives. As the Captain doesn't ask and execute the sailor's suggestions, the Navy does the same to the community. The Navy does not respect the opinions, suggestions, plans, needs, or the health of the community of Vieques.
- Everything is being done quietly. The Vieques community demands to be part of the decision-making process in order to develop acceptable economic and educational plans.
- Not enough information is being provided
- The existence of chemicals is denied, the cancer numbers and the truth are being hidden

More than 45% of respondents indicated they have attended a Vieques cleanup program public meeting in the past, 28.4% indicated they have never attended a meeting, while 26.6% indicated they were not aware of the meetings.

At least 83% of the respondents indicated they have never attended a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting or were not aware of these meetings. When asked if they would be interested in joining the RAB, 54% responded "Yes."

Additional input/comments provided include:

- The community would like to receive more information about RAB
- Some of the comments emphasized the importance of involving the community on the cleanup process. Individuals expressed their interest in being involved and providing their input.

The following represent the survey responders thoughts about past efforts by the Navy to involve the public in decisions regarding cleanup:

- Provide complete transparency, being responsive to community communication
- The RAB should have at least two members participating on the cleanup decision-making team. Currently, there are no Vieques residents that directly participate in cleanup planning or decisions. This is not participation if we only are told what decision has already been made. Open detonation is still happening, and the majority of Vieques is against open detonation and has demanded that it be stopped. How is this participation?
- Participation and communication from the Vieques Community
- The environmental fairs were an excellent way to teach everyone, especially the children
- Have not experienced any aspects of the past public participation that works. The RAB is not a member of the decision-making team. So, it is impossible for the public to have an active and meaningful participation in the cleanup project. The cleanup process by its design and definition cannot respond to the Vieques Community interest.
- Making sure enough notice of meetings and location if provided to the community
- Public fairs, flyers, RAB meetings
- More orderly public hearings

- I tend to think you get the same engaged and obstinate people attending the meetings. The Navy needs to break through to the people and the best way is to involve youth with the offer of training, educational opportunities, and summer jobs.
- The truth is that every time the Navy tries to bring data to the public consideration in open meeting everything is twisted and politically used to make the Navy lose its credibility.
- Cannot identify an aspect of the cleanup process which was the results of a requested change from the community. In all of the RAB meetings in which I have participated I cannot identify one aspect requested that was included in a clean up or land use plan. The plans are determined by the Navy and FWS.
- Participation from the Vieques community is irrelevant to the plan that is presented. If Vieques Community participation was a valid consideration, then the community should be involved in developing the strategic direction of the cleanup and restoration process.

The following are suggestions for improvement based on past public participation:

- Provide Spanish translation at all meetings.
- So far what has been done and heard of, it's fine
- The Navy should offer guided tours through the area so people can see exactly what has been done. These tours could be in closed vehicles to keep participants safe.
- An area to place suggestions/comments
- Be truthful; 15 years and nothing to show for progress
- More effective information from the Navy and other participating groups about the cleanup program and where residents can get information, how residents can become involved, date, time, and location regarding meetings

Survey responders suggested the following actions to be discontinued:

- Open burning
- The RAB meetings are always attended by the same small number of residents who ask the same questions
- Get rid of the activists
- Remove attendees who disturb meetings

A total of 68 individuals answer "Yes" to the offer of being included on the mailing list to receive information about the Environmental Restoration/Munitions Response efforts in Vieques. The responses were as follow:

- # Postal mail: 35
- # E-mail: 33

Note: some respondents indicated a preference for both postal mail and email.

Respondents would like to receive additional information regarding the following Vieques cleanup program issues.

Cleanup Related Issues

- Cleanup timeline, dates of milestones, and how these will be achieved.
- Updates of progress made. Opening of cleared areas. Future plans and estimated completion plan.
- Provide all information in Spanish.
- Explain how does the community input influence the Navy's decision.
- When will more beaches be opened to the public? Get all beaches cleaned and open as soon as possible.
- Provide a list of current status of all beaches (open and closed).
- What areas may be open in the future?
- Want to fully use the island in a reasonable timeframe.
- When will the land be returned to the people of Vieques with a formal apology for damage done?
- When will a new space for a new landfill be given to the people of Vieques?
- Why did Navy not compensate every citizen for the damage done?
- Why did you not rebuild the hospital? Why do you not purchase new vessels for the ATM?
- There are people with cancer, who will pay us for detonation noise, the community is traumatized.
- New trails and public access
- How much it is costing and who is paying?
- The Navy is lying; should stop telling lies and disclose real information

