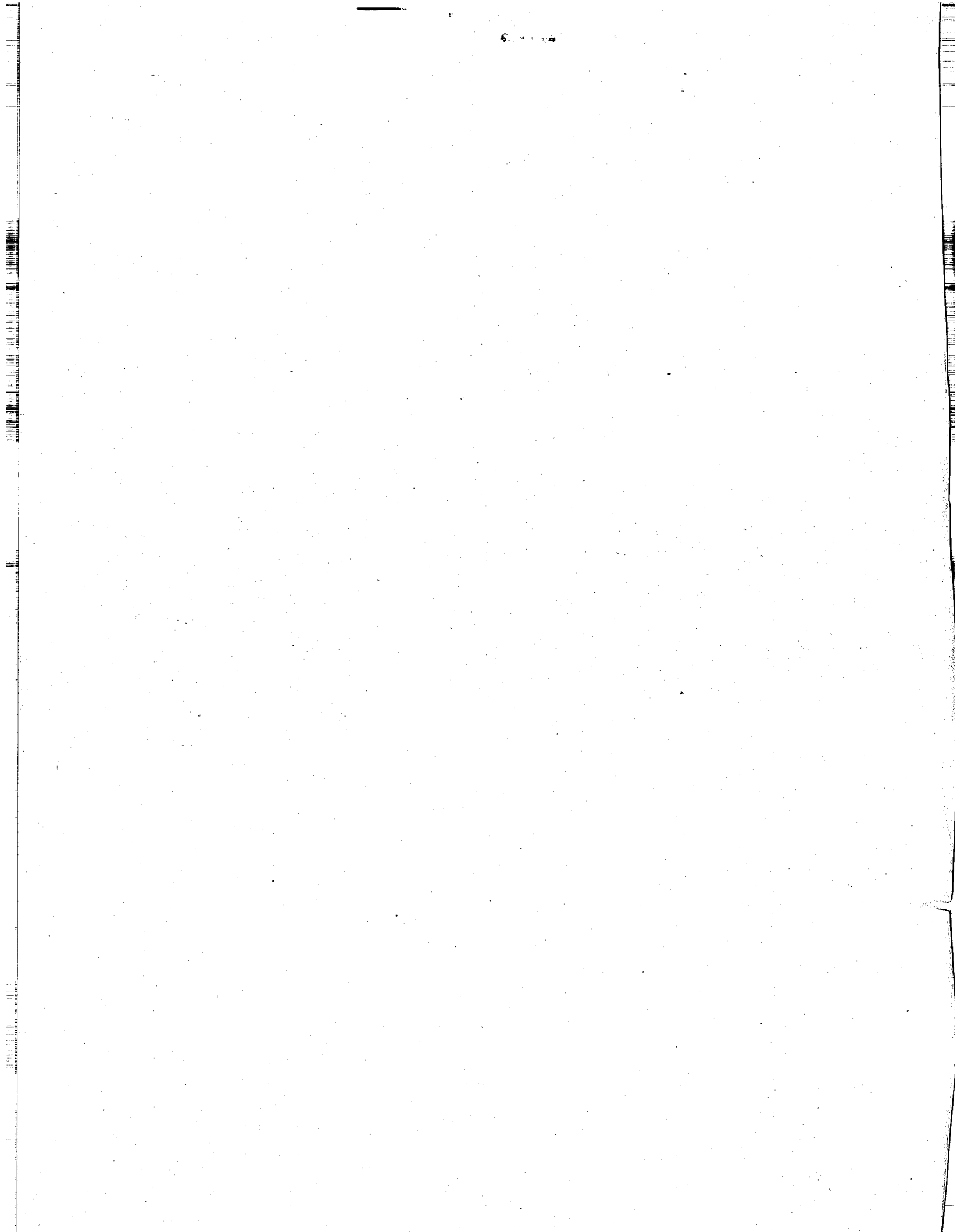


GAO

**National Security and
International Affairs**

JULY 1998

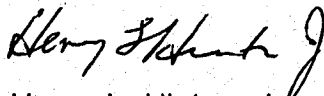
**Active
Assignments**



A Message From the Assistant Comptroller General, National Security and International Affairs Division

The purpose of this summary is to inform interested congressional staff and others about ongoing assignments in GAO's national security and international affairs area. This audit jurisdiction includes the Departments of Defense and State, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the defense and international activities of numerous other government agencies. The attached summary contains a brief description of each ongoing review. These descriptions are organized by budget areas within the national security and international affairs area. We expect to update this summary quarterly and would appreciate any suggestions you may have as to how we can improve it or otherwise keep you advised of our work in progress. If you are interested in obtaining a separate list of reports issued in the national security and international affairs area, please let us know, and we will be happy to provide it.

Further information regarding GAO's work in national security and international affairs issues should be directed to the contacts listed on the various reviews or to me at the U.S. General Accounting Office, Room 4035, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20548, (202) 512-4300.



Henry L. Hinton, Jr.
Assistant Comptroller General

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National Security and International Affairs Work by Budget Category

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

MEMORANDUM

TO : [Illegible]

FROM : [Illegible]

SUBJECT : [Illegible]

[Illegible text follows, consisting of several paragraphs of faint, mostly illegible text.]

National Security and International Affairs Work by Budget Category

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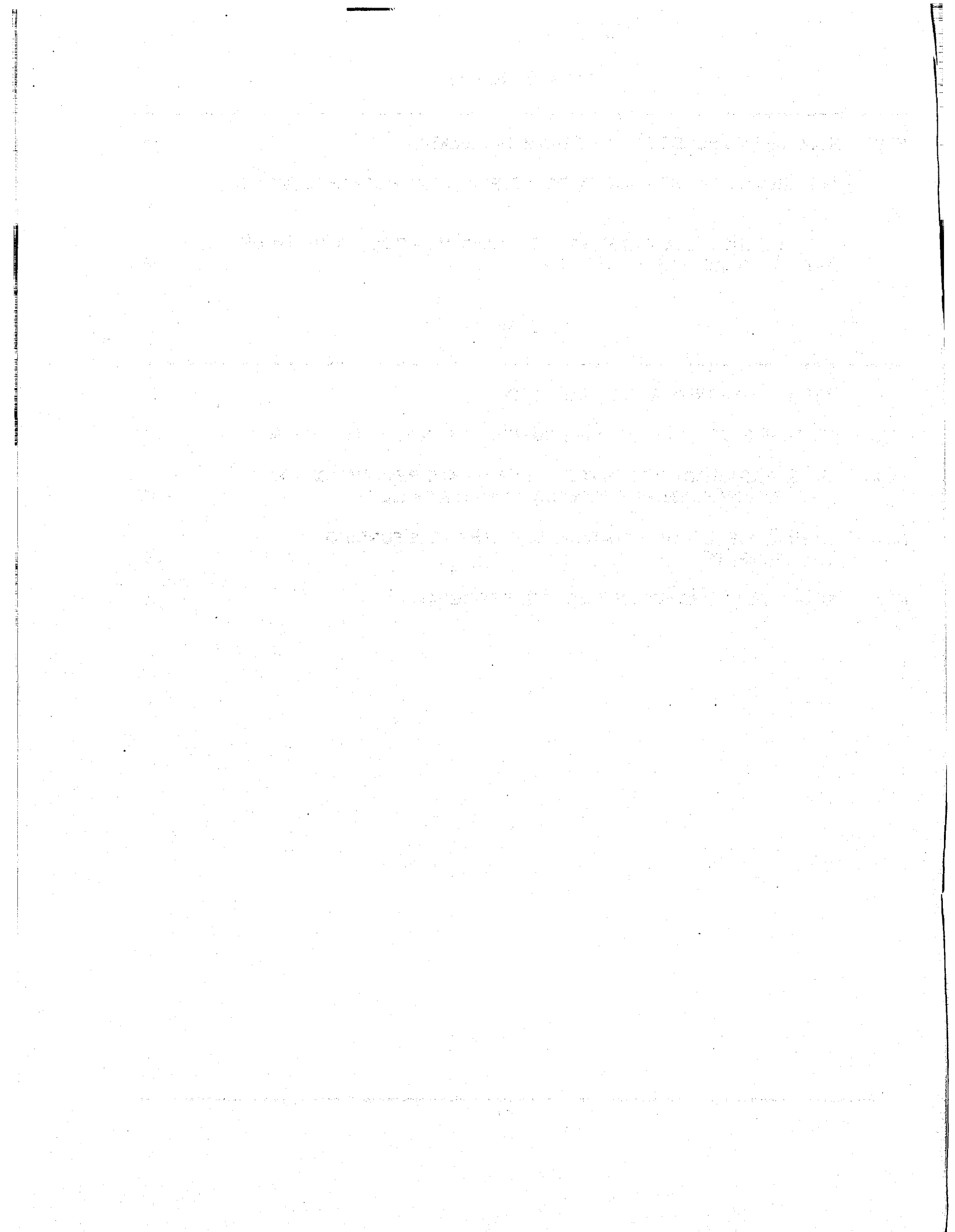
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PERSONNEL AND RESERVE FORCES

