



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

LUIS G. FORTUÑO
GOVERNOR

April 25, 2011

Hon. Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

Pursuant to Section 2815(a) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (PL 111-383), I hereby request that the Department of Defense conduct a study relating to the presence of unexploded ordnance in a portion of the former Naval bombardment area at Culebra Island, Puerto Rico.

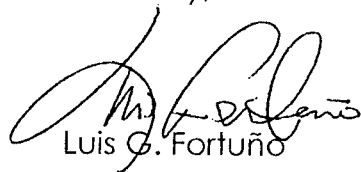
In conducting this study, it is important for the DOD to take into consideration that certain portions of land in the former bombardment area, including (1) the area that serves as the camping grounds at Flamenco Beach, (2) the path across the neck of the Northwest Peninsula from Flamenco Beach to Carlos Rosario Beach, and (3) the area at Flamenco Beach that is immediately off the shore and where bathers stand when wading in the water, may require special attention (Special Attention Areas). Flamenco Beach is a world renowned recreational area and these areas experience a high volume of tourist and local traffic, attracting many thousands of visitors each year, including families and children.

Accordingly, I request that in conducting the study, DOD estimate the cleanup costs for the Special Attention Areas and endeavor to provide the estimate for the Special Attention Area within 120 days of commencing the study. The goal is to ensure that safety is provided as soon as possible to the general public who are intensively using the Special Attention Areas while recognizing that the study will also address the other portions of the former bombardment area.

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For any assistance or coordination that the DOD may need in conducting this study, please contact Mr. Pedro J. Nieves Miranda, Chairman of the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, which is the lead agency overseeing the cleanup of the former defense sites in Puerto Rico. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Luis G. Fortuño

c: Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations & Environment