NAVBASE VENTURA COUNTY INSTRUCTION 5090.14

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Base Ventura County

Subj: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR AND BARGE TRANSPORT OF ALL CARGO TO SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

Ref: (a) Endangered Species Act
     (b) Federal Noxious Weeds Act
     (c) Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act
     (d) National Invasive Species Act
     (e) Sikes Act
     (f) OPNAVINST 5090.1C

Encl: (1) Bio-Security Requirements for All Cargo Being Transported to San Nicolas Island Via Barge or Aircraft
     (2) NBVC San Nicolas Island Bio-Security Plan

1. Purpose. To establish policy, guidelines, and responsibility for reducing potential introduction of ecologically harmful non-native flora or fauna to San Nicolas Island (SNI), Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) via barges or aircraft flights.

2. Background. When non-native, invasive species are introduced there are detrimental effects to the ecosystem. Impacts from invasive species are especially severe when introduced to island environments due to the sensitive nature of island ecosystems. These impacts can have an adverse effect to the Navy mission by damaging property, reducing mission capabilities, impacting training areas, introducing human and animal disease, contaminating food, impacting federally listed or sensitive species, and destroying habitat and ecosystem diversity and function.

3. Policy. To comply with references (a) through (f) and in support of the Navy’s environmental program set forth by reference (f) and the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for SNI NBVC. To support these policies, protective measures are being enacted by the Commanding Officer of NBVC to
reduce the potential of introductions. These measures will support ecosystem and mission protection on SNI.

4. Definitions

a. Bio-Security - Measures used to protect an area from biological invasion of non-native species.

b. Invasive Species - Executive Order 13112 - defines an invasive species as "an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health". In the Executive Summary of the National Invasive Species Management Plan (NISMP) the term invasive species is further clarified and defined as "a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health."

c. Invertebrate - Animal species that do not have a backbone, such as insects, spiders, snails, pill bugs, scorpions, etc.

d. Non-native species - A species that is not found naturally on SNI

e. Other transport methods - Any federal agency or other party utilizing alternative methods to move cargo to SNI, such as small aircraft, landing craft, and helicopters.

f. Red-tagged - Any equipment not allowed to be transported to SNI following an inspection, as it has a likely potential to introduce non-native species to SNI.

g. Shipping Party - Any Navy Command, Department, contractor, government employee, or other individual shipping materials to SNI via barge or aircraft.

h. Stowaway - A living creature that was not purposefully placed on board a ship or plane, hiding in cargo, containers within the vessel or aircraft.
5. Responsibilities and Actions

a. NBVC Environmental Division:

(1) Responsible to check staged cargo for aircraft or barge to ensure equipment and materials are free of plant or animal species. This will be attempted during every barging event and as often as possible for cargo flights (as threats are lower in comparison to barge). Environmental Division may also spot-check cargo on passenger flights; however, this will not involve opening any personal bags.

(2) Responsible to initiate warnings or red-tag equipment suspected of harboring plant or animal species and contact shipping party immediately, so shipping party can remedy situation to allow for shipment. This includes potential seed materials, fungus, soil, etc. that may be transported clinging to equipment.

(a) For small invasive species or contaminated materials in small amounts (e.g. a few snails, a clot of dirt, etc.), Environmental Division staff or appropriate personnel should be able to remove the problem and alert the shipping party to the warning that an issue occurred. Multiple warnings may result in declining (red-tagging) to ship future cargo that arrives contaminated.

(b) For larger invasive species or contaminated materials in larger amounts (e.g. vertebrate animals trapped in a container, mud covering tires or equipment tracks) which cannot be remedied on site, a red tag will be issued and cargo will not be allowed to be transported. The shipping parties and NBVC Public Works Officer (PWO) will be contacted to acknowledge the bio-security hazard.

(3) Support the bio-security educational effort by providing the Bio-security Presentation and Bio-security Plan to required parties. Keep Bio-security presentation and SNI’s Bio-security Plan current. Print and maintain bio-security posters and handouts. Ensure handouts are available at both the SNI and Point Mugu air terminals. Also coordinate with other Channel Islands bio-security programs to set standards and share educational materials.
(4) Coordinate or participate in setting traps and biological surveys in barging and aircraft cargo staging areas on island and mainland to determine any potential threats or recent arrivals.

(5) Provide footwear cleaning stations and associated signs for placement at Point Mugu and San Nicolas Island terminals.

b. Shipping party:

(1) Required to review the Bio-security Requirements (enclosure (1)) and ensure requirements are met and followed.

