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SURVEY NOTES FOR U S NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS INCLUDING VIEQUES  
ISLAND AND CAMP GARCIA NAVAL ACTIVITY PUERTO RICO  
9/1/1971  
NAVAL ACTIVITY PUERTO RICO

## Survey Notes

U. S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, P. R. including Vieques Island and Camp Garcia, P. R., 29-30 September 1971

### Facts

#### Description

There are two ammunition storage locations. The facilities at Roosevelt Roads consist of 25 magazines of various types of construction. Conditions range from very good to poor. The Vieques Complex is comprised of 106 magazines (26 inactive) which are all of concrete construction and in very good condition. The Vieques Complex consists of 7,200 acres on the western end of Vieques Island which is separated from Roosevelt Roads by approximately 8 miles of water known as the Vieques Passage. There are no quantity-distance waivers on any of the Vieques facilities.

#### Mission

Ammunition is stored and maintained for support of both war reserve and training of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range. Users include both reserve and regular Navy and Marine Corps air units and Marine ground units. Foreign countries also train in this area and during these periods their ammunition is often transshipped and/or stored.

#### Water-front Facilities

Mosquito Pier (Vieques Island). Reinforced concrete 625' x 40'. Water depth 37 ft. Berths - two ships. 3.5 million pounds explosive limit without waiver.

Army Pier (Roosevelt Roads). Reinforced concrete 180' x 30'. Water depth 28 ft. Berths - two barges. Barge traffic only. 300,000 pound explosive limit approved.

Pier #2 (Roosevelt Roads). Reinforced concrete 350' x 38', water depth 32 ft. Berths - two ships. 45,000 pounds explosive limit waived for use during inclement weather at Vieques.

Fleet Pier (Roosevelt Roads). Reinforced concrete 1200' x 120', water depth 40 ft. Berths four ships. 500 pounds explosive limit approved to service combatant ships only utilizing the Atlantic Fleet Weapon Range.

Ammunition Tonnage FY 1971

Transshipped

Incoming	1,215 S/T
Outgoing	<u>518 S/T</u>
total	1,733 S/T

Stock

Received	2,385 S/T
Issued	<u>2,255 S/T</u>
total	4,640 S/T

Demolition Facilities

The demolition area on the Vieques Island complex is approved for detonation of up to 40,000 pounds of explosives per shot.

Camp Garcia

This facility encompasses the eastern 1/3 of Vieques Island. It has many impact ranges which are used by Marine Corps ground and air units using virtually every type weapon in their inventory. An aerial survey of the impact areas located on beaches, marshes, and on mountainous terrain revealed many craters from past and present use.

Discussion

Mosquito Pier at Vieques Island receives most of their incoming ammunition shipments as deck loads on ammunition ships containing up to 3.5 million pounds of explosives which are loaded at Sunny Point, N. C. and bound for SEA. This appears to be an economical method of shipment. Mosquito Pier can and does accommodate Navy AE's. Adverse wind and sea conditions limit operations at Mosquito Pier infrequently.

Pier #2, Roosevelt Roads cannot safely accommodate either of these types of ammunition ships, and is unsafe even for the 45,000 pound limit now currently waived.

Army Pier (Roosevelt Roads) can accommodate barge shipments only which severely restrict its use.

The storage magazines at Vieques Island consist of concrete arch earth covered magazines 25 x 80 ft, single as well as triple arch, concrete rectangular type magazines 50 x 100 ft, and concrete wall inert warehouses 50 x 200 ft. and assorted smaller magazines. All are either in very good condition, or could

be placed in good condition by minor repair. There are 26 igloo magazines in reserve status which could be placed in service if needed. There is ample room for new construction if ever required.

The storage magazines at Roosevelt Roads are limited due to their proximity to facilities. A few are in good or new condition. Others constructed of metal arch and earth covered are starting to cave in. There is little or no area to construct new magazines.

The capability of the Vieques complex to detonate up to 40,000 pounds of explosives per shot is significant. This might well be the place to set up a disposal facility to accommodate the eastern seaboard installations which cannot burn, detonate, or sea dump unserviceable ammunition and explosives which are rapidly accumulating.

The impact areas on the Camp Garcia complex reveal many craters. Based on dud rates of approximately 10%, one must assume that a heavy concentration of duds exist in each area. Due to the types of terrain, it would be virtually impossible to locate even a small percent of the duds to render them safe.

#### Conclusions

The Vieques Island ammunition complex should be retained for both present and possible future use due to the capability of Mosquito Pier to accommodate large ammunition ships and Navy AE's, the capability of existing magazines to storage present mission requirements with room for future expansion, and the capability to destroy large quantities of unserviceable ammunition by detonation.

Mosquito Pier could be further enhanced by the extension of the breakwater.

The facility at Roosevelt Roads cannot safely support any of the above functions.

The Camp Garcia Complex on Vieques Island should be retained for Marine Corps use due to its excellent capability for providing a combination of sea, land, and air training facilities, accommodating all type of Marine Corps weapons at a single location. In addition, it would be extremely difficult to completely clear this facility of dud ammunition.