



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
ATLANTIC
6506 HAMPTON BLVD
NORFOLK VA 23508-1278

4/18/06-02529

TELEPHONE NO:
(757) 322-4815

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5090
EV42CTP:lfm
April 18, 2006

Sindulfo Castillo, P.E.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Antilles Area Office, Regulatory Section
400 Fernandez Juncos Parada 7.5
Puerta de Tierra, PR 00901-3299

RE: INSTALLATION OF WARNING BUOYS NOTIFICATION, EAST VIEQUES

Dear Mr. Castillo:

This letter is a notification of the intention of the U.S. Navy to install seven warning buoys within the danger area of the Vieques Navy Training Range. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic (NAVFAC Atlantic) is the Navy command responsible for implementing a clean-up program for the former Navy facilities in Vieques. The site was designated by the U.S. EPA a National Priority List (NPL) Site on February 7, 2005, therefore removal actions are undertaken under the authority of CERCLA and exempted from permits. Munitions removal actions are currently under way at the former VNTR to reduce the risk posed by unexploded ordnance left in the area from past military practices.

The enclosed package includes information about the work and the location of the buoys within the danger area.

If you have any question or require additional information, please contact Mrs. Madeline Rivera at (787) 865-4152, extension 460.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER T. PENNY, P.E.
Vieques Project Coordinator
Environmental Restoration Section
Environmental Restoration & Support Branch
Environmental Division
By direction of the Commander

Copy to: See page 2

Copy to:

Felix Lopez Arroyo	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Oscar Diaz	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Bud Oliveira	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Susan Silander	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Yarissa Martinez	Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
Daniel Rodriguez	US EPA Caribbean Office
John Reyes	US Coast Guard San Juan Office
Ernesto Diaz	PR Dept of Natural and Environmental resources
Madeline Rivera	NAVFAC /Naval Activity Puerto Rico

Project Title: Installation of warning buoys within danger area of Vieques Navy Training Range, East Vieques

Type of Activity: The U.S. Navy will install warning buoys within the designated danger area of East Vieques to warn boaters of the danger present in the area by unexploded ordnance from past military practices.

Point of Contact: Madeline Rivera, Naval Facility Engineering Command, US Navy
PO Box 1418
Ceiba, PR 00735
787-865-4152 x460

Name of Waterway at Work: Vieques Passage,
Former Vieques Training Range Danger Zone

Previous Meetings:

1. Consultation with Ms. Myrna López of Army Corps of Engineer, San Juan Office on March 2006 (e-mail attached). Ms. López recommended installing buoys within the perimeter of the danger area.
 2. Meetings with Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Administrator, Mr. Ernesto Diaz, and Coast Guard Information Specialist, Mr. John Reyes, to discuss the need for placing these warning buoys. Both agencies support the project.
 3. The PR Environmental Quality Board Federal Facilities Coordinator, Ms. Yarrisa Martinez, and EPA Remedial Project Manager for the Vieques Clean up Project, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez have knowledge of the project and support it.
 4. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vieques National Refuge Manager, Mr. Oscar Diaz, as owner of the lands, has requested that the U.S. Navy install the buoys to prevent unauthorized people from entering the restricted lands.
-

Description of Work

Background: Public Law (PL) 106-398 Section 1502 of October 30, 2000 transferred the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment on the West of Vieques to the Municipality of Vieques, and Section 1508 transferred the Conservation Zones on the West of Vieques to Department of the Interior (DOI). PL 107-107 Section 1049 of December 28, 2001, which amended PL 106-398, transferred the former Vieques Navy Training Range on East Vieques to DOI. The same laws designated the Secretary of the Navy responsible for the environmental conditions of the property. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic Division (NAVFAC ATL) was designated by the Secretary of the Navy as the Navy command responsible for executing environmental clean up on those lands identified as contaminated property in the transfer deed or the Public Laws.

In February 7, 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the former Navy facilities in Vieques, including the surrounding waters of the former range a National Priority List site under CERCLA, per the request of former governor of Puerto Rico, Sila M. Calderon. See Attachment A.

NAVFAC ATL began in March 2005 the implementation of a Time Critical Removal Action on those munitions sites identified as presenting a greater explosive safety hazard to reduce the risks posed by Munitions and Explosives of Concern, including unexploded ordnance (UXO) present or partially exposed at the ground surface. Any UXO found in the area is treated by demolition in place.

