

# Proposed Remedial Action

UXO 18, Cayo La Chiva

Former Vieques Naval Training Range

*Vieques, Puerto Rico*

Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area - Vieques

## Public Meeting

*August 2, 2016*



# Meeting Outline

- **Site Information**
  - Site Features, Planned Use, and Historical Use
  - Environmental Investigations and Related Activities
  - Investigation Findings
  - Evaluation of Cleanup Options
- **Proposed Cleanup (Remedial Action)**
- **Questions and Comments**

# UXO 18 (Cayo La Chiva) Location



# Cayo La Chiva Features



- **Cayo La Chiva is 12 acres, located several hundred yards offshore of Playa La Chiva (Blue Beach)**
- **Island is rocky, densely vegetated, and has steep cliffs on most sides**
- **Access to the island is limited to northern tip of island where a narrow sandy beach is present**

# Cayo La Chiva Planned Use

- **Owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico**
- **To be managed as a recreational area by Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)**
- **Planned features include:**
  - Beach use
  - Picnic areas
  - Interpretive trail
  - Observation tower

# Land Use Plan



**Anchorage Area**

**Landing/Picnic Area**

**Trail Through Island**

**Tourist Tree**

**Overlook/Picnic Area**



0 500 1,000 Feet

# Historical Use



- **Limited military training activity**

- Records indicate a 0.50-caliber machine gun was located on the island that fired blank rounds during amphibious landings at Playa La Chiva
- Field observations identified five 5-inch rockets and three smoke canisters

# Environmental Investigations/Related Activities

- **Site Reconnaissance (2011)**
  - Inspection within accessible areas
  - Five 5-inch rockets and three smoke canisters identified and removed
- **Biological Assessment (2011)**
  - No federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species were observed on island
- **Archaeological Survey (2013)**
  - A reconnaissance was performed to identify potential cultural resources
- **Remedial Investigation (2013)**
  - Soil sampling across the site and at locations where munitions and munitions-related debris were found
  - Assessed the potential explosive hazards and potential human health and ecological risks

