

Recommendation 342  
Military Trainings at the Savannah River Site

Background:

As presented in August 2016, the military is facing a shortage of large land for training. The military faces challenges with base closures, constant technological changes in weapons, and environmental restrictions that can hamper training exercises. A current strategy is to maximize the usage of current federal lands to fill training gaps. The Savannah River Site and the Department of Energy have a strong vested interest in national security, and a partnership between the military and the Department of Energy has numerous benefits<sup>i</sup>.

The Savannah River Site can offer unique training facilities on site for the military, while the military's work can help SRS missions and goals. In June 2007, the Department of Energy and the Department of the Army signed an agreement to facilitate military training at SRS. In this agreement, the military can have no interference with SRS operations, no additional cost to SRS, no live fire training, and that the military is responsible for overall safety. In addition, training plans must protect the site's environmental and cultural resources.

Through this partnership, the South Carolina National Guard has embarked on numerous projects that have benefited the site, including, providing a new fire pond dam, replacing the B-area storm water basin and clearing twenty 1,000-foot sludge lanes damaged by the ice storm. These projects can offer cost-savings to the Site that may allow for the site to focus funding on other projects, while providing a real-life training ground for the military.

Recommendations:

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that:

1. The Savannah River Site and Department of Energy continue to partner with the South Carolina National Guard to offer training facilities that benefit the Guard, while completing needed projects at the site.
2. As long as the military continues to embrace Savannah River Site's safety culture and respect for site operations and the environment, seek to continue to expand joint training by reaching out to the Georgia National Guard and potential military users.

Recommendation #342  
Adopted November 15, 2016  
Sponsored by the Strategic & Legacy Management Committee

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<sup>i</sup> Military Training at SRS Presentation. August 16, 2016. Available at <http://cab.srs.gov/library/meetings/2016/slm/SLMCABMilitaryBriefing2016.pdf>