Community Involvement Related Issues

- Not enough public information available
- Provide enough advance notice for meetings
- Provide more information about employment, education, and decision-making process
- Would like to know if the funding for this site has been cut and for what reason? Is it still a priority? How can we make it one?
- Text or email notification of public meetings/fairs and RAB meetings
- Any communication should have the Navy's Vieques public website URL on it
- Would like to receive meeting notes and distributed information from the last three years
- Sense that the Navy and regulation agencies are not doing enough

Refuge Related Issues

- Access to USFWS areas overly restricted
- Open beaches and restricted areas under USFWS

Health Issues

- A Hospital is needed for the island

Economic Related Issues

- Sense that the Navy and regulatory agencies are not doing enough
- Short and long-term economic impact of not having cleanup completed

Survey participants were asked to suggest other individuals or groups to contact, the following individuals, organizations were suggested:

- Vieques news
- Vieques Love
- The Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust, Inc.
- Sports Clubs
- School: German Rieckehoff Morales
- Little Island Basketball
- Boys and Girls Club of Vieques
- Law Enforcement Athletic League of Vieques

Appendix F: Meeting/Information Repository Locations

Meeting Locations

RAB meetings, public meetings and other outreach events are held at the following locations, depending on availability:

Jorge's Ice House

Carr. 200, Km 3, hm 2
Barrio Martineau, Vieques, PR 00765

Multiple Use Center

Calle Antonio Mellado – (across from Plaza)
Vieques, PR 00765

Information Repositories

Documents pertaining to environmental restoration and munitions response on Vieques can be found at:

Electronic Format

Navy Vieques Public Website and Administrative Record

<https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>

The Navy Vieques public website and Administrative Record can be accessed on any computer with access to the Internet.

Publicly available computers in Vieques can be found at:

Electronic Municipal Library (in front of Post Office)

29 Street Victor Duteill
Vieques, PR 00765

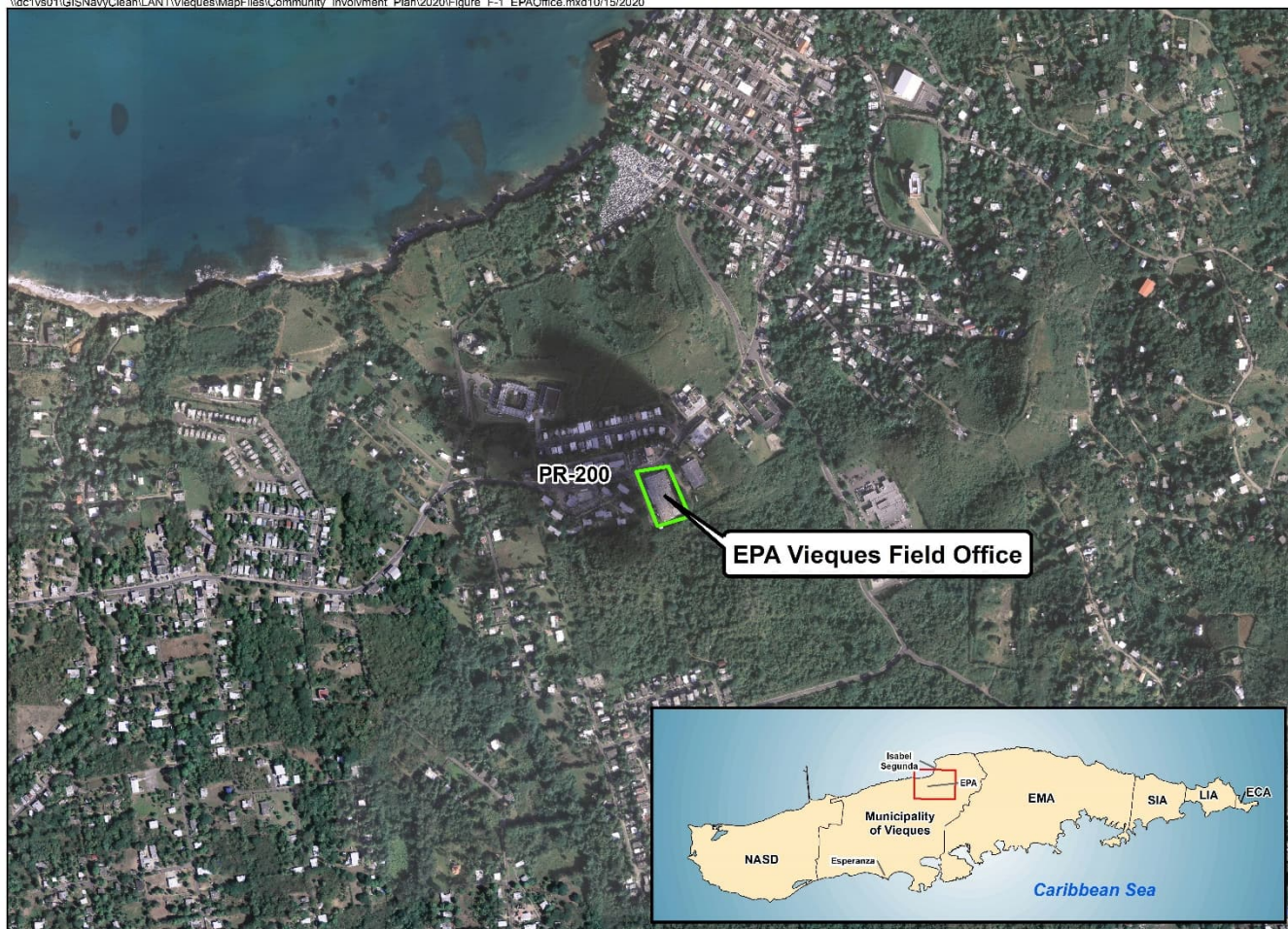
Typical hours of operation: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Paper Format

