

Water Jet Cutting System

VIEQUES ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM **FACT SHEET**



What does the federal law say?

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116-92) directed the Navy to “...purchase and operate a portable closed detonation chamber and **water jet cutting system**...” to be used in the cleanup of the former Navy training ranges on Vieques. The law authorized \$10 million for this purpose. The Navy purchased these items in 2021 in accordance with the law, and operations began in early 2022.

What is a water jet?

A water jet uses a narrow stream of high pressure water mixed with abrasive sand to cut through materials such as stone, glass, and metal.

The operation produces large amounts of excess water and sand that require proper disposal. On Vieques, the water jet is being used to cut munitions into pieces that can be recycled as scrap metal.

PURCHASED IN 2021

**IN OPERATION
SINCE 2022**

**PRODUCES UP TO
60,000 PSI**



Water jet cutting an explosive-free munition

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



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What water jet was purchased for Vieques?

The water jet for Vieques was purchased from Gradient Technology, a company with over 20 years of experience with water jet design and manufacturing. The Vieques water jet produces a high pressure (up to 60,000 psi) stream of water mixed with garnet sand that acts as an abrasive to increase cutting performance.

Where is the water jet located?

The water jet is located at Camp Garcia, near the Navy offices and maintenance area. Camp Garcia was chosen because it is the only location that has reliable water and electrical service, both of which are needed for operation of the water jet.

How will the Water Jet Cutting System be used in Vieques?

The water jet is being used to cut thousands of explosive-free bombs and projectiles into pieces that can be recycled as scrap metal. In order to ensure the safety of Navy site workers, Fish and Wildlife Service employees, and anyone else who may be in the vicinity of Camp Garcia, all munitions processed by the water jet have been thoroughly inspected and certified as having no explosive content. During water jet operations, the excess water and sand are collected and disposed of properly, in accordance with all relevant environmental regulations. The Navy expects to operate the water jet for many years.

Will the water jet be used to cut “live” munitions?

For safety reasons, the water jet cannot be used to cut munitions that contain high explosives or other explosive compounds. Prior to transport of any munitions to the water jet, each item must be inspected and certified as having no explosive content.

PRACTICE THE **3Rs** OF MUNITIONS SAFETY

For your safety, pay attention to all warning signs and locked gates, stay out of restricted areas, and practice the 3Rs.



RECOGNIZE
RECONOZCA

RECOGNIZE when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous.



RETREAT
RETROCEDA

DO NOT approach, touch, move, or disturb a suspected munition, and carefully leave the area.

At sea, **DO NOT** bring a suspected munition alongside or on board a vessel.



REPORT
REPORTE

On land, **CALL 911 OR (787) 741-2020** and tell the authorities what you saw and where you saw it.

At sea, notify the US Coast Guard (USCG), **CHANNEL 16 – 156.800 MHZ.** Use World Geodetic System 1984 (**WGS-84**) for reporting.