

**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
ACTION PLAN
"INDOOR FIRING RANGES"**

PURPOSE

This plan identifies corrective actions designed to control and reduce the number of unsafe ARNG Indoor Firing Ranges (IFRs). It sets the milestones necessary to ensure that critical program elements are established and implemented prior to range operation. The regulatory guidance, and procedural methodology described in this plan are consistent with current environmental safety & health practices and standards. Implementation of this plan will safeguard personnel against exposure to Lead (Pb) in harmful amounts, and prevent release of Lead into the environment. Additionally, it will allow ARNG components to safely reactivate IFRs previously determined to be unsafe for operation.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS/INITIATIVES

The following corrective actions/initiatives are required as a result of the Department of Defense Inspector Generals (DODIG) report No. 98-170 "Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Command Small Arms Indoor Firing Ranges":

1. The ARNG has developed regulatory guidance for operation, maintenance, inspection/evaluation, rehabilitation, decontamination, conversion, and closure of IFRs. This guidance was fielded in *September 2000*.
2. Each state and territory will re-evaluate and report the status of their IFRs to the NGB. The evaluation reporting process will include an IFR inventory and classification of each range (Safe, Unsafe, or Limited Use), a status report that describes the condition of each range (Closed, Converted, Rehabilitated, Active or Inactive), and the final determination as to the disposition of each range. Completion of the IFR evaluation process is expected by *28 February 2003*.
3. NGB will review scope of work (SOW) documents, abatement plans, action plans, and/or contracts for IFR rehabilitation, decontamination, conversion, or closure submitted by the states and territories. Review of these documents will be completed as they are submitted, in support of item 2 and 4 of this action plan.
4. All ARNG Indoor Firing Ranges will fully comply with governing health and safety standards, and applicable DoD regulatory guidance. The Individual State and/or Territory Hazard Abatement Programs will be used to eliminate identified hazards in conjunction with implementation of the guidance. Significant reduction and effective control in the number of unsafe indoor firing ranges will take approximately 10 years. Completion is expected by *28 February 2010*.

SUMMARY

Execution of this plan requires close coordination between the NGB and the fifty-four States and Territories. Budgetary resources must be identified/provided to fulfill the requirements of the plan. Currently IFR rehabilitation, decontamination, conversion, and closure represent unidentified and unfunded fiscal requirements. This could become an obstacle to executing the provision of the plan. To resolve this pitfall, future budgetary forecast should reflect the need for dedicated funding.