



Water Jet Cutting System

VIEQUES ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
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 water jet cutting system on Vieques. In accordance with the law, the Navy purchased the water jet in 2021 and began operations in 2022.

Where is the water jet located?

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

How is the water jet being used on Vieques?

The water jet uses a narrow stream of high pressure water mixed with abrasive sand to cut inert bombs and projectiles into pieces that can be recycled as scrap metal. To protect the safety of Navy site workers and others who may be in the vicinity of Camp Garcia, all munitions processed by the water jet must be 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 laws and regulations.

Water Jet Safety

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

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



If you did not drop it, do NOT pick it up!



Water jet cutting operations

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