RAB Meeting

Munitions Response Program Update

January 2005 to September 2006

Former VNTR

Vieques, Puerto Rico
September 2006

Munitions Response Program Overall Objectives

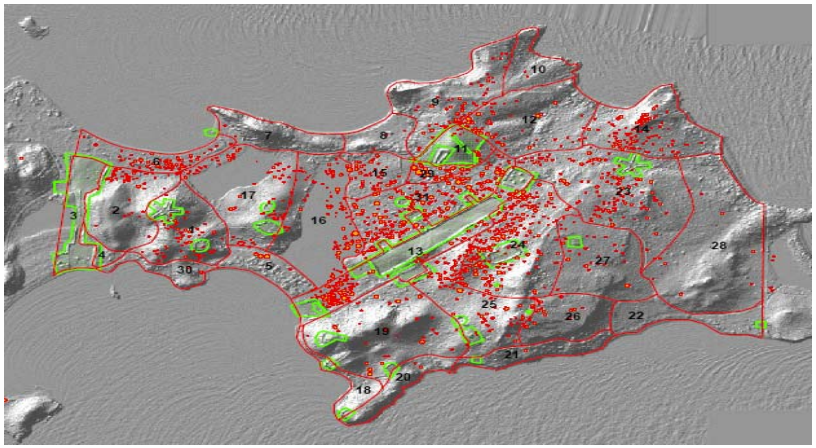
- Conduct Munitions Response Program (MRP) investigations
- Characterize Munitions Response Sites (MRS)
- Conduct Munitions Response Actions at sites that pose unacceptable risks to human health
- Final response action objectives will be based on final land use plan

Former Vieques Naval Training Range: Transferred 2003

Former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment: Transferred 2001

Site Inspection Phase I

- MEC surface clearance of all beaches (65 acres)
  - 62 live UXO items removed
- Expanded Range Assessment/Site Inspection (ERA/SI)
  - 27 of 62 Munitions Response Sites (MRS) investigated
- Light Detection and Ranging Aerial Survey Conducted for Entire VNTR



Time Critical Removal Action

- 180 acres surface cleared in the Live Impact Area
- Items located requiring detonation
  - Live Bombs - 79
  - Inert Bombs - 573
  - Live Projos/Mortars - 1169
  - Inert Projos/Mortars - 1276
  - Live Rockets - 61
  - Inert Rockets - 4
  - Flares-Pyrotechnics - 33
  - Live sub munitions - 10
  - Inert sub munitions – 7
- More than 100,000 munitions related items have been removed

