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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(S.D.)-Guard To Hold Off On Training Plans In Grasslands

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 02/14/2013 07:30 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota National Guard has postponed plans for training exercises on federal grasslands in the Black Hills.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the Guard, says the group will hold off until it can be determined that radiation levels in the area do not pose health hazards to soldiers.

Reisch says the Guard was contacted by Defenders of the Black Hills coordinator Charmaine White Face about the possibility of contamination.

The Guard leader says there's no indication based on previous air samples that radiation samples at the proposed training area would be above safety standards, but the state will take the necessary precautions.

The area includes about 800 acres in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.