Problem: During the course of executing the Time Critical Removal Action, the Navy contractors conducting the daily tasks of identifying, collecting and detonating those items found on the ground surface have encountered trespassers within the work site and on the beaches, or boats anchoring within the danger zone of the VNTR. This not only endangers the lives of those trespassing but also the lives of the workers. The Navy has blocked the roads that lead to the former ranges and placed signs along the beaches not open to the public. The Navy has also published notices about the danger that the UXO present in those areas, including the waters, pose to the public but some visitors are ignoring these warnings. Every time work is disrupted by unauthorized entry into the work area, time and funds are wasted delaying the munitions removal actions.

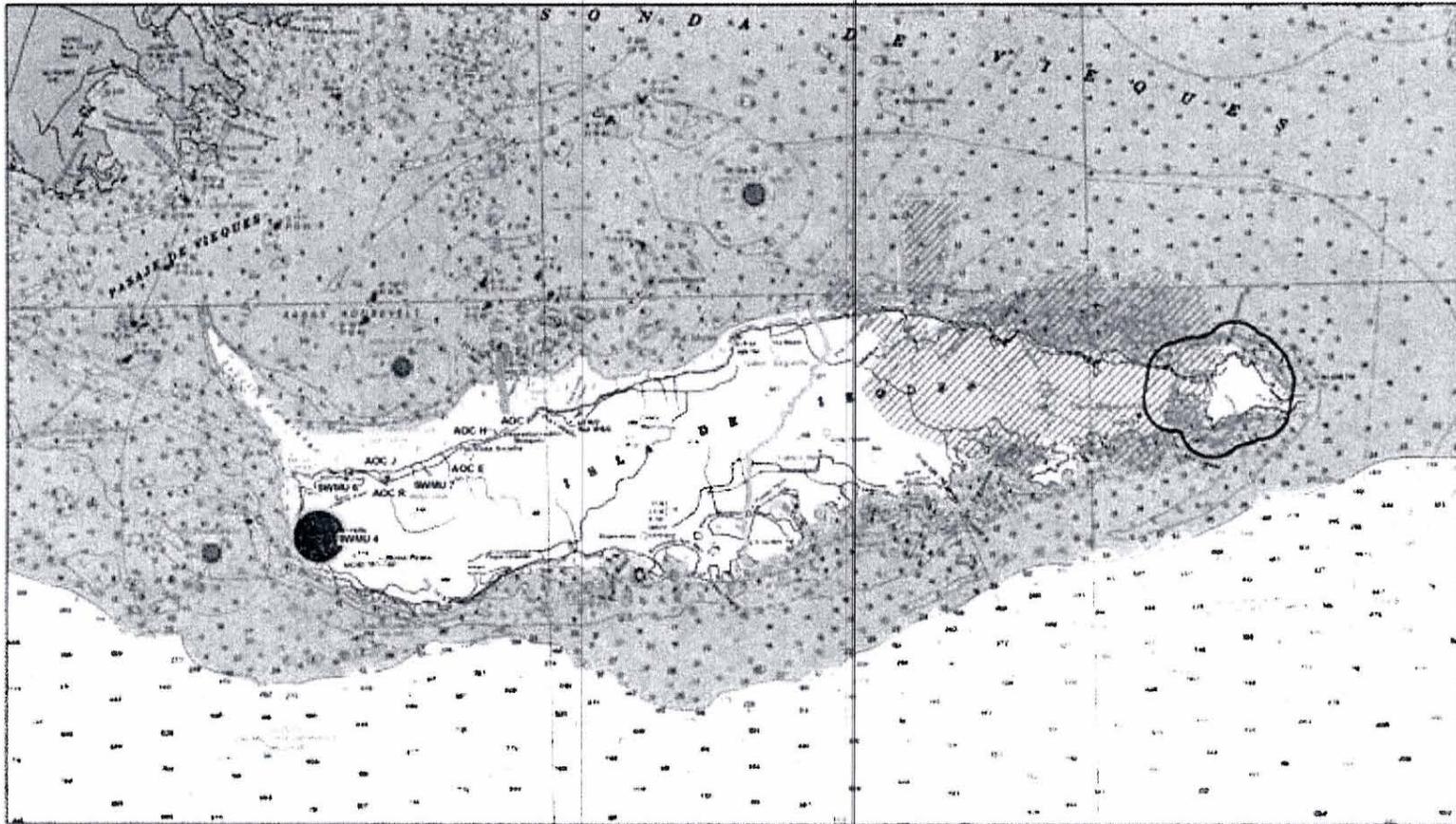
Proposed Action: The Navy will install warning buoys within the designated danger area specified in 33 CFR 334.1470 to warn visitors before they reach the beaches, or boaters not to anchor in these waters. This project is executed as part of the Vieques NPL site following CERCLA process at the direction of EPA.

