

VIEQUES Cleanup Update



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JULY 2016

Underwater (UXO 16) Wide Area Assessment

UXO 16 is the offshore area adjacent to the former ranges and operational areas on east and west Vieques that have or may have been affected by military training activities. The Wide Area Assessment (WAA) is an underwater investigation and is one of the initial steps in the process for investigating and addressing underwater munitions around Vieques. The WAA objectives are to characterize the general physical sea floor conditions, specifically ecological habitats, and to identify elevated anomaly density areas (EADAs), which may represent munitions or munitions-related debris on the sea floor. To identify EADAs, a specially-designed boat tows a metal-detecting instrument known as a magnetometer, just above the sea floor along transects spaced approximately 100 meters apart. Approximately 37 percent of the planned survey area has been completed. Information gathered during the WAA will aid in the planning of focused munitions investigations.

WAA magnetometer
being deployed from
the back of the
survey boat



Get Involved

- ✓ Provide comments on the Proposed Remedial Action Plan at UXO 18, Cayo La Chiva. The public comment period runs from July 11, 2016, to August 25, 2016. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 2, from 6:00-7:00 PM at the Punta Mulás Lighthouse, Route #200, Morropo Street, in Isabel Segunda, Vieques, Puerto Rico.
- ✓ Attend the quarterly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings to hear about the latest cleanup activities, ask questions, and provide input. The next RAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 from 7:15 PM to 8:30 PM at the Punta Mulás Lighthouse.



911 or (787) 741-2020

For more information contact:
James Brantley, NAVFAC ATLANTIC Public Affairs Officer (757) 322-8005

Remedial Investigation Underway in UXO 16 Adjacent to SWMU 4

The Navy conducted a Remedial Investigation (RI) in the portion of UXO 16 offshore of Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 4 in July. The RI focused on offshore areas where munitions and munitions debris were found and within depositional areas adjacent to outlets from the main ephemeral stream at the SWMU 4 area and from Laguna Boca Quebrada. These areas received "kick out" from the open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) activities and runoff from the terrestrial area where the OB/OD activities occurred. Sediment samples from these areas were collected for analysis of explosives and metals. The results will be used to prepare the *UXO 16 Adjacent to SWMU 4 RI Report*.

For detailed information about this sampling effort, the *UXO 16 Adjacent to Solid Waste Management Unit 4 Remedial Investigation Sampling and Analysis Plan (July 2016)* is available for review at the Administrative Record link on the Navy's Vieques website at www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques or on the Navy's Vieques Facebook page at www.facebook/ViequesRestoration.



Divers collecting sediment samples for the UXO 16 (offshore of SWMU 4) Remedial Investigation

NAVY, EPA, EQB, and DNER Invite Public Comments on the Proposed Plan for UXO 18, Cayo La Chiva, Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area, Vieques – Former Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, PR

The U.S. Department of the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB), and Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) announce the public comment period and invite public comment on the Proposed Plan for implementing a remedial action at UXO 18, also known as Cayo La Chiva, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The proposed remedial action will reduce the explosive hazard associated with potential munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) at UXO 18.

UXO 18 is the island known as Cayo La Chiva (approximately 12 acres in size), which is located several hundred yards south of Playa La Chiva (Blue Beach) along the southern coast of Vieques. Because several MEC (five 5-inch rockets) were recovered on Cayo La Chiva, public access to the island is currently not allowed, as indicated by signs along the northern perimeter of the island (accessible portion of the island), by signs at the adjacent Playa La Chiva access areas, by warning buoys surrounding the island, and by landscape features (natural dense vegetation and steep rock cliffs).

Based on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and previous investigations, the Navy evaluated the following four remedial alternatives to address remaining potential explosive hazards:

- Alternative 1 – No Action (serves only as a baseline to which to compare the other alternatives; it is not a viable option considered for the site)
- Alternative 2 – Land Use Controls and MEC Inspections
- Alternative 3 – Limited (Focused) MEC Removal, Land Use Controls, and MEC Inspections
- Alternative 4 – Island-wide MEC Removal, Land Use Controls, and MEC Inspections

Based on the above information, the future anticipated recreational use of portions of the island, and the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, the Navy and EPA, in consultation with EQB and DNER, agree that the preferred alternative for UXO 18 is Alternative 3 – Limited (Focused) MEC Removal, Land Use Controls, and MEC Inspections. This alternative focuses MEC removal in the areas of planned recreational land use while preserving

the island's ecological habitat. The preferred alternative meets the statutory requirements of CERCLA for protection of human health and the environment under current and projected future land use.

After the public comment period ends and comments have been considered, the Navy and EPA will make a decision on the alternative to be implemented. Therefore, the public is encouraged to comment on the Proposed Plan by attending the Public Meeting or submitting comments in writing to one of the contacts in this notice.

The Proposed Plan summarizes the history and previous investigations at UXO 18 and explains how the remedial alternatives were evaluated and how the preferred alternative was identified. The Proposed Plan and supporting documents are available for public review online at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>. Paper copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the EPA office in Vieques and the Navy office at Camp Garcia.

Public Meeting: August 2, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Punta Mulas Lighthouse, Route #200, Morropo Street Isabel Segunda, Vieques, PR

At this public meeting, the Navy will present and discuss the proposed alternative for UXO 18. Members of the public are encouraged to ask questions and provide oral or written comments at the meeting. The public comment period will begin July 11, 2016, and close August 25, 2016.

During this time, written comments can be sent to:

- Kevin Cloe, Remedial Project Manager NAVFAC Atlantic (Attn: Code EV31), 6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508-1278, email: kevin.cloe@navy.mil
- Weldin Ortiz, President Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, Edificio de Agencias Ambientales, Cruz A. Matos Urbanización San José Industrial Park, Avenida Ponce de León 1375, San Juan, PR 00929-2604, email: weldinortiz@jca.pr.gov
- Julio Vázquez, Remedial Project Manager, EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007, email: vazquez.julio@epa.gov
- Craig Lilyestrom, Director, Recreational and Sport Fishing Division, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, PO Box 366147, San Juan, PR 00936-6147, email: craig.lilyestrom@drna.pr.gov



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