EPA Region 2 Vieques Field Office

Carr. 200 km. 04
Vieques, PR 00765
Phone: 787-741-5201

\\dc1vs01\GIS\NavyClean\LANT\ Vieques\MapFiles\Community Involvement Plan\2020\Figure F-1 EPAOffice.mxd 10/15/2020



Appendix G: Timeline of Milestones

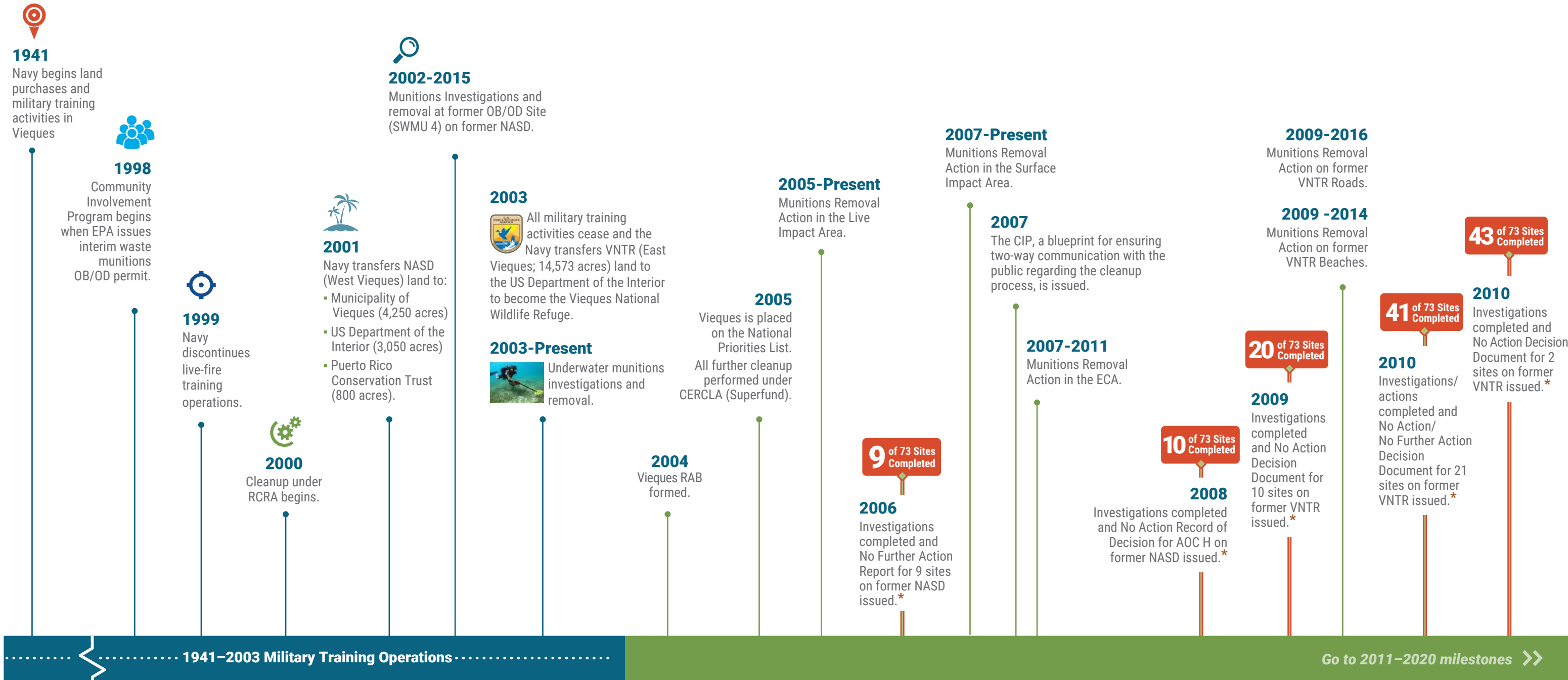
Navy Vieques Environmental Restoration Program