The project will install seven warning foam buoys in the locations marked on Figure 1, which are within the coordinates identified by the Coast Guard in Attachment B. The buoys were transferred to the U.S. Navy by the Coast Guard San Juan Sector to be installed as Private Aids to Navigation.

The buoys will be white in color with orange retro reflective bands and warning symbols. The warning symbol will be open diamonds painted on the buoys 180 degrees apart, with the wording "No Anchor Area -Unexploded Ordnance" inside the diamonds, and the words "Danger" on top of the diamonds, in English and Spanish (Figure 2). The buoys will be anchored in place with chain and concrete sinkers weighting not less than 1,000 pounds. The buoys will be identified with an alphabetical letter (A-G). Certified UXO technicians will survey each location for unexploded ordnance prior to lowering the sinkers. Also, the buoys will not be placed in areas containing sea grass beds.

Attachment A - NPL Listing
Attachment B - CG forms

Figure 1 - Buoys location within danger area
Figure 2 - Buoys specifications



Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Explosive Safety Quantity Distance | Western Vieques Environmental Site | Water Depth |
| Agreed Areas of Proposed NPL Site | SWMU 4 (Former OMCD Site) | 0 - 10 Feet |
| Anchorage Location Boundary | Greater Than 0.5 Nautical Miles Acre/Year | 10 - 150 Feet |
| Arbitrary Safety Fair | | Greater Than 150 Feet |

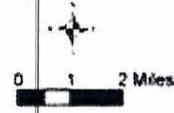


Figure 1
NPL Agreed Areas
Vieques, Puerto Rico

EPA Places the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area on Vieques on the Superfund National Priorities List

En Español [PDF 93 KB, 1 pp]

FOR RELEASE: February 7, 2005

(05011) New York, New York - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the formal listing of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area (AFWTA) - Vieques on the National Priorities List (NPL) of the most hazardous waste sites. The listing is the next step in a process that began in June 2003 with a request from former Puerto Rico Governor Sila Calderon to list this site as the Commonwealth's highest priority facility on the NPL.

