



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

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DEFENCE TO RECOMMENCE HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT

The Department of Defence unexploded ordnance hazard reduction operation on Quail and Bare Sand Islands west of Darwin will recommence towards the end of March.

“The apparent absence of a wet season this year has provided an opportunity to make up for lost time as a result of a late end to the wet last year and in 2011,” Project Manager, David Thomas, said.

The Defence contractor, G-tek Australia Pty Limited, plans to re-mobilise to Bare Sand Island with a view to recommencing UXO search and clearance operations by 25 March 2013.

“Our plan is to have as much of the land area as possible on Bare Sand Island remediated prior to the arrival of the annual Charles Darwin University turtle research excursion later in 2013,” Greg Guthrie, Chief Operating Officer of G-tek Australia said.

The recommencement of the operation will once again mean that the Defence Practice Area will be activated.

“This means that there will be an exclusion zone of a 5.5 kilometre circle from the centre of Quail Island. Members of the public would not normally be permitted to enter that zone, but as in past years, 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,” Mr. Thomas said.

“We have every desire to cooperate fully with local residents and interest groups, conditional upon operational constraints.”

The activation of the Defence Practice Area will be periodically advertised in the *NT News* newspaper.

Persons having 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 David Thomas on **0427 680 685** or **davidthomas45@bigpond.com**



Photo: Betty Franklin