TITLE: REVIEW OF USACOM'S EFFORTS IN FULFILLING ITS FUNCTIONAL ROLE AS JOINT FORCE TRAINER, PROVIDER AND INTEGRATOR (701114)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Recognizing that U.S.-based forces need to operate more jointly, the U.S. Atlantic Command (USACOM) was established in 1993 and assigned combatant control of the majority of U.S.-based forces. Its primary roles are to train, integrate, and provide joint forces to the other geographic unified commanders-in-chiefs, ensuring the joint readiness of U.S.-based military forces. (1) What actions has USACOM taken to establish itself as DOD's Joint Force Trainer, Provider and Integrator of U.S.-based forces? (2) How have USACOM's efforts in these key roles resulted in enhanced DOD joint capability? (3) In what critical areas does USACOM need to make significant progress to fully accomplish its joint roles and what obstacles could present problems?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: DEFENSE INFRASTRUCTURE: CENTRAL TRAINING FUNDING PROJECTED TO REMAIN STABLE DURING 1997-2003 (701118)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Central training, the third largest category of DOD's infrastructure, is projected to be funded at \$21.4 billion in 1998. The funds for this training are above those required for mission-related and unit training (i.e. flying hours, joint exercises). (1) What are the funding trends for specific services and training categories? (2) What are the causes of the trends and the differences in funding levels among the services and the training categories? (3) What initiatives has DOD undertaken to reduce the funding requirements and/or improve the efficiency and effectiveness of central training programs and how is DOD managing those initiatives?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: REVIEW OF 1999 FYDP AND QUADRENNIAL DEFENSE REVIEW (QDR) PLANNED SAVINGS (701127)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Our review of DOD's 1998 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) found that DOD's projected operation & maintenance savings & increases in procurement were questionable. DOD acknowledged in the Quadrennial Defense Review report that the 1998 FYDP had substantial financial risk and that the 1999 FYDP would be a more balanced, modern, & capable defense program. (1) What are the major changes from the 1998 FYDP to the 1999 FYDP? (2) What were the financial risks that DOD acknowledged existed in the 1998 FYDP and how did DOD address those risks in its 1999 FYDP? (3) What financial risks exist in DOD's program for 1999?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: COST OF DOD SUPPORT FOR COUNTER DRUG ACTIVITIES

(701131)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD provides personnel, equipment, and facilities in support of U.S. counter drug activities. The total cost of this support is not clearly identified in DOD's budget. For example, the training and pay costs for active duty personnel used in counter drug activities are not included in DOD's counter drug budget. (1) What cost items are captured in DOD's budget for counter drug activities? (2) What additional counter drug support is not captured in the budget? (3) What are the estimated costs of the major items of additional support?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: ANALYSIS OF ARMY FORCE STRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES

(701140)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Section 552 of the FY 1996 Defense Authorization Act requires GAO to review the Army's allocation of its endstrength (via Total Army Analysis) and report on the extent to which the Army will be able to (1) fully man the combat force; and (2) meet the forces' support requirements. The impact of force structure reductions are of particular interest to our customers this year. (1) To what extent has the Army justified changes in its methodology and assumptions for determining its operating force requirements? (2) What factors did the Army consider in resourcing these requirements? (3) How did the Army evaluate the risk associated with potential mismatches between requirements and available resources for conducting two major theater wars and operations other than war?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: DOD PLANS TO REDUCE HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL

(701144)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO has been asked to review DOD's plans to reduce headquarters personnel. (1) How does OSD plan to achieve the 25 percent personnel reduction mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal year 1997? (2) What plans does DOD have to reduce other headquarters organizations? (3) What is the status of DOD's efforts to revise its directive on management headquarters and headquarters support activities?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: REVIEW OF ACCIDENTS IN HIGH RISK MILITARY TRAINING

(703180)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) How many military personnel died or were seriously injured in accidents over the last 10 years while in high-risk training? (2) Are there trends/correlations in the numbers, locations, training activities involved, and factors causing or contributing to the accidents? (3) What corrective actions have DOD and the Services taken to improve the safety of high-risk training?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: DOD SUPPORT TO ATF AND FBI

(703183)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) What types of assistance were provided? (2) What was the cost to DOD for the assistance provided? (3) Would DOD have provided the assistance in the absence of a drug nexus?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: MILITARY ENLISTED ATTRITION AFTER BASIC TRAINING AND BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST TERM