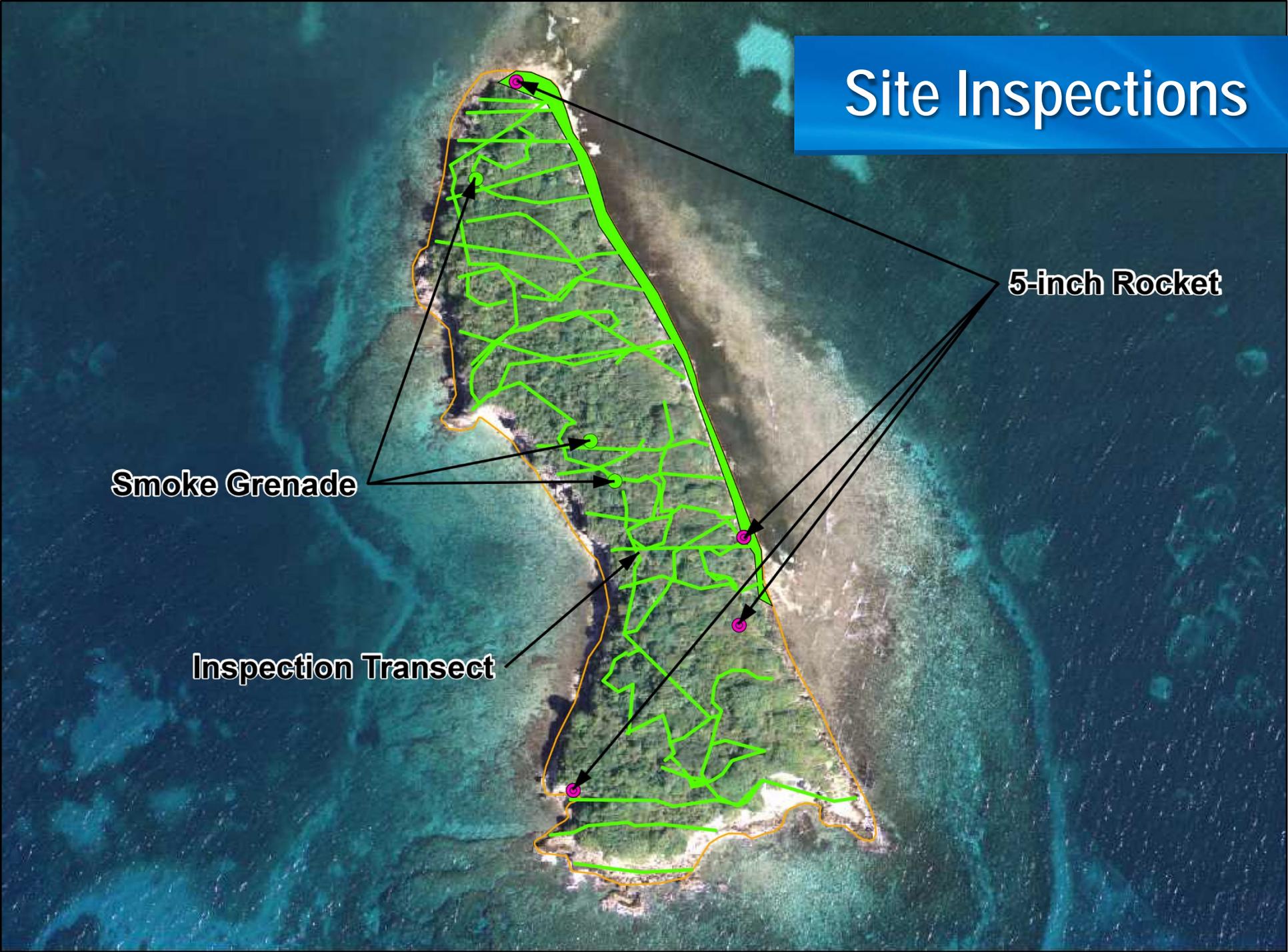


# Site Inspections

Smoke Grenade

Inspection Transect

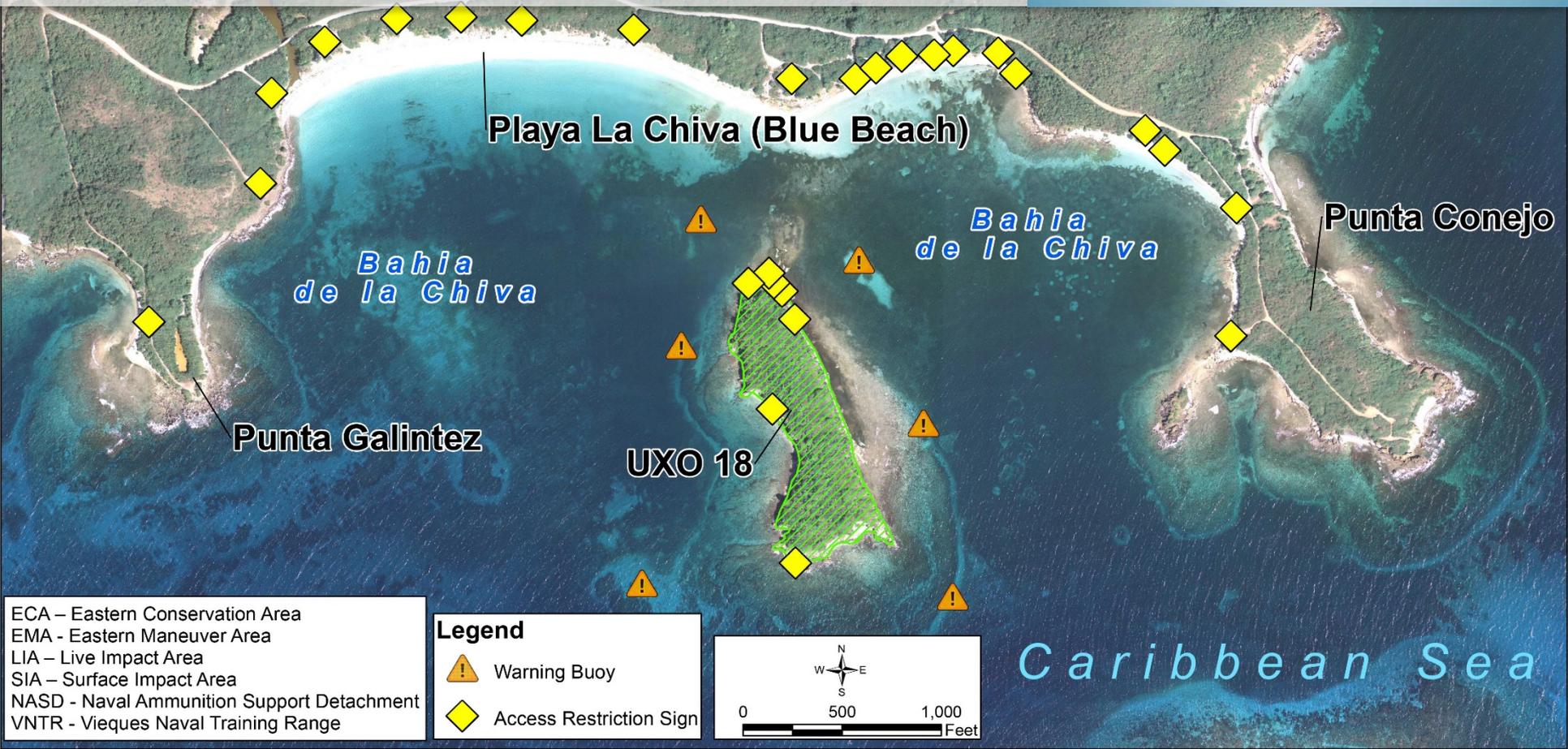
5-inch Rocket



# Safety Measures Implemented

## Warning Buoy and Sign Installation (2012)

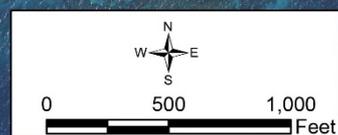
- 7 warning signs installed on Cayo La Chiva
- 6 warning buoys installed around Cayo La Chiva
- 20 warning signs installed at Playa La Chiva, Punta Galintez, and Punta Conejo



ECA – Eastern Conservation Area  
EMA - Eastern Maneuver Area  
LIA – Live Impact Area  
SIA – Surface Impact Area  
NASD - Naval Ammunition Support Detachment  
VNTR - Vieques Naval Training Range

**Legend**

- ⚠ Warning Buoy
- ◆ Access Restriction Sign



# Investigation Findings

- **No known munitions present since the accessible areas were searched and munitions removed**
- **Because of historical military use, the potential presence of additional munitions must be assumed**
  - Therefore, potential explosive hazards must also be assumed
- **No environmental contamination related to historical military use**
  - Therefore, no human health or ecological risk

# Evaluation of Cleanup Options

- **Basis for Cleanup (Remedial Action)**
  - Address potential explosive hazards to ensure Cayo La Chiva can be used for the planned recreational activities
- **Remedial Action Objectives**
  - Reduce any explosive hazard that may be present associated with potential munitions to be compatible with current and anticipated future land use
  - Reduce the potential for unauthorized access

