



2012 | Report to Congress on

# Sustainable Ranges

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# Sustainable Ranges





# Foreword

This is the ninth *Sustainable Ranges Report (SRR) to Congress*, which details how the Department of Defense's (DoD's) actions provide for the long-term sustainability of its training ranges. The Department's Sustainable Ranges Initiative (SRI) is the mechanism by which DoD manages sustainability of its ranges. Although this report focuses on DoD training ranges only, the SRI's efforts are much broader in scope.

In December 2001, the Deputy Secretary of Defense directed the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), in partnership with the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment (DUSD(I&E)), the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E), and the Military Departments, to form an Integrated Product Team (IPT). The IPT was to act as the coordinating body for all encroachment issues affecting DoD ranges, operating areas (OPAREAs), and other locations where the military trains, tests, or evaluates new weapons and sensors. The result was a broad-based, multi-faceted initiative, now known as the SRI. The goal of the SRI is to address encroachment and range sustainment through policy formulation, programming activities, leadership and organization structuring, legislative and regulatory initiatives, compatible land use activities, engagement and partnering efforts, and comprehensive reporting to Congress.

The SRI reflects DoD's recognition that access to military installations, ranges, OPAREAs, and other lands, seaspace, airspace, and frequency spectrum is essential. Having access to these areas provides soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and their associated equipment, with the realistic training and testing environments needed to prepare them for the diverse peacetime and wartime missions they support around the globe.

Access to live training and testing resources has been increasingly challenged by several factors, such as urban sprawl, frequency spectrum competition, changing climatic conditions, and national energy needs. These and other factors, collectively known as encroachment, have increasingly impeded the military's ability to use its installations, ranges, airspace, and other OPAREAs to conduct effective and unencumbered training and testing over the past several decades.

Working under the direction of the Senior Readiness Oversight Council (SROC), DoD established the Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT). The OIPT is tri-chaired by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness (DASD(R)), the DUSD(I&E), and the Principal Deputy, Operational Test and Evaluation. Its members include senior officials from all of the Military Departments and other related offices within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). The Working Integrated Product Team (WIPT) is the staff-level working body that supports the OIPT by coordinating and communicating ongoing sustainment activities.

Over the past 10 years, this SROC-led initiative has succeeded in numerous efforts including:

- ▶ Issuing new and updated range sustainment policies and guidance

- ▶ Developing and implementing an assessment methodology to gauge the health of military ranges in terms of capability attributes and encroachment factors
- ▶ Obtaining conservation partnership authority and annual Congressional funding for compatible land use buffers under the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) program (10 U.S.C. 2684(a))
- ▶ Establishing broad-based partnerships for sustainable planning, including the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) and the Western Regional Partnership (WRP)
- ▶ Facilitating the sharing of geographic information systems (GIS) and decision-support information to foster community-driven planning and compatible land use partnerships
- ▶ Establishing a DoD Siting Clearinghouse to facilitate fully-coordinated Department positions on the compatibility of proposed projects for energy developers, government agencies, and other concerned parties

Currently, seven specific focus areas established by the OIPT and affirmed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense guide the activities of the SRI. These seven focus areas are:

- ▶ Mitigating pressures on training and test activities from competing landspace and seaspace uses
- ▶ Addressing frequency spectrum competition
- ▶ Meeting military airspace challenges
- ▶ Managing increasing military demand for range lands
- ▶ Addressing impacts from new energy infrastructure and renewable energy initiatives
- ▶ Anticipating climate change initiatives
- ▶ Managing current and emerging environmental issues

These focus areas are specifically addressed in Chapter 4, Military Services' Goals and Milestones. As the SRI evolves, it will continue to address DoD's abilities to train, test, and focus on the direction provided by the DASD(R) to sustain the required capabilities.

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