

VISIT TO NAVFAC, JOINT MARIANAS, GUAM
March 6, 2018

Summary by: Lanette Waite

Lanette Waite, President of the National Association of Ordnance Contractors (NAOC), presented four briefings on NAOC capacity to support NAVFAC mission requirements to relocate the US Marine Corps forces to Guam. Briefings delivered are listed below. The briefing is attached to this email:

Briefing #1: JOINT REGION EXPLOSIVES SAFETY PROGRAM MEETING

Attendees:

- Mr. Larry Reischer – Regional Explosives Safety Officer
- Maj Patrick Kucera – Regional MEC Program Manager
- Mr. Jackie Smith (NAVFAC Marianas MEC Program Manager)
- Mrs. Lanette Waite – President, National Association of Ordnance Contractors

Briefing #2: NAVFAC MARIANAS OPS BRIEF

Attendees:

- CDR Fitcher – NAVFAC Operations
- Mr. Larry Reischer – Regional Explosives Safety Officer
- Maj Patrick Kucera – Regional MEC Program Manager
- Mr. Jackie Smith (NAVFAC Marianas MEC Program Manager)
- Mrs. Lanette Waite – President, National Association of Ordnance Contractors

Briefing #3: SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Attendees:

- RDML Shoshanna Chatfield (Regional Commander)
- Mr. Larry Reischer – Regional Explosives Safety Officer
- Maj Patrick Kucera – Regional MEC Program Manager
- Mr. Jackie Smith (NAVFAC Marianas MEC Program Manager)
- Mrs. Lanette Waite – President, National Association of Ordnance Contractors

THE ISSUE:

Guam was a battlefield during the Pacific battles during World War II. On December 8, 1942, Guam was invaded by the Japanese. Over 60,000 tons of Japanese and American munitions were dropped on the island. Today, under the Defense Policy Review Initiative, the United States is relocating US Marine Corps Forces to Guam. This build-up is of critical important to our National Defense and strategic positioning within the Pacific. To accommodate thousands of Marines shifting to Guam, MILCON projects are being perform. Each MILCON must be executed in accordance with the Island-wide ESS.

KEY POINTS FROM THE BRIEFINGS:

During the course of the three briefings, the following points about munitions work on Guam developed. These points were also echoed during the briefings at the SAME Industry Day Forum.

1) Guam is a battlefield.

Guam has a Battlefield Exemption, it is not a Formerly Used Defense Site. This has an enormous impact on funding streams. FUDS money comes through DERP; this is not applicable on Guam. Most of the budget is MILCON.

2) “Inside the Fence” versus “Outside the Fence” Rules:

- a. “Inside the Fence” refers to property owned by the Department of Defense. These projects must be executed in accordance with DOD and Navy explosives safety protocols. RCRA rules for transport of soil must also be followed.
- b. “Outside the Fence” refers to property outside of the Department of Defense. This property is management by the Territory of Guam. There are no enforcements for explosives safety in contracts that are not on a DOD funded project. Hence, contractors do not have to operate with MEC protocols and soil is not sifted to screen down to a 20-mm projectile before reuse. Consequently, there has been “re-seeding” of ordnance around the island.

3) Joint Regional Marianas (JRM) Staff is significantly understaffed.

The three attendees from NAVFAC currently handle all munitions projects “inside the fence”. There are currently 1,878 construction projects with ground disturbing activities within the fence or funded by DOD. JRM is currently hiring. It was stressed that the program is maturing. They are getting the resources to handle to demand. A NAVFAC geophysicist will also be hired.

4) Explosives Safety Submission.

There is one island-wide ESS. The ESS has been a source of frustration and confusion. The ESS is currently being updated. It should be less prescriptive, remove inconsistencies present in the source ESS. It was also noted that NAVFAC is also developing a stand-alone ESS for Tinian.

5) EOD Limits:

Only EOD can perform munitions demolition procedure on Guam. Current procedure is: If MEC is found on the island, local law enforcement is called, then EOD responds.

