

ARNG RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

1. PROJECT NAME:

Integrated Pest Management Plan, ORARNG

2. PROJECT NUMBER:

0

3. DATE:

22-Dec-06

4. PROJECT START DATE (dd-mmm-yy):

1 Jan 2007

5. PROJECT END DATE (dd-mmm-yy):

1-Jan-12


6. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

Update of the the Integrated Pest Management Plan.

7. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- An existing **Environmental Assessment** adequately covers the scope of this project.
EA Date (dd-mmm-yy) 9-Aug-04 Conducted By: PEA FNSI by National Guard Bureau
- An existing **Environmental Impact Statement** adequately covers the scope of this project.
EIS Date (dd-mmm-yy) Conducted By:
- After reviewing the screening criteria and completing the ARNG Environmental Checklist, this project qualifies for a **Categorical Exclusion** (select one below).
Categorical Exclusion Code: ▼
See 32 CFR 651 App. B
- This project is exempt from NEPA requirements under the provisions of:
Cite superseding law:

8. REMARKS:



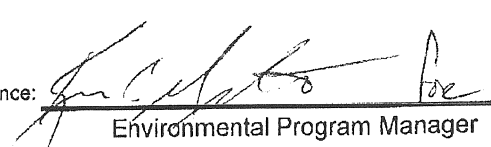
Signature of Proponent (Requester)

LTC Rendell G. Chilton

Printed Name of Proponent (Requester)

27 Dec 06

Date Signed

Concurrence: 

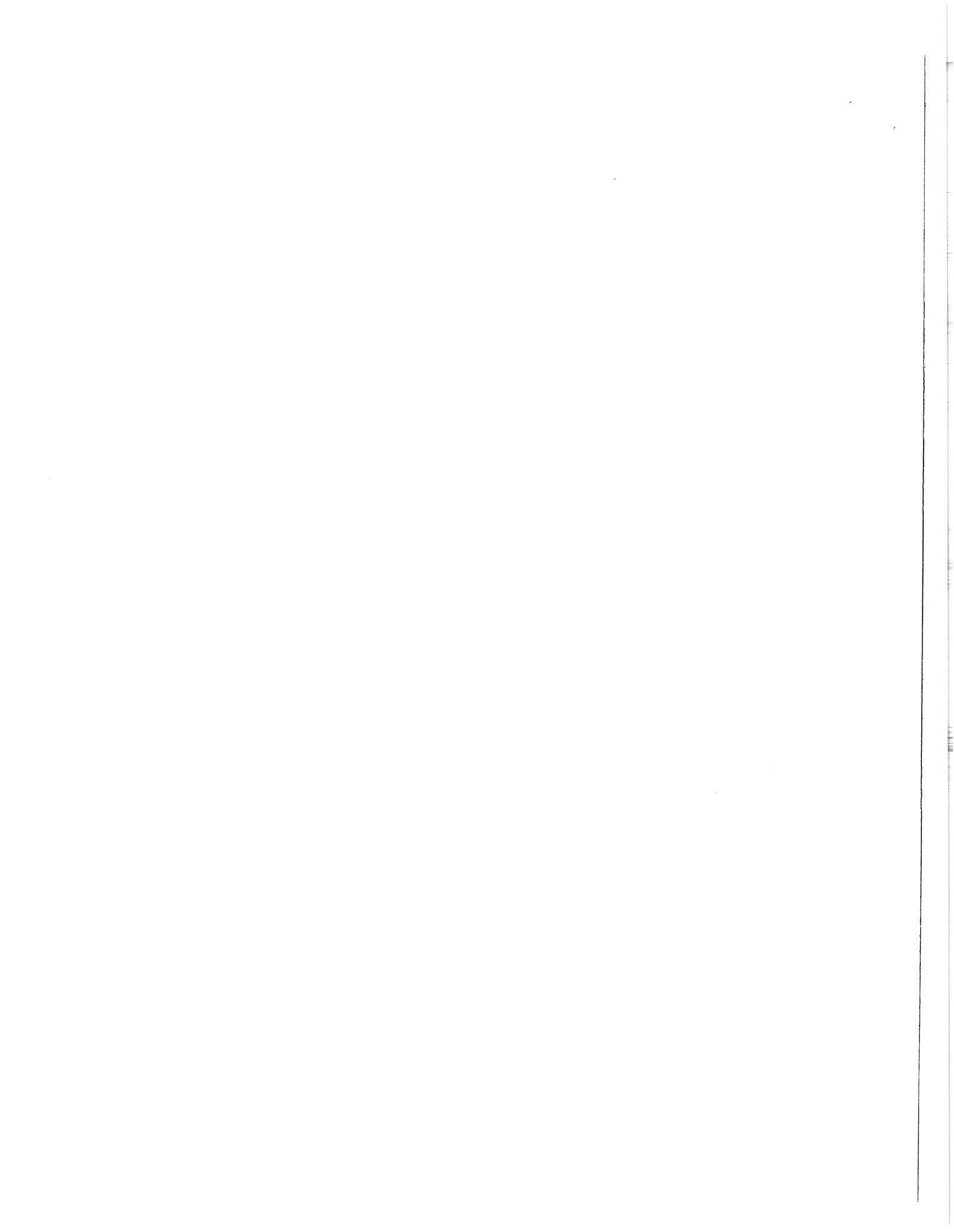
Environmental Program Manager

Gerald E. Elliott

Printed Name of Env. Program Manager

22 Dec 06

Date Signed



**Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI)
For the
Army National Guard
Pest Management Program**

A. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives.