TIMELINE OF MILESTONES



For more information, please visit our website:
www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques

YEARS 1941-2010



Acronyms:

AOC – Area of Concern
CIP – Community Involvement Plan
CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
ECA – Eastern Conservation Area
EMA – Eastern Maneuver Area

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
NASD – Naval Ammunition Support Detachment
OB/OD – Open Burn/Open Detonation
PAOC – Potential Area of Concern
PFAS – Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PREQB – Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
RAB – Restoration Advisory Board

RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SWMU – Solid Waste Management Unit
UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
VNTR – Vieques Naval Training Range

* Following removal actions and/or investigations that demonstrated no unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. All investigations/actions included preparation of work plans and reports.

PRACTICE THE 3RS OF
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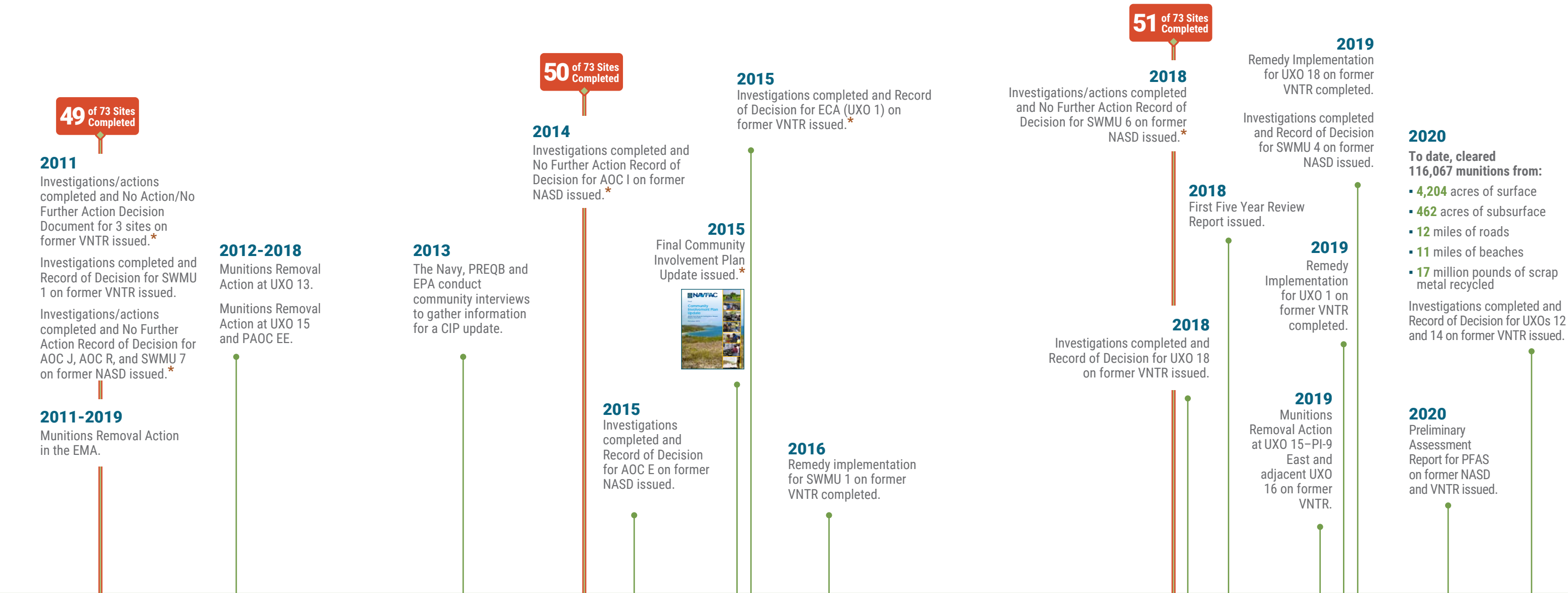
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TIMELINE OF MILESTONES



YEARS **2011-2020**

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Go to 1941-2010 milestones

Please refer to the Site Management Plan - Table 3-1 for future Program Activities

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