



Accounting and Information  
Management Division

B-281943

January 29, 1999

Congressional Committees

Subject: Defense Computers: DOD's Plan for Execution of Simulated Year 2000 Exercises

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law No. 105-262), and the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law No. 105-261) required Defense to submit a plan to the Congress by December 15, 1998, for the execution of simulated Year 2000 exercises. The purpose of these exercises is to evaluate how well information technology and national security systems will perform in a Year 2000 operational environment. The acts call for Defense to conduct at least 25 Year 2000 simulation exercises; ensure that each of the commanders in chief (CINCs) conducts at least two of these exercises; and ensure that all mission critical systems that are expected to be used in a major theater of war are tested in at least two exercises.

The acts also required that we (1) evaluate the methodology to be used to simulate the year 2000, (2) describe the potential information that will be collected as a result of implementing of the plan, (3) assess the adequacy of the planned tests, and (4) assess the impact that the plan will have on military readiness. The acts required that we brief the Congress on the results of this review by January 30, 1999. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Secretary of Defense has not yet submitted the operational evaluation program plan to the Congress and, therefore, we cannot report on the results of our review at this time.

Defense has been working on the overall operational evaluation plan but has not yet submitted it as required. On August 7, 1998, the Secretary of Defense requested that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) develop a Joint Year 2000 Operational Evaluation Program plan to be used as part of the joint training exercises program conducted by JCS and the CINCs. Since then, JCS has developed guidance and oversight mechanisms for the CINCs to conduct operational evaluations and for coordinating these efforts with the military services and Defense agencies. JCS has also developed a database for tracking the results of these evaluations.

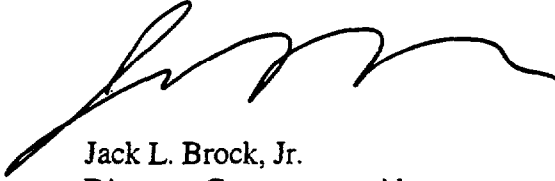
As of January 26, 1999, the CINCS had plans to conduct 31 operational evaluations through September 1999. Initial evaluations at the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the Strategic Command have already been conducted. Our strategy for performing future Defense Year 2000 work entails assessing selected operational evaluations and related

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activities performed by Defense. We will brief your Committees on the results of our assessments as they are completed.

We are sending copies of this letter to the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me or Ronald B. Bageant, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-6240.



Jack L. Brock, Jr.  
Director, Governmentwide  
and Defense Information Systems

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The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
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