(703220)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In a recently issued report, we stated that in fiscal year 1994, 14.4 percent of DOD's enlistees separated within 6 months of their enlistment. We also reported that the services had invested \$390 million to recruit and train these persons. In this follow-on work, we plan to analyze attrition after the 6-month point and up to the end of an enlistee's first term. Our audit questions are as follows: (1) Do enlistees of certain genders, race, educational backgrounds, or occupations experience higher attrition rates than average? (2) Why are enlistees being separated early? (3) How much do DOD and the services spend to recruit and train first-term enlistees? (4) What actions are DOD and the services doing to reduce early attrition?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: PERCEPTIONS OF THE EFFECT OF GENDER INTEGRATION IN THE MILITARY (703221)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to study the issues pertaining to the treatment of men and women in the armed forces. (1) What has been the impact on readiness since DOD decided (in 1994) to open more positions/specialties to women? (2) What is the rationale for the current direct combat exclusion? (3) Is the current definition of direct ground combat still valid given the fluidity of the modern battlefield? (4) Does the direct combat exclusion place women at a disadvantage in terms of promotions and career opportunities? (5) Are the correct military specialties open to women? (6) Should both men and women be required to register for the draft? (7) Does the current direct combat exclusion effect the US ability to participate in a prolonged conflict?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF DOD'S OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR GULF WAR ILLNESSES (703223)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to examine and evaluate DOD's Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses (OSAGWI). (1) Is OSAGWI conducting a thorough and accurate investigation of whether U.S. troops were exposed to chemical or biological agents during the Persian Gulf War? (2) Does OSAGWI have the needed administrative, managerial, and personnel resources to perform an effective investigation of potential U.S. troops exposure to chemical and biological weapons? (3) What oversight of OSAGWI operations has been conducted and how effective has it been regarding both past and current OSAGWI operations? (5) What changes in military doctrine has OSAGWI recommended and how has the military responded?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE MILITARY SERVICES POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES FOR SCREENING RECRUITS WHO MAY HAE CRIMINAL BACKGROUNDS (703226)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The quality of the military forces is dependent, in part, on recruiting and retaining personnel with high moral character. Concerns have been raised about military recruits being discharged for fraudulent enlistment when criminal histories are surfaced after recruits have arrived at basic training and sometimes after they have completed follow-on training. (1) What are the military services' policies, procedures, and practices for screening applicants to identify those who may have criminal backgrounds? (2) How complete are the sources of information used by the services to screen applicants who may have criminal backgrounds? (3) What are the costs associated with obtaining criminal record checks?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S FISCAL YEAR 1999 MILITARY PERSONNEL BUDGET
REQUEST

(703228)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to continue our analysis of military personnel strengths used to formulate DOD's military personnel budget requests. (1) Should DOD's fiscal year 1999 military personnel budget requests be funded in the amounts requested given updated personnel strength levels? (2) Are the methodologies used to compute military pay and allowances valid to support the budget requests? (3) What other issues related to the military personnel budget requests offer potential reductions?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: DOD'S PERSONNEL SECURITY PROCESS FOR PREVENTING ESPIONAGE

(703242)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Recent disclosure of espionage cases in DOD and elsewhere has raised congressional concerns about the personnel security clearance process. Most cases involved already cleared persons who spied for other intelligence services due to financial, family, work-related, or other problems. Even one espionage case can extensively damage our national security. (1) What are the trends in espionage cases? (2) What are DOD's policies and procedures for granting, denying or revoking security clearances? (3) Are DOD's workload, resources, and training to carry out personnel security functions sufficient? (4) Has DOD taken any initiatives to improve personnel security processes?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO REDUCE
ITS ACQUISITION WORKFORCE AND ELIMINATE/CONSOLIDATE ACQUISITION
ORGANIZATIONS

(707316)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

This is a follow-on to Job Code 707254 in which we provided preliminary information to the requester on the results of DOD's efforts to reduce its acquisition workforce as well as redefine the acquisition workforce. (1) How has the workforce in acquisition organizations been affected by reductions? (2) What are the potential savings resulting from DOD's actions? (3) How does DOD define its "acquisition workforce" when targeting reductions and how does DOD plan to alter the definition in the future? (4) What has DOD done to streamline and consolidate acquisition organizations and functions?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

TITLE: FINANCIAL ASSURANCE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DECOMMISSIONING FUNDS IN AN ERA OF ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING (141109)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Nuclear power plants must be "decommissioned" upon retirement. Limited experience shows that decommissioning costs may be higher than fund reserves required by NRC. Moreover, emerging competition in the retail electricity market may make high-cost nuclear plants uneconomical, resulting in some early plant retirements before adequate decommissioning funds have been accumulated. This assignment will address whether (Q1) estimated costs to decommission nuclear plants are reasonable and (Q2) NRC, in view of uncertainties such as possible early retirement of plants, is requiring owners of nuclear plants to reserve sufficient funds to pay decommissioning costs?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: COSTS AND SCHEDULES FOR PIT PRODUCTION AT LOS ALAMOS TA-55 (141111)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program is responsible for providing the nation with nuclear weapons and ensuring that those weapons remain safe and reliable. This is in response to direction from the President and Congress. An integral part of the program will be the production of plutonium pits to be used for the nuclear stockpile. The pits will be produced at the TA-55 facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). We have been asked to examine DOE's plans for the TA-55 facility. Specifically, (1) What are the plans, costs (from FY 1996 forward), and schedules for pit manufacturing at LANL? and (2) Will the Department of Defense's stockpile requirements/needs be met by DOE's production plans?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LABORATORY MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION (141136)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Studies completed by various blue ribbon panels have found that the Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories are not managed as effectively as possible and have made recommendations for improvement. The research questions are: (1) What specific recommendations have been made by past and current advisory groups to address DOE laboratory management weaknesses? (2) How have DOE and the laboratories responded to these recommendations, including recommendations not accepted? (3) What are the views of experts as to the adequacy of DOE's responses, including reasons some recommendations were not accepted? (4) What are our observations on the progress of DOE in implementing the recommendations and any additional actions that may be needed?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOE'S ABILITY TO CLOSE ROCKY FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL
TECHNOLOGY SITE BY 2006

(141188)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is attempting to accelerate closure of Rocky Flats from 2010 to 2006, at a projected savings of \$1.3 billion. Rocky Flats has committed to trying to achieve the 2006 closure goal, but cautions it is contingent upon DOE's ability to overcome a number of barriers. Because of these barriers, DOE's ability to close Rocky Flats by 2006 is questionable. (1) What will the status of the site be upon closure? (2) What major projects must be completed, how they are to be accelerated, and are there actual or potential slippages? (3) What on-site and complex-wide factors may impact closure? (4) What are the positions of the major stakeholders? (5) What are the potential cost/savings implications of accelerated closure and possible slippages?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: TRANSFER OF FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM
(FUSRAP) FROM DOE TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

(141212)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was established to address radiological contamination at sites used by the Department of Energy (DOE) predecessor agencies from the 1940s through the 1960s. Responsibility for the administration and execution of the FUSRAP program was transferred from DOE to the Army Corps of Engineers in October 1997. The Corps recently issued a report that questioned the feasibility of the DOE suggested cost, scope and schedule of completing the effort by 2002. (1) What has the Corps accomplished since October 1997? (2) How does the Corps' accomplishments compare to what DOE had planned to do during the same time period?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE PROLIFERATION OF DEFENSE NETWORKS

(511368)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) Are the Military Services or Defense agencies developing and/or operating networks outside of the common-user DISN network? (2) What factors are contributing to the continued proliferation of networks in the Department of Defense?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

PHONE: (202) 512-6240

TITLE: REVIEW OF STATE IRM MODERNIZATION/YEAR 2000

(511619)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The State Department plans to spend \$2.7 billion over 5 years to modernize its IRM infrastructure. At the same time, State must address the year 2000 (Y2K) date problem to avoid catastrophic failure in its mission critical and business systems. State estimates it will cost \$70 million to fix its systems. (1) How appropriate are State's strategies and actions for ensuring that Y2K problems will be successfully addressed?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

PHONE: (202) 512-6240

TITLE: DOD'S DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEFENSE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DATA SYSTEM

(511634)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In developing and implementing its Defense Civilian Personnel Data System (DCPDS), did DOD adequately justify: (1) investing hundreds of millions of dollars in its own system after full consideration of alternatives such as OPM's government wide applications, (2) the number and location of system Regional Service Centers among the services and other DOD components, and (3) extensive modifications to the selected Commercial-Off-the-Shelf (COTS) human resource application system? Further, in making a substantial investment developing this system, (4) is DOD adequately mitigating high risk by adhering to the Clinger-Cohen Act's information technology investment provisions, and the department's own software acquisition best practices guidelines.