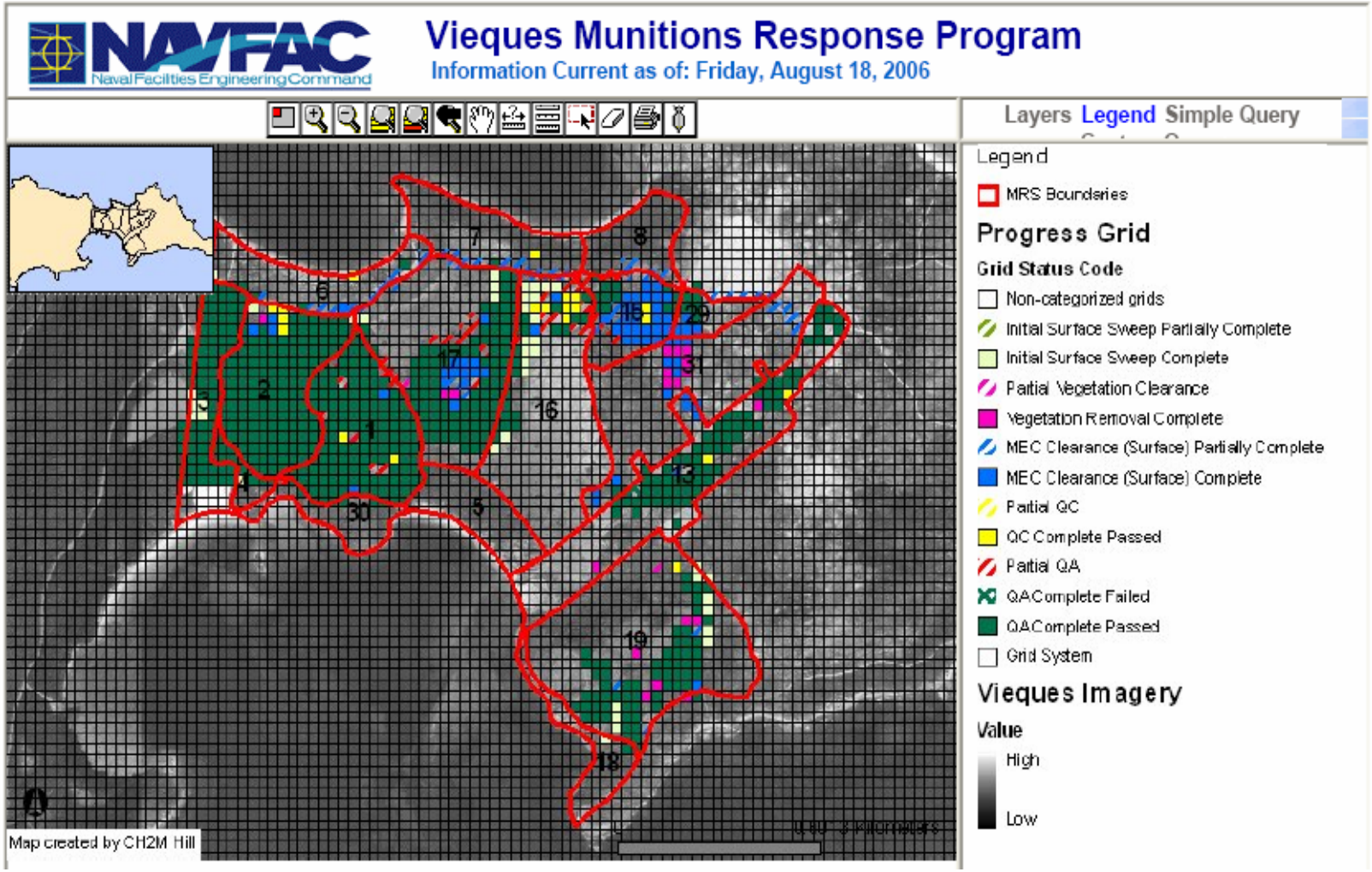
Time Critical Removal Action

- Implemented “boat patrols” on north and south sides of LIA to inform and protect the public during operations
- Air monitoring conducted to evaluate potential releases from detonation
  - To date, no detections of explosives compounds or metals exceeding screening levels

Time Critical Removal Action

- **Establishing on-site munitions debris and range related debris processing facility to insure scrap metal shipped off site is free of explosives**
  - Process includes cutting materials into manageable size and heating to insure no explosive residues remain

Map of TCRA Progress



Support Actions

- Completed biological assessment for LIA to establish mitigation measures to avoid impacts to sea turtles and threatened/endangered plant species during munitions response actions
- Expanding biological assessment to EMA, SIA, and ECA

Support Actions

- Conducted UXO Technician I training course for 13 local residents
- Conducted 40 hour OSHA training and UXO awareness training for 19 local residents
- 32 local residents employed on site

Economics

- Economic impacts from training locals residents
  - Over $300,000 in salaries paid to local residents since November 2005
- Over $900,000 paid to Puerto Rican contractors and support personnel
- Average of $90,000 to $100,000 per month is spent for local services (housing, fuel, food)
- Munitions Response Program Funding
  - Fiscal Year 2005 - $ 8 million
  - Fiscal Year 2006 - $20 million
  - Fiscal Year 2007 - $20 million (projected)

Future Actions

- **Continue time critical removal action for remainder of LIA and ECA**
- **Conduct Phase II Site Inspection**
  - Investigate 35 identified munitions response sites
  - Perform digital geophysical mapping of roads and beaches identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land use plan
- **Conduct removal action for surface and subsurface munitions and explosives of concern at the roads and beaches identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife land use plan**
- **Train additional sweep personnel**
- **Train additional UXO Technician I**

Proposed Controlled Burning

Controlled burning reduces explosive risk by exposing munitions hidden by vegetation

Air monitoring will be conducted during the controlled burning