(2) Clearly mark cargo with a contact number, so they can be contacted in the event their equipment shows evidence of bio-security infractions.

(3) When shipping via non-regularly scheduled aircraft or barge, the shipping party must contact Environmental Division in advance to schedule any necessary inspections.

c. Barge Operations (Naval Air Systems Command, NBVC, and contracted barge company)

(1) Responsible for reporting any plant or animal species observed on barge during transport, loading, and unloading or observed in staging areas.

(2) Naval Air Systems Command staff associated with barge must forward the Bio-security Requirements (enclosure (1)) with each barge shipping request form sent to shipping party, so party will be aware in advance of requirements. The barge company must allow the placement of traps onboard the barge, ensure rodent barriers are in place along mooring lines when docked on mainland, and alert Environmental Division if traps capture any animals.

(3) The Barge Operator and loading staff will not allow any cargo that is red-tagged to be placed on barge.

(4) Any staff involved in barge loading, unloading, maintenance must review the bio-security presentation.
d. Base Operations (NBVC and Tenants involved in transport to SNI)

(1) Responsible to ensure cargo planes are free from plant or animal species and report any observations to the Environmental Division.

(2) For SNI non-regularly scheduled flights, Base Operations will provide Bio-security Requirements (enclosure (1)) in advance to personnel requesting to land on the island. Base operations must contact Environmental Division before allowing approval to land on SNI, to confirm party communicated with Environmental Division to discuss cargo being transported and potential inspection upon arrival.

(3) Any staff involved in cargo plane loading, unloading, maintenance, and/or flights must review the Bio-security Presentation.

e. Air Terminal and terminal shipping staff

(1) Report any observations of animals seen in cargo staging area to the NBVC Environmental Division.

(2) Ensure staff monitoring X-ray scanners also watch for evidence of plants or animals in baggage.

(3) Responsible to ensure all personnel working in terminal and shipping office review Bio-security Presentation.

(4) Ensure Bio-security posters are prominently displayed at the Point Mugu and SNI terminals.

(5) Terminal shipping staff will not allow any cargo that is red-tagged to be placed on cargo plane.

(6) Ensure there are footwear cleaning stations with instructional signs placed at entrances to Point Mugu and San Nicolas terminals.
f. Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center San Diego:

(1) Responsible to ensure packed items going through supply are free of plants, soil, stowaway insects, or animals before sealed and before taken to terminal.

(2) Contact NBVC Environmental Division if shipping material does not meet bio-security requirements.

(3) Responsible to put in a service call and contact NBVC Environmental Division if any pests observed in supply staging area/building.

(4) Ensure bio-security poster is prominently displayed in their supply staging area.

(5) Responsible to ensure all personnel working in the supply department review the Bio-security Presentation.

(6) Provide bio-security requirements (enclosure (1)) to all shipping parties bringing in cargo in order to increase awareness and requirements for subsequent arrivals of cargo by individuals to be packaged by office.

6. Requirements Process

a. Shipping party will have received bio-security requirements before bringing cargo for shipment (during most cases).

b. If plants or animals are observed in cargo by any of the parties referenced in this document, cargo should not be shipped and NBVC Environmental Division should be immediately notified.

c. If staged shipping items are searched by NBVC Environmental Division staff and not deemed safe for transport as they harbor or may likely harbor plants and animals, and if staff is unable to resolve the issue by removing the contamination, the items will be red-tagged and not allowed to be transported to SNI until the bio-security threat can be alleviated. NBVC Environmental Division will contact the shipping party and PWO to determine what is required to remedy situation at the shipping party’s time and/or cost.
d. After concerns are resolved and threat removed, NBVC Environmental Division will be contacted to re-inspect cargo and remove the red-tag only if the problem is considered remedied by the NBVC Environmental Division.

e. After red-tag is removed, the shipping party can then re-schedule cargo for shipping or ship according to schedule if remedied in time.

f. If no contact information is available (even though required), the NBVC Environmental Division will attempt to determine shipping party.

g. If the shipping party cannot be identified, cargo will remain at the staging area until shipping party is determined and threat associated with cargo is resolved.

7. Action. The Commanding Officer and his designated representative, the NBVC Environmental Department, are responsible for the annual review and update of this instruction.

L. R. VASQUEZ

Distribution:
Electronic only via the NBVC Web Site
https://g2.cnic.navy.mil/tscnrsnw/NAVBASEVENTURACTYPTMUGUCA/N00/N04C/Instruc/Forms/GroupBySeries.aspx