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

PHONE: (202) 512-6240

TITLE: HRA 19:REVIEW OF DISA PRICES CHARGED CUSTOMERS

(511639)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Defense Information System Agency (DISA) manages the Defense Information Services business area within the DOD Working Capital Fund (DWCF). For FY 98, it is estimated that the business area will have revenue of about \$3 billion. The primary goal of the DWCF is to focus the attention of management on the total costs of operations and the management of those costs in order to provide quality goods and service at the lowest cost. (1) Is DISA recovering the full costs of its operations? (2) What actions has DOD and DISA taken or have planned to reduce costs and streamline the information service business area?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

PHONE: (202) 512-6240

TITLE: HRA 19:REVIEW OF DOD'S MANGEMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
ACCOUNTING FOR BILLINGS

(511640)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD sales to foreign customers total about \$10 billion annually. By law these sales generally are to be at no cost to the U.S. government. In September 1997, we reported that DOD's working capital fund activities had undercharged foreign customers over \$40 million for goods and services as a result of deficient pricing practices. Because the working capital fund sales represented only about 20 percent of DOD's annual \$10 billion of sales to foreign customers, the requester is concerned about DOD's ability to accurately account and bill for the true costs of its overall foreign military sales program. We will address the following: (1) Can DOD's systems accurately and timely account for deliveries and billings for goods and services sold in the foreign military sales program?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

PHONE: (202) 512-6240

TITLE: HRA 7: ANALYSIS OF WHETHER AIR FORCE SUPPLY MANAGEMENT IS
PROVIDING ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO ITS CUSTOMERS

(511641)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Air Force supply management activity group (SMAG) is part of the Air Force Working Capital Fund. SMAG helps to maintain combat readiness by supplying the Air Force with about 2 million inventory items necessary to sustain troops, weapon systems, aircraft, and communication systems. SMAG reported \$12 billion in revenue and \$24.5 billion in inventory for fiscal year 1997. (1) Is SMAG providing timely and effective support to its customers? and (2) For selected aircraft (B-1, C-5, & F-16), what factors adversely affect SMAG's ability to provide items when/where they are needed?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

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TITLE: HRA 28:REVIEW OF YEAR 2000 IMPACT ON DOD MISSION CRITICAL SYSTEMS

(511645)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD depends on computer systems for virtually every aspect of its operations. Since most of its systems are vulnerable to the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem, failure to successfully address the issue could severely impact DOD's ability to perform its mission. Our requester is concerned about the potentially debilitating impact of Y2K and asked that we assess selected critical warfighting and financial management systems to determine the impact and adequacy of corrective actions being taken. (1) How are the systems that DOD has identified as being most critical, important to Defense warfighting and financial operations? (2) What Y2K systems problems has DOD identified and what could be the impact if systems are not Y2K ready? (3) What is the status of Y2K remediation efforts?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

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TITLE: HRA 27:REVIEW OF STATE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT GAO'S (511647)
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of State's information systems and the sensitive information contained within them are vulnerable to access, change, disclosure, disruption or even denial of service by unauthorized individuals. During a recently completed review of computer security at the Department, GAO identified pervasive technical and management weaknesses and recommended specific corrective actions. GAO is initiating a review to assess: (1) What is the State Department doing to implement the recommendations?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L

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TITLE: PREPAREDNESS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT (701124)
COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO's recent report (NSIAD-97-254) identified the roles and missions of U.S. Government agencies involved in counterterrorism (CT). This report will address the deeper question of whether the structure and practices in place for CT are actually working well. (1) What events (operations, special events, exercises) have occurred to test the U.S. Government's preparedness to conduct CT operations? (2) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the interagency CT exercise program? (3) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. Government in CT operations and special events? (4) Have strengths and weaknesses been documented and, where appropriate, corrective actions been taken?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

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TITLE: REVIEW OF WHITE HOUSE PROCEDURES FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO (701128)
AND DISSEMINATION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO's report, GAO/NSIAD-96-20 identified issues concerning controls over classified information within the Executive Office of the President. The requester has asked that GAO pursue those issues with emphasis on access to and dissemination of classified intelligence information. (1) What are the policies and standards for granting White House (Executive Office of the President and the National Security Council) access to and for the control and dissemination of classified information? (2) Have they been properly implemented? (3) Do the current policies and standards differ from those established in January 1993? (4) How do the policies and standards of the current administration compare to those of previous administrations?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: IMPACT OF PEACE AND OTHER MILITARY OPERATIONS OTHER THAN WAR (701133)
ON U.S. MILITARY FORCES

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester has asked us to examine the following issues associated with the impact of peace and other military operations other than war on U.S. military forces. (1) How have these operations affected the combat capability, reported readiness, morale, personnel retention, and ability to engage in a major war of deployed forces and those that remain at home station? (2) How have these deployments affected training of units that remain at home station? (3) How long has it taken units deployed to Bosnia to regain their warfighting skills? (4) What steps are being taken to ease the strain of participating in these operations? (5) How has the need to fund Bosnia operations affected planned budget execution?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DEFENSE TRANSFORMATION AND JOINT EXPERIMENTATION (701138)
EFFORTS

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Secretary of Defense has committed DOD to transforming the conduct of war using new technology, operational concepts, and joint experimentation. There is concern about the level of effort on joint experimentation & oversight of defense transformation activities in DOD. (1) What is the assessment of the Joint Vision 2010 Implementation Plan? (2) Is the plan adequate for development of joint enablers? (3) Is the Defense Planning Guidance consistent with the joint experimentation plan? (4) What are the capabilities & limitations of models & simulations to support the plan? (5) Are DOD science & technology plans effective in fielding advanced technologies? (6) What is U.S. Atlantic Command's capability to implement its assigned role in joint warfighting experimentation?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF EXERCISE PROGRAM (703209)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO was requested to review the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) exercise program. The purpose of the CJCS exercise program is to achieve joint and multinational training. (1) To what extent does the CJCS exercise program intend to provide joint training for U.S. military forces versus other objectives, such as regional presence and access? (2) What is the cost of the CJCS exercise program? (3) What is the impact of this program on personnel and operating tempo? (4) What is the process by which the exercises are scheduled? (5) What changes can be expected in the CJCS exercise program in the near future (1998-2002)?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S MANAGEMENT OF WORLDWIDE PREPOSITIONING PROGRAMS

(703218)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

With fewer troops stationed outside the United States today, the military anticipates heavy reliance--especially in the first days of a major conflict--on equipment and supplies prepositioned either on land or afloat near potential conflict areas. Because of the importance of these assets to U.S. national security strategy the requester desires a broad assessment of DOD's worldwide prepositioning program. (1) What is the current status and plans for the major service prepositioning programs worldwide? (2) Do critical combat stocks meet required levels and are stocks in good maintenance condition; if not, what are plans to remedy the situation?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNTS

(703227)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Operation and maintenance spending accounts for about 37% of the total defense budget and directly impacts the readiness of U.S. forces. (1) What have the services requested, received, and obligated since fiscal year 1994? (2) How do the services' obligations by sub-activity compare with what they requested and received in appropriations by sub-activity? (3) Are these trends consistent with the changes experienced by defense in personnel, force structure, and basing infrastructure? (4) Are these trends consistent with the Future Year Defense Plan for the same period?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

(703240)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Civilian Marksmanship program was converted into a private corporation in the FY 1996 Defense Authorization Act but continues to have access to DOD logistical and training support. Additionally, a number of firearms were donated to the program and more are being stored in DOD facilities. (1) What is the status of the conversion of the program into a private corporation? (2) What are the program oversight and implementing procedures? (3) What is the cost of the program to the federal government? (4) What are the types and number of weapons transferred, stored for potential transfer, and distributed to gun clubs or other entities or individuals?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD FISCAL YEAR 1999 O&M BUDGET ISSUES

(703247)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Per congressional request, we are monitoring areas of interest that in prior budget years have resulted in potential reductions to DOD's operation and maintenance budget requests. (1) Are the amounts in DOD's fiscal year 1999 operation and maintenance budget requests justified for civilian personnel and economic assumptions? (2) What documentation is available to support the amounts requested? (3) Did DOD advise Congress of changes to the budget requests subsequent to the submission of the President's budget in January 1998?

