

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1602

To require the closure of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico upon termination of Armed Forces use of training ranges on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, involving live munitions impact.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

Mr. INHOFE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the closure of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico upon termination of Armed Forces use of training ranges on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, involving live munitions impact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CLOSURE OF NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT**
4 **ROADS, PUERTO RICO.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

1 (1) The principal mission of Naval Station Roo-
2 sevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, is to support the Atlantic
3 Fleet Weapons Training Facility.

4 (2) The key component of the Atlantic Fleet
5 Weapons Training Facility is the set of training
6 ranges on the island of Vieques, including the live
7 impact area on the eastern tip of the island.

8 (3) The other missions of Naval Station Roo-
9 sevelt Roads, such as the performance of counter-
10 drug operations by P-3 aircraft and the missions of
11 the Special Operations Command, South, can be
12 performed at other military facilities outside of
13 Puerto Rico.

14 (4) Military training operations, including the
15 expenditure of live munitions, take place at a num-
16 ber of facilities in the continental United States and
17 in Allied nations.

18 (5) If access to training ranges such as those
19 on the island of Vieques are terminated, the value of
20 the Puerto Rican Operating Area and the require-
21 ments for maintaining Naval Station Roosevelt
22 Roads are greatly diminished.

23 (6) The Department of Defense must leverage
24 its resources in the most cost-effective manner to en-

1 sure that it maximizes its ability to train its military
2 forces.

3 (7) Maintaining Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
4 without access to training ranges, including those on
5 the island of Vieques, would not be the most effi-
6 cient use of scarce readiness resources.

7 (b) CONTINGENT REQUIREMENT FOR CLOSURE.—
8 Upon any termination of use of the training ranges on
9 the island of Vieques for live munitions impact involved
10 in the training of the Armed Forces, the Secretary of De-
11 fense shall transfer the missions, personnel, and assets of
12 Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to the conti-
13 nental United States and close Naval Station Roosevelt
14 Roads. The Secretary may, however, transfer any counter-
15 drug mission, together with associated personnel and as-
16 sets, to a forward operation location outside the conti-
17 nental United States that is also outside the Common-
18 wealth of Puerto Rico.

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