DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

April 4, 2003

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As required by Title 1, Chapter 1 of the Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-246, 114 Stat. 511, July 13, 2000), I hereby recertify that, at present, both the integrity and accessibility of the Vieques range are uninterrupted, and that trespassing and other intrusions on the range have ceased. The last statutory certification was provided to the Congressional Defense Committees on January 13, 2003.

We have completed our final exercise on the Vieques Naval Training Range and are now working to close the range. In accordance with the law, we will transfer to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior all real property on East Vieques no later than May 1, 2003. Also by this date, we anticipate that all $40M in Vieques economic assistance funding will be either directly obligated by the Navy or in process of transfer to other federal agencies. This letter constitutes my final certification on this matter.

Similar letters have been sent to Chairpersons Stevens, Warner, Hutchison, Knollenberg, Young, and Lewis. As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Hansford T. Johnson

Hansford T. Johnson
Secretary of the Navy
Acting

Copy to:
The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Minority Member