CONTACT: GEBICKE, MARK E

PHONE: (202) 512-5140

TITLE: EFFECTIVENESS OF DOD OVERSIGHT OF MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

(709251)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD spends billions annually for contractors to repair, overhaul, and modify weapon systems and related components. The number and dollar value of maintenance contracts will increase even more due to recent DOD policy revisions. (1) What are the characteristics of depot maintenance contracts and the implications for contract management and oversight requirements? (2) What will be the impact of acquisition reform, increased outsourcing, and acquisition workforce downsizing-- including the Defense Contract Management Command and Defense Contract Audit Agency-- on the management and oversight of depot maintenance contracts?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: REVIEW OF MAINTENANCE OUTSOURCING PRACTICES

(709258)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) What are DOD's outsourcing characteristics and experiences? (2) What factors do other organizations consider in making and implementing outsourcing decisions? (3) What are DOD's outsourcing initiatives? (4) What are the barriers DOD faces in improving its outsourcing practices?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: ALLOCATION OF CLEANUP BUDGET REDUCTION

(709259)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to examine the DOD environmental fund allocation process and how it deals with constraints. GAO is to provide an overview of how the process is followed DOD-wide and at selected locations. (1) What changes have occurred to recent DOD's proposed cleanup budgets? (2) What process does DOD use to allocate changes? (3) How did the funding changes affect cleanup schedules?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 26: STATUS AND TRENDS IN IMPLEMENTING BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT DECISIONS

(709278)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Although DOD supports the need for two additional base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds, the Congress has continuing concerns about costs, savings, and economic impact of prior BRAC round decisions. These concerns are likely to resurface as Congress reopens the debate on the need for more rounds. (1) What is the status of prior BRAC round closures and realignments, including trends in base property disposal and amounts of financial assistance provided to communities affected by base closures? (2) Is DOD routinely updating its BRAC cost and savings estimates, and what costs are anticipated beyond 2001--the final year of BRAC? (3) What progress has been made on BRAC environmental cleanup? (4) What are the long-term economic trends in areas where bases have been closed or realigned?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 7: REVIEW OF DOD'S TOTAL ASSET VISIBILITY (TAV) PROGRAM

(709281)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Total Asset Visibility (TAV) will have the capability to provide users with timely and accurate information on the location, movement, status, and identity of units, personnel, equipment and supplies. It will also provide information that will allow customers, item managers, and Commanders-In-Chief to improve overall performance of DOD's logistics practices. (1) Does DOD's TAV program address known secondary inventory management problems? (2) Is the implementation approach likely to resolve the problems? (3) Will component's TAV and logistics plans and goals support TAV? (4) Has DOD linked TAV goals to DOD-wide logistics plans and has DOD dedicated the resources to implement TAV?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: INVESTIGATION OF JUSTIFICATION OF REDUCTIONS IN FORCE AT ARMY DEPOTS (709290)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Army maintenance depots and arsenals have reported substantial financial losses over for the last two years. To reduce costs the Army has proposed staffing reductions at three of its five maintenance depots and its two arsenals. (1) What is the rationale of the Army's recommended staff reductions for its maintenance depots and manufacturing arsenals? (2) What progress has the Army made in developing workload-based staffing estimates for maintenance depots and manufacturing arsenals? (3) To what extent will other factors impede the effectiveness of Army efforts to establish workload-based staffing estimates, including the cancellation or reprogramming of funded workloads, inefficient logistics support practices, and changing workload allocation policies and procedures?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

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TITLE: HRA 19: ANALYSIS OF AIR FORCE WORKING CAPITAL FUND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT PRICES CHARGED CUSTOMERS (709293)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

We will review the pricing practices of the Air Force Working Capital Fund's (WCF) supply management activity group (SMAG) which has an annual revenue of \$9 billion and inventory valued at \$29 billion. This business has experienced financial difficulties in recent years. Specifically, it lost about \$100 million in fiscal year 1996 and expects to lose \$80 million in fiscal year 1997. It plans to increase prices 19% to recover these losses. (1) Is the information contained in the SMAG accounting and budgeting reports accurate and consistent? (2) Is the SMAG recovering the full cost of providing inventory to its customers in its prices? and (3) Are the SMAG cash management practices effective?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: REVIEW OF NEAR AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF MILITARY USE OF CHAFF TO THE ENVIRONMENT (709295)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Chaff is a radar reflecting material expelled by military weapons to avoid detection or attack by adversary defense systems. The requester asked GAO to analyze the near and long-term effects of chaff on our environment. (1) How does DOD use chaff, (2) what are the known and suspected effects of chaff, and (3) what initiatives has DOD taken to address chaff effects?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: DOD POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO DESTROY AIRCRAFT PARTS WITH
MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND FLIGHT SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

(709297)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

This assignment responds to the second part of a request concerning DOD's inventory management policies for the disposal of surplus military parts and equipment. It addresses concerns that surplus parts and equipment with military technology and safety implications are not being destroyed in accordance with DOD policies and procedures, thereby possibly getting into the hands of civilians and foreign governments. (1) Are surplus parts with military technology implications properly destroyed through the disposal process? (2) What steps is DOD taking to preclude surplus aircraft parts with flight safety implications from being sold to the public?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 26: REVIEW OF DOD'S A-76 CASE STUDIES COMPLETED IN FISCAL
YEARS 1996 AND 1997

(709298)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD is increasingly outsourcing support activities due to budgetary and personnel limitations. Congress would like assurances that outsourcing decisions are based on sound analysis & represent cost effective decisions. We plan to review a sample of DOD's Circular A-76 decisions made in FY 96 and 97. (1) What are the differences in prospective costs between the Government and private sector competitors? (2) To what extent were actual personnel & dollar savings achieved? (3) To what extent were changes made to post-competition performance work statements? (4) What is the scope of oversight and monitoring of contract performance where contracts were won by the private sector? (5) What performance data is available on winners of the competitions.