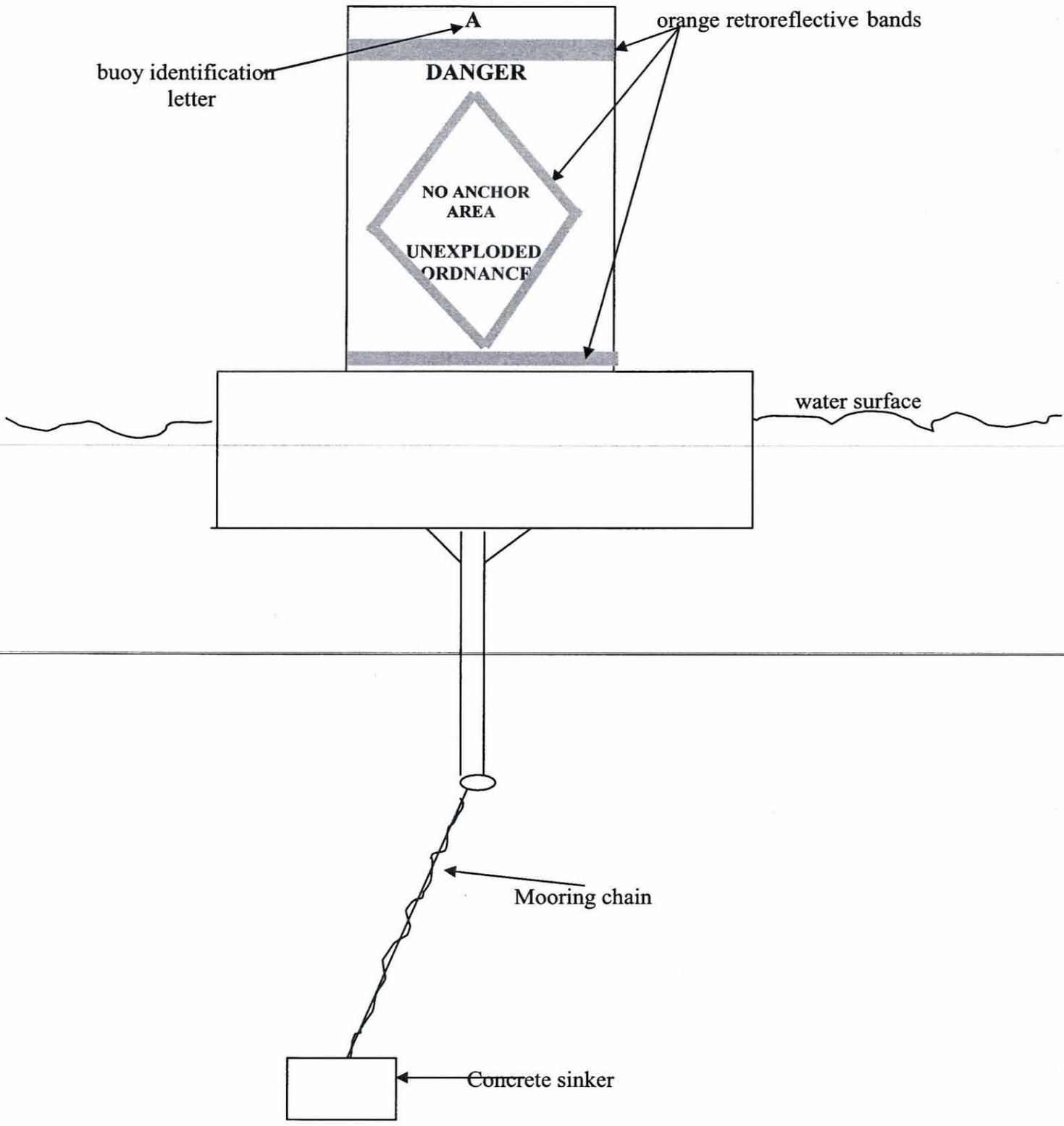
"The listing is a critical step in the cleanup of this magnificent island, so important to Vieques residents and visitors alike," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Kathleen C. Callahan. "EPA will work with Puerto Rico and the Navy to ensure that the cleanup is performed properly and conducted with full public input."

The AFWTA facility includes land areas, waters and cays in and around the islands of Vieques and Culebra impacted by 100 years of military training operations, largely by the U.S. Navy. The Navy used the eastern portion of Vieques for training from the 1940's until it ceased operations there on May 1, 2003. Areas of Culebra were used for military exercises between 1902 and July 1975. Due to these activities, some land and water may be contaminated with mercury, lead, copper, magnesium, lithium, perchlorate, TNT, napalm, depleted uranium, PCBs, solvents and pesticides.

Today's listing includes areas of Vieques, but postpones a final determination on areas of the AFWTA on Culebra pending the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commonwealth and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which is currently responsible for the areas on Culebra. The MOA will govern the actions necessary to protect human health and the environment on Culebra. Puerto Rico and the Army have agreed to pursue this alternate arrangement. If an agreement can be reached, it will not be necessary to list Culebra on the NPL. The government of Puerto Rico and the Army have begun discussions with the goal of reaching an agreement on the timely investigation and cleanup of Culebra through the Army's Formerly Utilized Defense Sites (FUDS) program. The Army, through the Corps, executes the FUDS program in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, known as CERCLA, and its National Contingency Plan. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Commonwealth may request that Culebra be listed on the NPL.

Notice of the NPL listing will appear shortly in the Federal Register. Supporting documents can be found online. The documents will also be available in hard copy at information repositories on Vieques and Culebra, and in San Juan, Washington, DC and New York City. To make arrangements to view the documents, contact Daniel Rodriguez in Vieques at (787) 741-5201, Brenda Reyes in San Juan at (787) 977-5869, or Dennis Munhall in New York at (212) 637-4343

**Warning Buoys to be installed within designated danger zone
Former Vieques Navy Training Range, East Vieques**



REQUISITION AND INVOICE/SHIPPING DOCUMENT

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0246
Expires Feb 28, 2008

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Executive Service and Communications Directorate (0704-0246). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