6) Contracting:

The current contracting process is prohibitive. Essentially, there are two ways to support Guam munitions work: Through a NAVFAC PAC contract vehicle or as a subcontractor to a construction company. Currently, munitions and construction contracts have been comingled, resulting in tension between the two contractors. Preference from industry is to separate contracts into “Pre-construction clearance” and “Post-Clearance”. Essentially, complete the MEC work first. NAVFAC

leadership currently prefers to have comingles and put risk management on the Prime (construction) contractor.

7) Soil Management Plan:

A major challenge on Guam is handling soil. There are issues with where does it go and what are the rules/ procedures that govern soil removal. The transport of soil with potential MEC has been a big issue. Soil sifting operations are critical to screen soil down to a 20-mm projectile and enable reuse. There is a need for mobile construction screening plant. Attendees suggested two levels of screening operations: Smaller scale – for less than 15 to 20 acres; larger screening operations for 50-100 acre sites.

8) Conceptual Site Model:

NAVFAC is updating the Conceptual Site Model (CSM) from 2010 to present. A GIS platform is being used. They have asked for contractors to submit the most detail as possible in reporting documents with respect to munitions and geophysical data. This data will help build the CSM and support future munitions projects.

9) Quality Assurance Surveillance Program.

A 2017 QASP has been released in an effort to provided standardization of QA metrics. This will be distributed to NAOC companies.

10) Use of Innovative Technology.

There is an emphasis on doing things “Better, Cheaper, Faster”. NAVFAC is very interested in the application of munitions response technology. They recognized that “mag and dig” is a slow methodology and time is critical for meet mission objectives. NAVFAC leadership was very interested in application of Digital Geophysical Mapping, Advanced Geophysical Classification and Robotics to projects on Guam. As for AGC, NAVFAC realizes it is often perceived to be more costly upfront. They acknowledged there has been very little testing in the Pacific. They are interested in learning more about the use on AGC on Guam.

11) LABOR FORCE SHORTAGE

There is a severe workforce shortage to meet the demands of munitions projects on Guam. Guam is a 212 mile island, composed of 165,000 people. Guam has \$8 Billion in construction dollars planned (\$3B from Japan; \$5B US). However, the local work force is not available to support the demand. It was explained that there has been a policy of 100% denial of H2B visas (visas for foreign workers) on Guam. Congresswoman Bordallo has successfully changed legislation to provide for 4,000 H2B visas/year to support the realignment. From a munitions response perspective, there is not a local labor force on Guam to support the upcoming demand for UXO technicians. The Guam Department of Labor is developing an Apprenticeship Program of local UXO Techs to fulfill this need. The vision is to create a database of local UXO Technicians certified in accordance with DDESB TP-18 to be available to munitions companies performing work on Guam. This is perceived to have a mutual

benefit: The use of local staffing for munitions contractors and employing local workforce, which has a huge socioeconomic impact on Guam.

12) REQUEST FROM NAVFAC TO NAOC:

- Keep NAVFAC informed of technologies that could be applied to make munitions detection easier and more cost effective
- Mentor construction contractors
- Evaluate what we are doing in other places of the world to see if it would work in Guam
- Improve quality of reporting

BRIEFING #4: MEC CONTRACTOR -CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR NETWORKING EVENT

March 9, 2018

On Thursday, March 9, Lanette Waite also presented a briefing on NAOC during a networking event for MEC – Construction Companies during the SAME Industry Forum. Ms. Waite stressed the ability of NAOC to be a technical solution to challenges faced by NAVFAC on Guam during the USMC buildup. Ms. Waite provided an overview of NAOC, what its objectives are, the membership profile, our professional composition and benefits of partnering with NAOC companies. These benefits included: NAOC member companies are well-versed in the Explosives Safety and Quality requirements that must be met within construction contracts (DOD 6055.9-M, OP-5, NOSSA 8020.15D, Guam ESS Amendment 6 and ESS Exemption E1-16B); we are on the forefront on detection technology development and application; we actively lobby Congress to protect MMRP funding; and we have well established DOD partnerships and more. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. Attendees included NAOC companies, construction companies, NAVFAC’s Captain Dan Turner, JRM Explosives Safety Program Managers and the Guam Department of Labor.