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S OUTSOURCING INITIATIVES

(709300)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Concerns have arisen about DOD's growing use of outsourcing & the sufficiency of DOD's resources devoted to handling increased workload. (1) Have DOD and the individual services developed strategies for conducting and implementing their A-76 competition initiatives? (2) What is the scope of DOD's current A-76 competition initiatives, including the status of outsourcing efforts announced for late FY 1996 & 1997? (3) What is the status of DOD's efforts to identify additional study areas for the future to meet the currently planned A-76 competition initiatives? (4) Has DOD assigned the appropriate/necessary resources to implement & oversee the planned A-76 competition efforts? (5) What is the likelihood that DOD can achieve the planned A-76 competition savings?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

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TITLE: HRA 26: ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOD'S BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999 (709306)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In Conference Report 105-247, GAO was asked to continue its annual review of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) accounts & make recommendations on the validity of DOD's budget request for FY 1999 base closure activities. We were requested to provide the results of our review by May 15, 1998. (1) What is the status of prior year BRAC appropriations and are prior year BRAC funds being properly managed and used in a timely manner? (2) What are the potential reductions in the budget request for FY 1999 construction projects? (3) What are the potential reductions in the budget request for FY 1999 operations and maintenance activities? (4) What are the potential reductions in the budget request for FY 1999 environmental cleanup projects?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 7: STATUS OF DOD SECONDARY ITEM INVENTORY AND PURCHASES (709307)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Annually, DOD purchases \$14.1 billion and stores and distributes inventory valued at \$68.5 billion. Concerned that DOD inventory and purchases exceed war reserve and operating requirements, the requester asked GAO to periodically provide updated information on DOD's inventories and purchases and their relationship to current requirements. (1) Have the number and dollar value of DOD secondary inventory items exceeded current operating and war reserve requirements as of Sept. 1996 and Sept. 1997? (2) Does DOD buy inventory for which it has no current requirements?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL SURPLUS SHIP DISPOSAL FOR SCRAPPING (709312)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to study the disposal of ships for scrapping. GAO issued a report on October 17, 1997, outlining major Navy/Environmental Protection Agency policy changes related to the export of ships for overseas scrapping. This job will address the efficiency & effectiveness of the functions & processes for marketing & sales of ships for scrapping. (1) What is the status & recent improvements to the agencies' programs for scrapping of surplus ships? (2) What is the potential for streamlining and/or consolidating the federal ship sales functions? (3) What are the advantages & disadvantages of selling ships for overseas scrapping? The final report will also include as background the issues formerly addressed related to environmental & worker safety liability & compliance.

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

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TITLE: DOD ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP, COST SHARING AND RECOVERY

(709316)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO has been legislatively mandated by the Senate Report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (S. Report 105-29) to provide information on recovery and sharing of cost of environmental cleanup by DOD. The Committee Report noted information which suggests that inconsistent policies have contributed to a lack of focus and minimal cost recovery at Government and third party sites. (1) What is the current status of DOD activities relative to cost sharing or recovery of environmental restoration costs incurred at DOD and third party sites? (2) Does potential exist for cost sharing and recovery to affect projected DOD cleanup cost?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: REVIEW OF FY 1997 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR WORKLOAD ALLOCATIONS

(709319)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Defense Authorization Act for 1998 (Public Law 105-85) states that not later than February 1 of each year, the Secretary of Defense is to submit a report to Congress identifying for each military department and defense agency, the percentage of funds expended during the preceding fiscal year for performance of depot-level maintenance repair workloads by the public and private sectors. Not later than 90 days after the Secretary submits the annual report to Congress, GAO is required to submit its views on whether or not DOD complied with the requirements of title 10 U.S.C. 2466 for fiscal year covered by the report. (1) To what extent does DOD's FY1997 report of public and private expenditures provide a reasonable assessment of depot-level maintenance workload allocations?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: FINAL REPORT FOLLOWUP ON RELATIVE RISK ISSUES

(709320)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester is concerned about consistency in the application of DOD's relative risk site evaluation process for justifying requirements and establishing funding priorities for Defense environmental cleanup. (1) Has DOD issued uniform relative risk site evaluation guidance to the defense components? (2) How are defense installations applying the relative risk site evaluation process? (3) Has DOD's relative risk site evaluation process provided data that enabled the defense components to categorize sites and prioritize work?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 26: THE NAVY'S MANAGEMENT OF IN-TRANSIT INVENTORY

(709322)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD shipped millions of parts within and between DOD warehouses and repair facilities, contractor facilities, manufacturers, and vendors. In fiscal year 1997 DOD made 21 million shipments DOD wide (valued at \$63 billion) of which, 60% did not have a notification of receipt and had been outstanding for an average of 145 days. The Navy accounted for 7 million (valued at \$17 billion) of DOD's total shipments, of which 80% did not have receipt notifications. (1) What is the composition (senders/receivers, types and value of items shipped, and in-transit times) of the Navy's in-transit inventory? (2) What controls (e.g. shipment/receipt notifications) exist to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse? (3) How well are the controls working?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 26: REVIEW OF DOD'S REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON BASE
REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COSTS AND SAVINGS

(709325)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Despite four Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC) rounds, excess capacity remains in DOD's infrastructure. DOD would like to close more bases to devote resources to readiness & modernization. Section 2824 of P.L. 105-85 requires that DOD report on the costs & savings of previous BRAC rounds & on the need for additional BRAC rounds. Also, it requires that GAO & the Congressional Budget Office review DOD's report. (1) Does DOD's report to Congress accurately reflect costs & savings of BRAC actions? (2) What were DOD's methodologies & criteria for determining excess capacity at military bases & for identifying the types of military installations that might be recommended for additional rounds of base closures? (3) Is DOD's evaluation of BRAC actions' impact on military capability valid?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: COST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSFER OF 458TH OPERATIONS
GROUP FROM BARKSDALE AFB TO MCGUIRE AFB

(709326)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

As part of a sweeping DOD reorganization to meet smaller Post-cold war budgets, the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission recommended that the 458th Operations Group be transferred from Barksdale AFB, LA. to McGuire AFB, N.J. In addition, the commission reassigned B-52Hs from Griffis AFB and Sawyer AFB to Barksdale AFB. In September 1994, 19 KC10s were moved to McGuire AFB. The requester has asked that GAO assess the costs and savings associated with this move. (1) What prompted the transfer of the 458th Operations Group to McGuire AFB, and (2) what costs, savings, and operational benefits were associated with decisions made by the 1993 BRAC Commission that affected the 458th Operations Group, Barksdale AFB, and Louisiana?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 7: DLA'S BEST SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING BEST COMMERCIAL PRACTICES (709332)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Section 395 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 requires the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to develop and submit to Congress, not later than May 18, 1998, an implementation schedule for adopting best commercial practices for the acquisition and distribution of consumable-type supplies. DLA's schedule must provide for implementation of these practices by no later than November 2000. GAO has been asked to review and assess the DLA schedule and report our findings no later than 60 days after DLA submits its schedule. (1) Does DLA's schedule meet the requirements of the act? (2) Does DLA's schedule effectively provide for the implementation of best commercial practices throughout Defense operations?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 7: ANALYSIS OF WHETHER AIR FORCE SUPPLY MANAGEMENT IS PROVIDING ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO ITS CUSTOMERS (709337)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Air Force supply management activity group (SMAG) is part of the Air Force Working Capital Fund. SMAG helps to maintain combat readiness by supplying the Air Force with about 2 million inventory items necessary to sustain troops, weapon systems, aircraft, and communication systems. SMAG reported \$12 billion in revenue and \$24.5 billion in inventory for fiscal year 1997. (1) Is SMAG providing timely and effective support to its customers? (2) For selected aircraft (B-1, C-5, & F-16), what factors adversely affect SMAG's ability to provide items when/where they are needed?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: DOD'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT (709341)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Although DOD policy is to have a single inventory manager for each item in the supply system, we have preliminary indications that almost 70,000 items, with on hand inventories valued at over \$1 billion, are managed by more than one DOD component. DOD has been slow in eliminating this duplication, which can result in unneeded purchases, excess on hand inventories, and unnecessary management costs. GAO has been asked to review inventory items that are managed and stocked by more than one DOD component. (1) How much duplicate inventory is managed by DOD components? (2) What are the DOD efforts to eliminate this duplicate management? (3) What are the potential savings from eliminating this duplication?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: HRA 7: VALIDITY OF AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT INVENTORY PURCHASES AND SUBSEQUENT CHANGES THAT CREATE EXCESS STOCK ON ORDER (709343)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Inventory management represents a significant investment within DOD, involving over \$10 billion of annual purchases. As of September 30, 1997, the Air Force had \$1.3 billion of inventory on order of which \$300 million exceeded requirements and economic order quantities. (1) What inventory items is the Air Force buying? (2) Does the Air Force have valid requirements to support the buys? (3) Which inventory items have buys that exceed requirements? (4) What caused the buys to exceed requirements? (5) Is the Air Force taking timely actions to cancel buys that exceed requirements?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE NAVY'S NAPALM DISPOSAL PROJECT (709348)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

