



Quail Island Air Weapons Range Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Hazard Reduction Project

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QUAIL ISLAND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT TO RECOMMENCE

The Department of Defence unexploded ordnance hazard reduction operation on Quail and Bare Sand Islands west of Darwin will recommence on Monday 12 May 2014.

With a later start this year due to the wet season, the Defence contractor, G-tek Australia Pty Limited, will now be re-mobilising to Quail Island to recommence UXO search and clearance operations.

The previous three seasons of work have been a great success with over 30 tonnes of scrap removed from the islands and 23 High Explosive bombs destroyed. It is anticipated that this season will continue this success.

With safety considerations an absolute priority, the commencement of the operation will once again mean that the Defence Practice Area will be activated.

The exclusion zone is a circle of 5,500 metres radius from the centre of Quail Island, an area of approximately 9,500 hectares.

This means that there will be an exclusion zone of a 5 kilometre circle from the centre of Quail Island in place. Details of the Defence Practice Area will be regularly published in the NT News.

Members of the public are not permitted to enter the exclusion zone; however as in the past years Defence accepts that there are some organisations and individuals who have a genuine need to access the exclusion zone and has every desire to cooperate fully with local residents and interest groups, conditional upon operational constraints.

Persons who have a need to visit the island group or the surrounding waters may be given permission to do so depending on operational requirements. Permission to access the area will be subject to conditions and approval granted on a case by case basis.

All other members of the community are encouraged to stay well clear of the islands in the coming months as the search for unexploded ordnance continues. The Defence Practice Area will be in place until 14 December 2014.

Persons with a need to enter the exclusion zone should first gain permission by contacting Greg Guthrie on **0418 977 424** or **gguthrie@g-tek.biz** or Brian Barkworth on **0439 320 160** or **brian.barkworth2@defence.gov.au**.