The National Guard Bureau (NGB), as a major command under the Department of Army, has taken the general guidelines from the Department of Defense (DOD) Pest Management policy and is continuing to develop the Pest Management Program for the Army National Guard (ARNG). The ARNG's pest management program objective is to use an integrated pest management approach for the judicious use of both non-chemical and chemical control techniques to achieve effective pest controls with minimal environmental impacts. Integrated pest management, as used by the ARNG, is a decision making process designed to (1) identify the conditions causing a particular pest problem to occur; (2) devise ways to change those conditions to discourage recurrence of the problem; and (3) select the least-toxic mix of strategies and tactics to directly suppress the pest populations.

The ARNG proposes to use the integrated pest management approach by developing Installation Pest Management Plans (IPMPs) to reduce the use of chemical treatment techniques by 50% over historic usage levels while also achieving effective pest control. These plans cover certification, reporting, and all other pest management activities. The reduction of chemical control techniques will, in some cases, be accompanied by an increase in the use of mechanical, cultural, and biological approaches. The goals of the pest management plans are (1) to promote health, safety, and welfare of unit personnel through an effective pest management program; (2) to promote installation protection; (3) to ensure a professionally trained pest management force while supporting the mission of the ARNG to provide combat ready units for the national defense; and (4) minimize impacts on the natural and human environment.

The affected environment of the proposed action includes facilities administered by the National Guard of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

The analysis of the potential environmental impacts is provided in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the ARNG Pest Management Program. Alternative B is the preferred alternative. This alternative is an integrated approach that provides for the protection of personnel and the environment, while offering the greatest long-term potential for effective pest control. Areas considered in this document include: land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, infrastructure, hazardous materials and toxic wastes, and cumulative impacts. Other alternatives considered in the analysis include strict non-chemical pest management (Alternative A) and strict chemical pest control techniques (Alternative C), as well as the No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Alternative A was not considered to be an effective pest management technique under most circumstances and Alternative C would have greater potential negative impacts on personnel and the environment. The No Action Alternative

would also be a less effective means of post management in lieu of more effective, integrated approaches proposed by the Preferred Alternative.

B. Potential Environmental Impacts.

The preferred alternative would have minor, but not significant, negative impacts on the following:

1. **Air resources.** Air resources may be affected by temporary and limited site-specific impacts due to non-chemical management techniques such as mechanical removal or prescribed burns, and chemical techniques such as hand-spraying. In order to minimize these effects the ARNG would utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as coordinating mechanical removal or control burn operations with appropriate government agencies and performing spray operations in strict accordance with product labels and EPA-approved guidance. Pesticides would not be sprayed when wind speeds exceed 15 mph.
2. **Noise:** Noise levels may temporarily increase to non-significant levels, caused by outside weed management techniques.
3. **Soils:** Soil erosion may occur from mechanical vegetation removal. However, using appropriate pest management practices would minimize impacts. Soils that are subjected to substantially increased surface water runoff, or wind- or water-induced soil erosion because of weed removal would be reseeded with native seed stocks according to ARNG policy. Pesticide use could potentially contaminate local soils. These risks would be lowered by using and applying the pesticide as specified by the manufacturer, properly disposing of it, and making an appropriate choice of pesticides with short residual times.
4. **Water resources:** Water resources may be affected by minor, site-specific soil erosion caused by increased sediment runoff resulting from the mechanical removal of vegetation. To minimize these effects the ARNG would use BMPs such as reseeding effected areas with native seed stock. Using and applying pesticides as specified by the manufacturer and choosing pesticides with short residual effects would further minimize risks. During any aquatic or wetlands application of pesticides a buffer would be established around floodplains and areas of surface waters. Techniques, such as spot application, using short residual pesticides, and avoiding sensitive areas would be employed to reduce pesticide runoff and leachate.
5. **Biological resources.** The introduction of exotic species for pest control could potentially have a local impact on flora and fauna. However, impacts from introducing exotic species would be minimal. Only biological materials approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be used, and their use would be coordinated with the appropriate Federal and State officials.

There is a potential for short term impacts caused by the mechanical removal of vegetation located in and around wetlands. Impacts would be mitigated through the use of BMPs such as establishing buffer zones around such sensitive areas.

Direct impacts to threatened or endangered individuals could occur at the site-specific level. To reduce this potential, no pesticides would be applied within 100-feet of known threatened or endangered species unless use in such a site is specifically approved by the agency with jurisdiction by law. When compared to current practices, impacts to non-target species, endangered and threatened species, and wetlands would be less likely to occur.

C. Commitment to Implementation.

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) affirms its commitment to implement this PEA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The NGB will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this PEA.

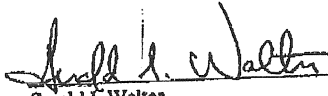
D. Public Review and Comment.

The Draft Environmental Assessment was made available for public comment from 15 April - 15 May 2004. No comments were received. The Final Environmental Assessment and the Draft FNSI were made available for public review from 15 June through 15 July 2004. Copies of the Final Environmental Assessment and DFNSI were made available be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.army.mil/nepa/>, or by calling MAJ Steve Morgan at (703) 607-7958 or emailing MAJ Steve Morgan at Stephen.Morgan@ngb.army.mil. No comments were received.

E. Finding of No Significant Impact.

A careful review of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment has concluded that the implementation of the preferred alternative for the ARNG Pest Management Program would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the natural or human environment. This analysis fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

9 AUGUST 2004
Date


Gerald I. Walter
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Chief, Environmental
Programs Division