On April 11, 1998, the Navy began shipping Vietnam-era napalm from a storage facility in Fallbrook, California, to a recycling contractor in East Chicago, Indiana, for disposal. On April 13, 1998, the recycling contractor withdrew from the contract and advised the Navy to cease making any further shipments and to recall any shipments already in transit. (1) What process was used by the Navy and other government agencies to plan the transport of the napalm from its current storage location in California to the contractor recycling facility in Indiana? (2) What actions taken by various federal, state, and local government agencies and the recycling contractor led to the cancellation of the napalm recycling contract?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: DOD COMPLIANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-76 REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTSOURCING (709353)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Air Force decided to restructure the 38th Engineering and Installation Wing at Tinker AFB, OK, which involves outsourcing more than 1700 positions. The Army's Logistics Systems Support Command at St. Louis, MO, intends to compete 664 positions. GAO has been asked to review these actions to determine if all the requirements of advance notification and OMB Circular A-76 have been met. (1) How did the services decide to contract out these positions? (2) Are these decisions cost-effective? (3) Were all legal and policy requirements regarding outsourcing met and is there a need for clarification of any laws or policies? (4) Have similar situations occurred at other locations?

CONTACT: WARREN, DAVID R

PHONE: (202) 512-8412

TITLE: ANALYSIS OF SELECTED AIR FORCE PAYMENT VOUCHERS

(918934)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

On April 23, 1998, we were asked to review selected Air Force payment vouchers at DFAS-Denver to determine compliance with internal controls over payments. (1) What are the legal internal control requirements and accounting internal control requirements for proper payment of invoices? (2) Do the selected vouchers comply with legal and accounting internal control requirements for proper payment of invoices?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

PHONE: (202) 512-9542

TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY FOR THE
CLEANUP/DISPOSAL OF FACILITIES

(919134)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD faces significant liabilities for the disposal/demolition of property, plant, and equipment (PP&E), including facilities (plant, equipment, and related property, as appropriate). Federal Accounting Standards require federal agencies to estimate a liability for the disposal of facilities including hazardous materials. One method of facilities disposal is demolition and DOD and the military services have set up programs to identify unneeded facilities that could be demolished. Q1 Should the projected or estimated cost of demolishing unneeded facilities be reported in the DOD and military services' financial statements as a liability?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

PHONE: (202) 512-9542

TITLE: HRA 19: REVIEW OF DOD'S FY 98 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL AUDITS

(919209)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In line with the CFO Act's requirement for GAO to audit the annual governmentwide consolidated financial statements (the first audit--FY 1997--has been completed), we will begin our work for fiscal year 1998 under this job code. DOD is significant to these statements, with approximately \$1 trillion in assets and liabilities and about \$252 billion in net costs. (1) Do DOD's financial systems substantially comply with federal requirements and standards, including the Standard General Ledger? (2) Are there inconsistencies between the entity's consolidated overview, other supplemental information, and the statements? (3) Do any subsequent events have a material effect on the financial statements? (4) Did the auditors identify all laws and regulations and any noncompliance?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

PHONE: (202) 512-9542

TITLE: HRA 19: REVIEW OF THE FY 98 CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENTWIDE PP&E (919214)
LINE ITEM

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The CFO Act, as expanded, requires GAO to audit the annual consolidated financial statements of the federal government. In FY97, GAO reported significant deficiencies pertaining to the reported \$1,017 billion of government owned property, plant, and equipment (PP&E), 81percent of which was reported by DOD. In FY98, we will determine for significant agencies whether (1) PP&E balances are fairly stated in all material respects and, if not, what corrective actions can be taken, (2) whether material weaknesses in internal controls continue to impair the auditability of the PP&E line item, and (3) whether material PP&E related laws and regulations were identified, tested, and any instances of noncompliance properly reported.

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

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TITLE: HRA 7: REVIEW OF THE FY 98 GOVERNMENTWIDE CONSOLIDATED (919224)
INVENTORY AND RELATED PROPERTY LINE ITEM

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The CFO Act, as amended by GMRA, requires GAO to audit the annual consolidated financial statements of the federal government. In FY 1997, agencies reported \$209 billion of inventory and related property, of which DOD and DOE held 95 percent. Accordingly, inventory is a material line item to DOD and DOE as well as to the consolidated statements. For FY 1998, we will determine for DOD, DOE, and other agencies whether: (1) inventory and related property are fairly stated in all material respects; (2) internal controls are in place and operating effectively; (3) significant laws and regulations that could impact this line item are being complied with and noncompliances, if any, are being properly reported.

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

PHONE: (202) 512-9542

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE FY 98 NATIONAL DEFENSE NET COSTS LINE ITEM (919272)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The CFO Act, as amended by GMRA, requires GAO to audit the annual consolidated financial statements of the federal government. In FY 1997, national defense net costs totaled approximately \$235 billion--DOD reported approximately \$225 billion and DOE reported nearly \$10 billion. (FEMA, Justice, Transportation and others reported insignificant amounts.) Therefore, national defense net costs are material to DOD, DOE and federal government as a whole. For FY 1998, we will determine whether (1) national defense net costs are fairly stated in all material respects; (2) relevant internal controls are in place and operating effectively; and (3) DOD and DOE are in compliance with applicable, significant laws and regulations.

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD SUPPLY SYSTEM INVENTORY REPORTING (SSIR)

(919279)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The DOD Supply System Inventory Report (SSIR) is a report sent annually by DOD to the Congress providing summary statistics on Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and the Defense Logistics Agency supply systems inventories. Previous work by GAO and others identified significant discrepancies between inventories reported in the SSIR and those in financial statements, indicating that DOD may be inconsistently compiling and reporting data for the SSIR. Under this assignment, we will determine (1) which laws, regulations, or accounting standards cover the preparation of the SSIR and what do congressional users understand the report to represent?; (2) from where SSIR information is derived; and (3) whether SSIR information is prepared in compliance with federal accounting standards.