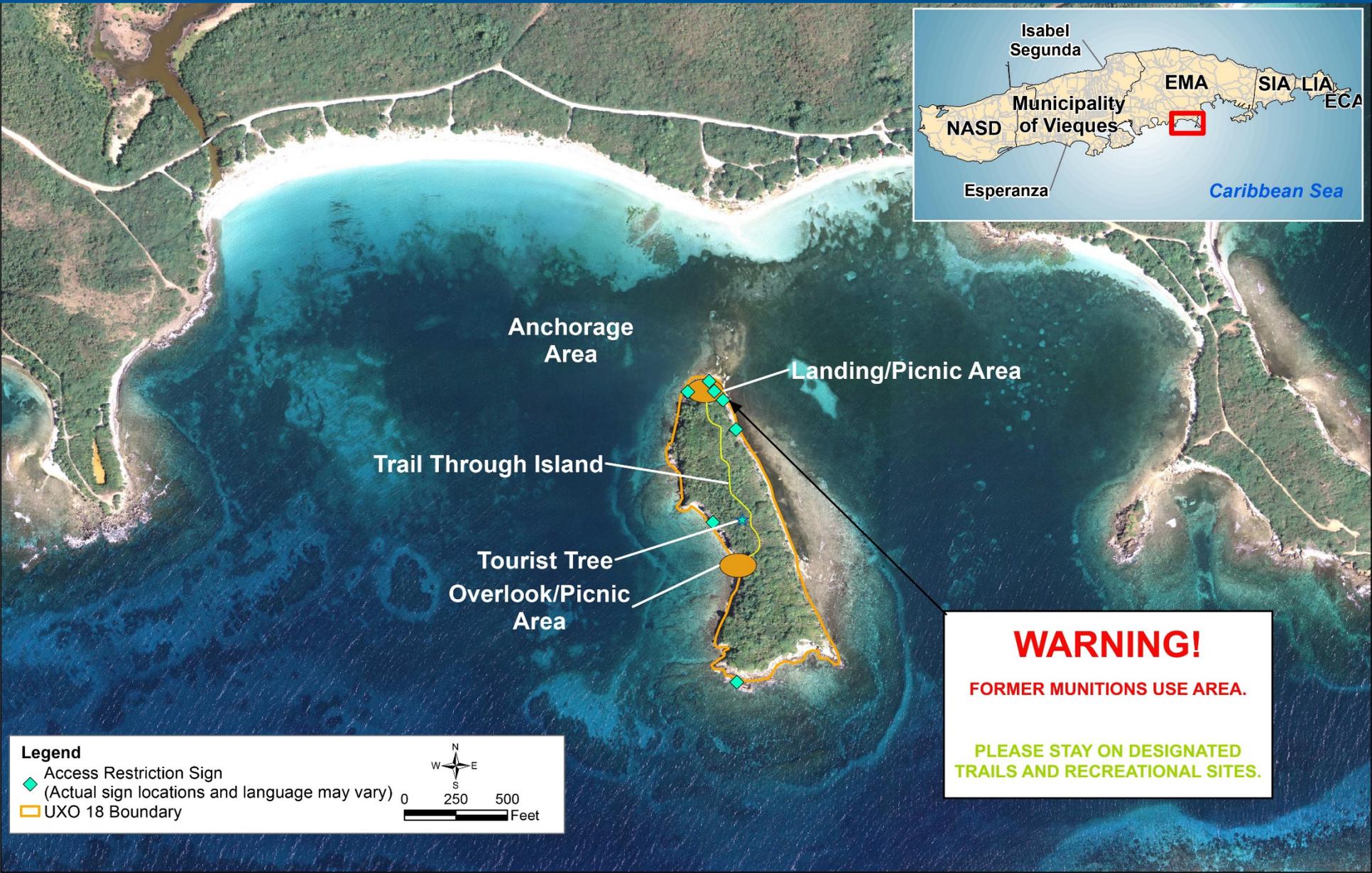
# Summary of Remedial Alternatives Evaluated

- **Alternative 1 – No action**
- **Alternative 2 – Land Use Controls and Inspections**
  - Warning signs and routine inspections to look for (and remove, if found) any munitions in areas being accessed
- **Alternative 3 – Focused Munitions Removal, Land Use Controls, and Inspections**
  - Munitions clearance in areas identified for recreational use
  - Land Use Controls and inspections similar to Alternative 2
- **Alternative 4 – Island-wide Munitions Removal, Land Use Controls, and Inspections**
  - Complete vegetation and munitions clearance across island
  - Land Use Controls and inspections similar to Alternative 2

# Proposed Cleanup (Remedial Action)

- **Alternative 3 – Focused Munitions Removal, Land Use Controls, and Inspections**
- **Why Alternative 3 is the preferred cleanup:**
  - Vegetation and munitions clearance is focused in areas identified by PRDNER for recreational use
  - Island-wide vegetation and ecological habitat are preserved
  - Land Use Controls and routine inspections will continue to ensure reduced explosive hazard
- **Navy, EPA, PREQB, and PRDNER agree on the proposed cleanup alternative**

# Proposed Cleanup – Alternative 3



Anchorage Area

Landing/Picnic Area

Trail Through Island

Tourist Tree Overlook/Picnic Area

**WARNING!**  
FORMER MUNITIONS USE AREA.  
PLEASE STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL SITES.

**Legend**

- ◆ Access Restriction Sign  
(Actual sign locations and language may vary)
- ▭ UXO 18 Boundary

0 250 500 Feet

# For More Information

- **Administrative Record File**
  - Biblioteca Electrónica
  - <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>
- **Navy Remedial Project Manager**
  - Kevin Cloe
- **Navy On-Island Site Manager**
  - Madeline Rivera
- **EPA Remedial Project Manager**
  - Julio Vázquez
- **PREQB President**
  - Weldin Ortíz
- **PRDNER Director of Marine Resources Division**
  - Craig Lilyestrom

# What Next?

- **Ask questions or provide comments during the Public Meeting or Public Comment Period**
  - **Talk to representatives of the Navy, EPA, PREQB, or PRDNER**
  - **If you want your comments or questions to be part of the official record:**
    - Let us know so we can ensure the court reporter records your comment during the Public Meeting
    - Write your comment or question on the comment sheet and hand it to one of the representatives or mail it to one of the representatives listed in the Proposed Plan

**Public comment period ends on August 25, 2016**