

FORMER VIEQUES NAVAL TRAINING RANGE, VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

Two-thirds of Vieques Island are owned by the U.S. Navy and, for the past several decades, have been used for an array of training including the training of F/A-18 and F-14 pilots for live ordnance delivery and amphibious assault landings by the Marine Corps.. Due to the nature of the training activities at Vieques Island, the Navy has identified several Munitions Response Sites (MRSs) of concern including Munitions Removal Area-Live Impact Area (MRA-LIA) and the MRA-Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA). These MRSs have been selected based on the high explosive hazards associated with the munitions identified at these locations and due to the trespassing of recreational boaters in these areas from the north and south of the MRSs. The MRA-LIAs are included in the Navy's approved Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA). Numerous different munitions items have been used at these sites and they include, but are not limited to: 5-inch/54-caliber (5"/54), 5"/38, 4.5"/38, 3"/50, MK-16 and MK-84 bombs, and sub-munitions and ICMs. The LIA was established by the Navy on the eastern end of Vieques where several targets were maintained for aerial bombing including old tanks and vehicles used as mock-ups, bulls-eye targets, and a strafing target. Additionally, several point and area targets for ships to practice naval gunfire support (NGFS) were established in the LIA. In addition, the 10,673-acre EMA was used for the training of marine amphibious units and battalion landing teams in exercises of amphibious landings, small-arms fire, artillery and tank fire, shore fire control, and combat engineering tasks. Marine artillery was fired from gun positions in the EMA and Surface Impact Area (SIA) toward targets in the LIA and SIA.

This project demonstrates PIKA personnel's ability to successfully provide a Federal client with MEC/UXO clearance in areas with endangered species and cultural resources, sub-munitions and ICMs, train and hire Native personnel, and perform services similar to those areas with extremely rugged terrain. As part of the Navy's overall mission to clean up Vieques Island, PIKA personnel are part of the team contracted to perform MRAs under the Navy's TCRA at the identified MRSs and to train and utilize local residents as UXO Technicians.

SPECIFIC TASKS INCLUDE

- Overall project and safety management.
- Training of local residents as UXO Technicians - through PIKA's connection with Texas Engineering Extension School, our personnel will be able to mobilize the appropriately trained and qualified personnel to provide this service at MRSs on the island of Vieques. We understand the importance of this training to the locals and their community, and have committed ourselves to making the Vieques UXO Technician Training a success for this and future projects at this base. Workers will be hired from Vieques and Puerto Rico to the maximum extent while ensuring contract requirements are being met.
- Clearance of MEC at the LIA and EMA - Performing munitions removal action at munitions response sites located within the munitions response areas at the Naval training range. PIKA personnel encountered a higher than expected MEC and Material Potentially Presenting an Explosive Hazard (MPPEH) Contamination. MPPEH was observed running ten (10) times greater than scoped in the State of Work.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- *MEC Avoidance*
- *Engineering*
- *Remediation*
- *Prescribed Burn Plan*
- *Created Procedure to Clear Vegetation in a Cost Effective Manner and Reduce Explosive Safety Risk to Workers.*
- *Project Information Stored on PIKA's Client Portal*