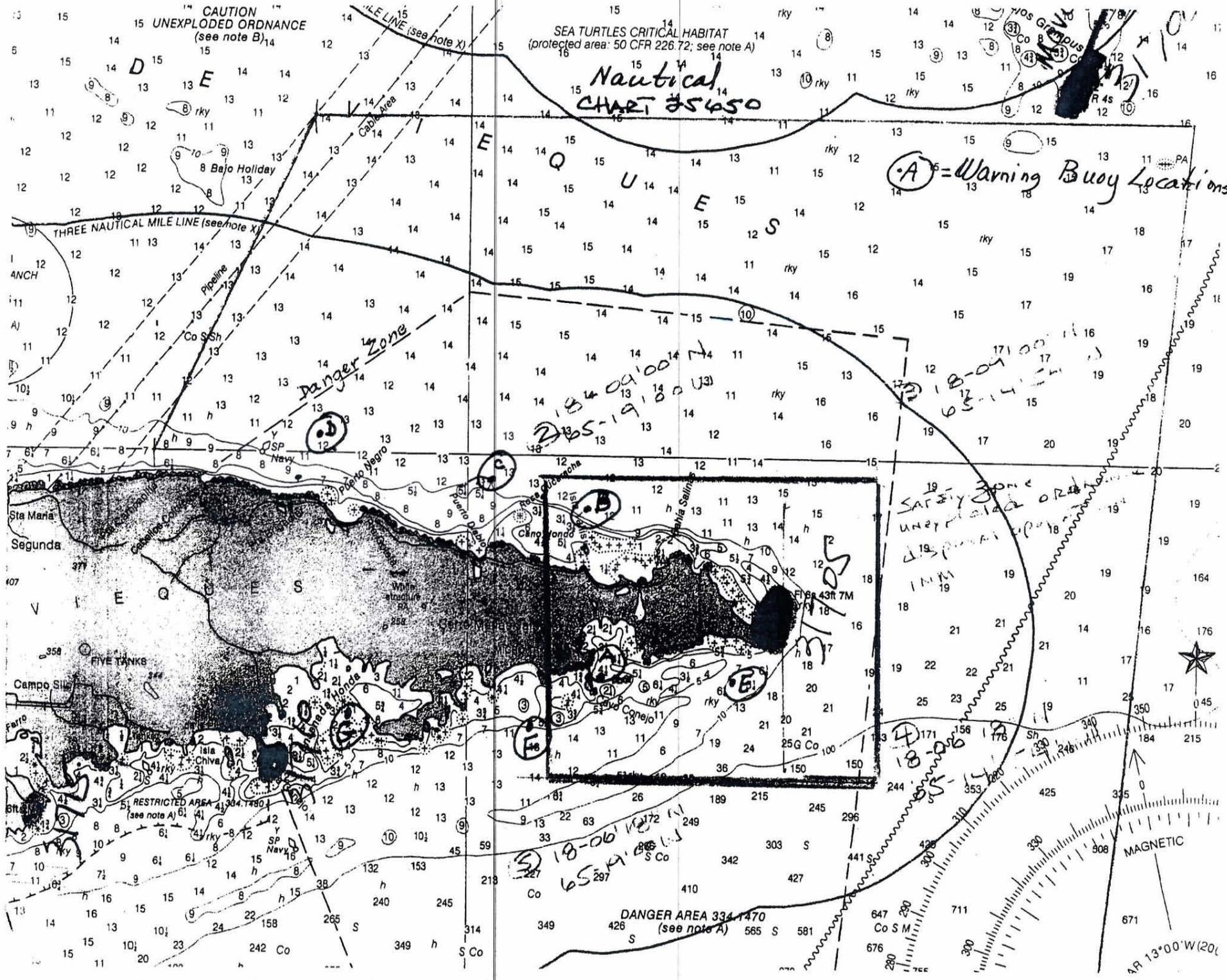
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE ADDRESS IN ITEM 2.

