

used their individual criteria for armory construction. Federal funds have been available for construction of armories since 1952. The Federal space criteria and construction standards for construction of armory facilities for the Army National Guard have been modified several times since the program was initiated. In January 1966, the Department of Defense approved new revised space criteria for Army National Guard armories. These criteria indicate the maximum space allowances for specific functional areas for which Federal contributions may be made in the support of new armory construction. Federal funds may be contributed to a State toward construction of Army National Guard armories in amounts up to 75 percent of the cost of construction, calculated according to approved Federal space criteria and construction standards. The space requirements for functional areas within an armory and the total armory space to be allowed for Federal contributions are based upon the type and composition of the unit and/or units to be supported in the facility. Armory criteria as approved by Department of Defense are determined primarily on a unit rather than a per capita basis.

(d) *Qualitative Standards of Performance*

Armories are designed to have a degree of structural adequacy, durability, and serviceability to assure a useful life of 25 years or more under low maintenance and expenditures. New armory facilities provided under Federal criteria will be of permanent-type construction. Standardized plans, specifications, space criteria and construction standards in accordance with Federal regulations shall be devised and used to the maximum extent practicable in the acquisition of such facilities with Federal funds.

Each armory project toward which a contribution is granted by the Federal Government shall be covered by an appropriate agreement between the United States and the State. The State and Federal agreement for each armory constructed covers a period of 25 years. This use agreement provides that the State must maintain and preserve the facility for the life of the agreement, and likewise provides specific protective use and disposition of the facility for the needs of the Federal Government as dictated by training needs of Reserve components, national emergency, or any other use deemed a requirement by the Federal Government.

In order to qualify for construction, the State must provide the land and the required matching funds equal to 25 percent of the federally supported items for proposed construction. Each armory or facility has a prescribed authorized strength and actual construction will not be started until the actual strength is a minimum of 75 percent of authorized strength or design capacity of the proposed armory. Likewise, armories will not be provided at Federal expense at a location which has a unilateral actual strength of less than 55, or a combined (joint) actual strength of less than 100.

A time frame for a proposed ordinary replacement cycle is not appropriate for armory construction as the federally supported program has not been in existence for a sufficient number of years to provide data upon which to base an appropriate comment.