



Highlights of [GAO-04-608](#), a report to congressional committees

Why GAO Did This Study

Section 366 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 required the Secretary of Defense to develop a report outlining a comprehensive plan to address training constraints caused by limitations on the use of military lands, marine areas, and air space that are available in the United States and overseas for training. The foundation for that plan is an inventory identifying training resources, capacities and capabilities, and limitations. In response to section 366, this report discusses the extent to which (1) the Office of the Secretary of Defense's (OSD) training range inventory is sufficient for developing the comprehensive training range plan and (2) OSD's 2004 training range report meets other requirements mandated by section 366.

What GAO Recommends

GAO recommends that OSD develop an integrated training range database that identifies available training resources, capacities and capabilities, and training constraints caused by encroachment and other factors; and makes several recommendations to enhance DOD's responsiveness to the legislative requirements. DOD disagreed with GAO's findings and three of its four recommendations. After reviewing DOD's comments, GAO continues to believe its recommendations are still valid.

www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-608.

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Barry W. Holman at (202) 512-8412 or holmanb@gao.gov.

MILITARY TRAINING

DOD Report on Training Ranges Does Not Fully Address Congressional Reporting Requirements

What GAO Found

OSD's training range inventory does not yet contain sufficient information to use as a baseline for developing the comprehensive training range plan required by section 366. As a result, OSD's training range report does not lay out a comprehensive plan to address training constraints caused by limitations on the use of military lands, marine areas, and air space that are available in the United States and overseas for training. First, OSD's training range inventory does not fully identify available training resources, specific capacities and capabilities, and existing training constraints caused by encroachment or other factors to serve as the baseline for the comprehensive training range plan. Second, OSD and the services' inventories are not integrated, readily available, or accessible by potential users so that commanders can schedule the best available resources to provide the required training. Third, OSD's training range report does not include a comprehensive plan with quantifiable goals or milestones for tracking planned actions to measure progress, or projected funding requirements needed to implement the plan. Instead, the report provides the current status of the four services' various sustainable range efforts in the United States, which if successful, overtime should provide a more complete picture of the magnitude and impact of constraints on training.

OSD's training range report does not fully address other requirements mandated by section 366. For example, the report does not:

- Fully assess current and future training range requirements.
- Fully evaluate the adequacy of current resources to meet current and future training range requirements in the United States and overseas.
- Identify recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes to address training constraints, even though the Department of Defense (DOD) submitted legislative changes for congressional consideration on April 6, 2004.
- Contain plans to improve readiness reporting.