1. FROM: (Include ZIP Code) SECTOR SAN JUAN PREVENTION DEPARTMENT US COAST GUARD, 5 LA PUNTILLA FINAL STREET, SAN JUAN PR 00901		5. SHEET NO. 1	6. NO. OF SHEETS 1	7. REQUISITION DATE APRIL 7, 2006	8. REQUISITION NUMBER 001
2. TO: (Include ZIP Code) COMMANDER ATLANTIC DIVISION (EV-13) NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND 6506 HAMPTON BLVD NORFOLK, VA 23508-1278		7. DATE MATERIAL REQUIRED (YYYYMMDD) 2006/04/07		8. PRIORITY 1	
3. SHIP TO - MARK FOR MEMBER WILL PICK UP BUOYS AT BASE SAN JUAN, LA PUNTILLA OLD SAN JUAN		9. AUTHORITY OR PURPOSE INFORMATION TYPE BUOYS			
		10. SIGNATURE <i>Madeline Rivera GS-12 787-865-4152 x460</i>		11a. VOUCHER NUMBER & DATE (YYYYMMDD) N/A	
		12. DATE SHIPPED (YYYYMMDD) 2006/04/07		b. N/A	
		13. MODE OF SHIPMENT PICK UP BY MEMBER		14. BILL OF LADING NUMBER N/A	
		15. AIR MOVEMENT DESIGNATOR OR PORT REFERENCE NO. N/A			

4. APPROPRIATIONS DATA N/A	AMOUNT N/A
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ITEM NO. (a)	FEDERAL STOCK NUMBER, DESCRIPTION, AND CODING OF MATERIEL AND/OR SERVICES (b)	UNIT OF ISSUE (c)	QUANTITY REQUESTED (d)	SUPPLY ACTION (e)	TYPE CONTAINER (f)	CON-TAINER NOS. (g)	UNIT PRICE (h)	TOTAL COST (i)
1	SCRAP 2NFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00
2	SCRAP 3NFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00
3	SCRAP 2CFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00

16. TRANSPORTATION VIA MATS OR BMTS CHARGEABLE TO					17. SPECIAL HANDLING						
18. RECEIVING PARTICIPATION	ISSUED BY	TOTAL CONTAINERS	TYPE CONTAINER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL WEIGHT	TOTAL CUBE	19. CONTAINERS RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	SHEET TOTAL	
	CHECKED BY							RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	GRAND TOTAL
	PACKED BY							POSTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	20. RECEIVER'S VOUCHER NO.
	← TOTAL →										



CAUTION UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (see note B)

SEA TURTLES CRITICAL HABITAT (protected area: 50 CFR 226.72; see note A)

Nautical CHART #5450

A = Warning Buoy Locations

THREE NAUTICAL MILE LINE (see note X)

Danger Zone

18-04-00
285-19-80 U3

18-01-17
63-14-11

SAFETY ZONE
UNEXPLORABLE ORDN

18-06-17
65-19-11

DANGER AREA 334 1470 (see note A)

RESTRICTED AREA 334 1470 (see note A)

MAGNETIC
VAR 13°00'W (20)

REQUISITION AND INVOICE/SHIPPING DOCUMENT

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0246
Expires Feb 28, 2006

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Executive Service and Communications Directorate (0704-0248). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE ADDRESS IN ITEM 2.

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2. TO: (Include ZIP Code) COMMANDER ATLANTIC DIVISION (EV-2) NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND 6506 HAMPTON BLVD NORFOLK, VA 23508-1278		7. DATE MATERIAL REQUIRED (YYYYMMDD) 2006/04/07		8. PRIORITY 1	
3. SHIP TO - MARK FOR MEMBER WILL PICK UP BUOYS AT BASE SAN JUAN, LA PUNTILLA OLD SAN JUAN		8. AUTHORITY OR PURPOSE INFORMATION TYPE BUOYS		11a. VOUCHER NUMBER & DATE (YYYYMMDD) N/A	
		12. DATE SHIPPED (YYYYMMDD) 2006/04/18		b. N/A	
		13. MODE OF SHIPMENT PICK UP BY MEMBER		14. BILL OF LADING NUMBER N/A	
		15. AIR MOVEMENT DESIGNATOR OR PORT REFERENCE NO. N/A			

4. APPROPRIATIONS DATA N/A	AMOUNT N/A
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3	SCRAP 3CFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	1	N/A	-	-	0	0.00
4	SCRAP 2CFR FOAM BUOY HULL	EA	4	N/A	-	-	0	0.00

16. TRANSPORTATION VIA MATS OR MSTs CHARGEABLE TO					17. SPECIAL HANDLING					
RECEIPT P H I T U P L E M E N T I O N	ISSUED BY	TOTAL CONTAINERS	TYPE CONTAINER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL WEIGHT	TOTAL CUBE	18. CONTAINERS RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	SHEET TOTAL
	CHECKED BY						19. QUANTITIES RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	GRAND TOTAL
	PACKED BY						20. RECEIVER'S VOUCHER NO.	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	BY	
				← TOTAL →						