July 1995

Defense and Security Information Systems Issue Area

Active Assignments

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Foreword

This report was prepared primarily to inform Congressional members and key staff of ongoing assignments in the General Accounting Office's Defense and Security Information Systems issue area. This report contains assignments that were ongoing as of July 6, 1995, and presents a brief background statement and a list of key questions to be answered on each assignment. The report will be issued quarterly.

This report was compiled from information available in GAO's internal management information systems. Because the information was downloaded from computerized data bases intended for internal use, some information may appear in abbreviated form.

If you have questions or would like additional information about assignments listed, please contact Jack Brock, Director, Defense and Security Information Systems Issues, on (202) 512-6240.

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DEFENSE INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

TITLE: **REVIEW OF DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS ACQUISITIONS (511271)**

BACKGROUND : Within DOD, telecommunications is a discrete, highly technical, loosely managed business area supporting all other missions. Defense is continuing to pursue numerous internal telecommunications initiatives worth hundreds of millions of dollars while also planning broader participation in governmentwide telecommunications programs.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What major costs comprise government long-distance charges? (2) How do costs for communications compare between Defense's DCTN contract and FTS2000? (3) How do major DOD communications projects (such as DISN) relate to or impact GSA's post-FTS2000 initiative? (4) Is Defense managing its communications programs in an integrated manner?

TITLE: **SURVEY OF DOD'S DEPOT MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (511276)**

BACKGROUND : DOD's Depot Maintenance Standard System strategy proposes over $900 million to implement 8 integrated migration systems to replace over 130 legacy systems at DOD repair depots. Specifically, the 8 systems forecast workloads, schedule repairs, track inventories and depot operations costs, and provide automated tools for job management.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is DOD's Depot Maintenance Standard System migration strategy? (2) What are the risks to the strategy? (3) What actions has DOD taken to mitigate indentified risks? (4) How and at what cost, i.e., funding and time, are the required mitigation actions to be taken, and what effect will these required actions have on "return on investment" for the system.

TITLE: **REVIEW OF DEFENSE'S MIGRATION SYSTEMS EFFORTS AT TRANSCOM (511320)**

BACKGROUND : DoD has begun an effort to reengineer its costly ($5 billion annually) and inefficient transportation system. As part of this effort, DoD is selecting and implementing information systems, known as migration systems, to support transportation functions. Concerns have been raised that system selections are not based on valid cost and technical analyses.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Is DoD linking its migration systems selection to business plans and reengineering efforts? (2) Is DoD selecting migration systems based on sound economic and technical analyses?

DEFENSE INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

TITLE: **ASSESSMENT OF DOD'S MIGRATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY (511321)**

BACKGROUND : One of the major near-term goals of DOD's Corporate Information Management (CIM) initiative is to support its business processes with a core set of "migration systems" and to eliminate all other redundant systems, thus saving substantially in both systems development and operations. DOD plans to spend $12 billion on migration systems over the next 6 years.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) How effectively has DOD been implementing its migration systems strategy? (2) What specific net benefits have been achieved or are expected? (3) Are ongoing projects economically and technically justifiable? (4) Is there any convincing analytical support for DOD's expected future benefits and cost savings?

TITLE: **TESTIMONY: COMPUTER SECURITY: HACKERS PENETRATE DOD COMPUTER SYSTEMS (511329)**

BACKGROUND : The Subcommittee has requested that we testify on hacker instusions into DOD computer systems.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Has DOD determined the extent that hackers have penetrated its computer systems? (2) Has DOD identified the severity of the problem? (3) What initiatives does DOD have underway to minimize the ability of hackers to penetrate DOD computer systems?

DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEMS

TITLE: **REVIEW OF DOD'S EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT CONTROLS TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING OF DISBURSEMENTS (511331)**

BACKGROUND : GAO testimony on May 16 and May 23, 1995, and briefings to requesters identified the magnitude and implications of DOD's $29 billion problem disbursements. This assignment will focus on determining what needs to be done to fix the root causes of these problems.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What action is DOD taking to resolve the $29 billion of problem disbursements? (2) Can DOD properly implement, by July 1, 1995, its plan to electronically prevalidate obligations with disbursements? (3) Does DOD have an adequate long term plan to integrate its accounting, acquisition, and disbursement systems to fix the root causes of problem disbursements?

DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEMS

TITLE: **DEFENSE BUSINESS OPERATIONS FUND CASH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (511333)**

BACKGROUND : DOD recently decentralized the management of DBOF cash. The House National Security Committee disagrees with DOD decentralizing the management of DBOF cash. In its report (104-131), on the fiscal year 1996 Defense authorization, the Committee directs us to review DBOF's cash management practices. We are required to report on this matter by March 15, 1996.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Does DOD have policies and procedures in place to adequately manage DBOF cash? (2) Do the systems provide managers with the necessary financial information to adequately manage DBOF cash including collections and disbursements? (3) What impact has the decentralization of cash management had on DBOF cash and the management thereof?

DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

TITLE: **MISSION CRITICAL SYSTEMS METHODOLOGY (511315)**

BACKGROUND : Nearly every Defense weapon and command/control system depends on complex and expensive mission critical computer systems to operate properly. Defense has encountered major mission critical systems development problems and several congressional committees have requested work in this area. GAO needs a commonly accepted standard methodology for performing mission critical systems reviews.

KEY QUESTIONS : What guidance should be developed to provide a standard methodology for performing mission critical systems reviews?

TITLE: **SURVEY OF COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE EMBEDDED IN THE AIR FORCE'S B-1B BOMBER (511328)**

BACKGROUND : DOD spends an estimated $20 billion annually on computer systems embedded in weapons. The success of today's weapons hinges on this important technology, yet DOD continues to have difficulty developing and acquiring it. The Subcommittee asked GAO to undertake a series of reviews of embedded systems within selected weapons programs beginning with the B-1B Bomber upgrade.

KEY QUESTIONS : 1. What, if any, computer and software problems are occuring? 2. What are the cause, cost, and significance of these problems? 3. How effective is the Air Force's embedded systems development and acquisition approach in reducing costs, schedule, and performance risks?

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK

TITLE: **FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS REVIEW METHODOLOGY - DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDS CONTROL REVIEW GUIDE (511296)**

BACKGROUND : To provide a consistent and disciplined approach for evaluating financial systems, GAO is undertaking the development of a Federal Financial Management System (FFMS) Review Methodology. In support of this effort, we are initiating this assignment to develop an FFMS review guide for evaluating the funds control function of a system.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What financial system requirements documentation currently exist? (2) What are the applicable fund control requirements contained in the existing documentation and does the documentation identify underlying sources of fund control problems? (3) What expertise exists in other GAO and external entities from which fund control information can be obtained?

TITLE: **FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS REVIEW METHODOLOGY - DEVELOPMENT OF PAYABLES/DISBURSEMENTS REVIEW GUIDE (511297)**

BACKGROUND : To provide a consistent and disciplined approach for evaluating financial systems, GAO is undertaking the development of a Federal Financial Management System (FFMS) Review Methodology. In support of this effort, we are initiating this assignement to develop an FFMS review guide for evaluating the Payables/Disbursing function of a system.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What financial system requirements documentation currently exist? (2) What payables and disbursements requirements are in existing documentation and does documentation identify underlying sources of payables and disbursements problems? (3) What GAO and external expertise exists from which payables and disbursements information can be obtained?

TITLE: **RECEIVABLES/COLLECTIONS REVIEW GUIDE FOR FFMS (511298)**

BACKGROUND : To provide consistent and disciplined approach for evaluating financial systems, GAO is undertaking the development of a Federal Financial Management System (FFMS) Review Methodology. In support of this effort, we are initiating this assignment to develop an FFMS review guide for evaluating the receivables/collections function of a system.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What financial system requirement documentation currently exists? (2) What are the applicable requirements contained in the existing documentation and does the documentation identify underlying sources of receivables/ collections problems? (3) What expertise exists in other GAO and external entities from which receivables/ collections information can be obtained?

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK

TITLE: **REVIEW OF IRM AND CFO SYSTEMS PLANNING FUNCTIONS AT THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (511314)**

BACKGROUND : AID's information systems account for and report on the use of over $7 billion for administrative and economic assistance provided to 100 worldwide locations. In the past, we have reported that AID's information management and financial systems were poorly developed, lacked integration, and were inadequate for supporting management decision-making.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Has AID initiated actions to implement prior GAO recommendations? (2) Is AID effectively planning for agencywide IRM and financial management system improvements?

TITLE: **REVIEW OF POST-FTS2000 ACQUISITION EFFORTS (511326)**

BACKGROUND : The GSA and the Interagency Management Council (IMC) are planning the successor program to the government's multibillion dollar FT2000 inter-city telecommunications services program. This effort is currently in the request for proposal (RFP) development phase.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What steps are GSA and the IMC taking to manage critical program risks? (2) Are the government's telecommunications service, security, and interoperability requirements being accurately identified and presented in the draft RFPs? (3) Do provisions of the draft RFP unnecessarily restrict competition?

TITLE: **REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'S INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (511327)**

BACKGROUND : NASA annually spends $2.1 billion on information technology critical to its aerospace mission. However, NASA has been noted for highly decentralized, inefficient, and ineffective IRM. Financial and contract management are high risk areas. Such IRM practices are no longer acceptable in the currently constrained budget environment and improvements are underway.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is the current status of NASA IRM improvement efforts? (2) How might we influence the change process to help NASA more strategically manage its information resources? (3) What are potential IRM issues for future study?