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PROCUREMENT

TITLE: HRA: 14 REVIEW OF DOE'S PERFORMANCE BASED INCENTIVE CONTRACTS (141130)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

As part of its contract reform initiative, the Department of Energy (DOE) has incorporated performance based incentives (PBI) into its management and operating contracts. Recent reports by DOE's Inspector General have revealed problems with some PBI contracts. We were asked to determine the following: (1) How does DOE know whether its implementation of PBI contracts at the Hanford, Rocky Flats, Idaho Falls, and Savannah River sites has been effective in achieving the overall mission objectives? and (2) Has DOE incorporated lessons learned from OIG reports and its own self-assessments into PBI contracts for fiscal year 1998?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

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TITLE: COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NAVY'S USE OF NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIERS (701030)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) Are nuclear ships cost effective? (2) What are the life cycle costs of nuclear and conventional aircraft carriers? (3) What are the costs of maintaining continuous presence in three overseas regions, with and without a Japanese homeport, using conventional or nuclear carriers? (4) What DOD and DOE programs relate to naval propulsion?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: QUADRENNIAL DEFENSE REVIEW; OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE NEXT REVIEW (701119)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In May 1997, DOD completed the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) of U.S. defense needs mandated by Congress. Because the QDR has broad implications for DOD's force structure, modernization, & budget priorities, there is widespread congressional interest in DOD's analysis supporting the QDR. (1) What was DOD's methodology for conducting the QDR? (2) How rigorous were the force structure analyses? (3) How rigorous was the modernization analysis? (4) How well did the QDR accomplish the legislative requirements?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTOR RESTRUCTURING
ACTIVITIES ON THE PRICE OF MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS

(707249)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In 1993, DOD changed a long-standing practice to allow defense contractors to be reimbursed for certain restructuring-related expenses as long as projected savings exceeded projected costs. Since then, questions have arisen as to whether restructuring savings are being reflected in the prices of DOD goods. (1) Can certified restructuring savings be traced to contracts? (2) Did restructuring contribute to reduced prices for DOD goods?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: REVIEW OF MULTIPLE AWARD TASK ORDER AND DELIVERY ORDER
CONTRACTS

(707272)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA) authorized multiple-award contracts to promote competition in ordering under indefinite-quantity contracts, and established requirements for interagency orders. Small business is concerned that multiple-award contracts, because they consolidate requirements, will exclude them from federal contracting. (1) Have agencies assured that they consistently achieve competition in ordering under task- and delivery-order contracts pursuant to the FASA? (2) Have agencies implemented Economy Act requirements relating to inter-agency orders? (3) What impact has the multiple-award contracting mechanism had on small business' ability to participate in federal contracts?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: DOD CONSULTING SERVICES: ERRONEOUS ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING
OF COSTS

(707273)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Congress enacted legislation requiring government agencies to include cost data for contracted consulting or advisory and assistance services (A&AS) in the President's Annual Budget submission. Congress is concerned that it lacks accurate and reliable data on DOD's costs for advisory and assistance services. Without reliable and detailed information of their costs, Congress cannot exercise appropriate oversight. (1) What are the primary reasons for DOD's under reporting of A&AS contractual services? (2) What has been the prior history of audits and studies related to DOD's failure to accurately identify and report its A&AS costs?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: HRA 10: REVIEW OF DOD'S REQUIREMENTS AND ACQUISITION PLANS FOR PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS (707274)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Concerns have arisen about the number and types of precision guided munitions (PGMs) and whether the services are developing and producing PGMs in an economic and cost-effective manner considering constrained budgets. (1) Is there overlap and duplication in DOD's planning for fielding required capabilities? (2) Are requirements for PGMs carefully analyzed and alternatives carefully evaluated?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF B-2 COST AND TESTING (707282)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Congress is interested in the acquisition cost of the B-2 through completion of production. This review, our fifth in a series on this issue, will focus on the final test results from the developmental and initial operational test programs, which are important in defining the capabilities of the B-2 and the ultimate cost of the program. (1) Did development testing demonstrate the essential employment capabilities defined by the Air Force for a fully capable bomber? (2) Did operational testing demonstrate the operational capability of the B-2? (3) What are Air Force plans and the status of testing not completed by July 1, 1997? (4) Does the B-2 program still include adequate funds in its cost estimate to complete the acquisition program?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: PLACE OF PERFORMANCE OF DOD CONTRACTS, COMPENSATION AND GRANTS (707283)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of Defense (DOD) spends over \$200 billion annually in contracts and compensation spread across the country. The defense dollars entering each state's economy are generally associated with employment and other economic benefits. Interest in such information has been further heightened by concerns over the post-Cold War reductions in defense spending. (1) What are the overall trends and geographical distribution of defense spending between 1987 and 1996? (2) How do states rank among each other in defense spending, per capita defense spending, and defense spending per dollar of income tax contributions?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE ARMY'S WARFIGHTER RAPID ACQUISITION PROGRAM (WRAP) INITIATIVES (707285)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Warfighter Rapid Acquisition Program (WRAP) allocates supplemental funds appropriated by the Congress for the Army to get proven technologies to the soldier as quickly as possible, rather than have delays in fielding because of the lead time required in the budget process. This "jump start" funding is intended to focus on technologies demonstrated during Force XXI experiments. Congress has restricted the use of funds. (1) Did the Army comply with congressional restrictions? (2) How did the Army decide which WRAP candidates to fund? (3) How valid are the Army's claims of accelerated fielding resulting from WRAP funding? (4) How does WARP fit into the Army's plans to digitize the battlefield?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: HRA 10: REVIEW OF THE ARMY'S FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLES PRODUCTION (707286)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Army plans to purchase 87,598 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) trucks, at a projected cost of \$15.9 billion, to replace its aging medium truck fleet. The requester asked us to determine: (1) What caused the contractor's delay in producing acceptable trucks? (2) Why the Army extended the original 5-year production contract? (3) Why the Army changed the FMTV truck acceptance criteria? (4) What is the status of the FMTV corrosion problem? (5) What the Army's plans are for developing a second source for FMTV trucks? Also, he asked us to determine the impact in terms of additional cost or risk on the Army of these events?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: HRA 17: REVIEW OF CONTRACT PRICES ADJUSTMENT CLAUSES IN FIXED PRICE CONTRACTS TO CAPTURE RESTRUCTURING SAVINGS FROM BUSINESS COMBINATIONS (707295)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Congress is interested in the implementation of DOD's policy on defense industry restructuring. Considerable time may elapse between a contractor's announcement of a business combination and the adjustment to the contractor's overhead rates to take into account the estimated savings. (1) Are DOD contracting officers including contract price readjustment clauses in fixed price contracts negotiated during this interim period to ensure that DOD obtains its equitable share of restructuring savings?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES' ELECTRONIC WARFARE EQUIPMENT

(707302)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Special Operations Forces (SOF) have their own acquisition authority independent of the Services and use it to buy electronic warfare (EW) systems "off-the-shelf." Previous reviews of Service EW acquisition show buying a variety of EW systems is not always cost-effective. (1) How many types of EW systems does SOF have on how many types of aircraft and what are current acquisition plans? (2) What do test results for each EW system indicate about their effectiveness and suitability? (3) What is the logistics impact of deploying SOF aircraft with numerous EW systems? (4) Has acquiring different kinds of EW equipment improved protection for SOF aircraft? (5) Is SOF developing a coherent systems integration plan to reduce inventory to only the necessary EW systems?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF OFFSETS ON DEFENSE EXPORTS

(707306)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Offsets are often an essential part of defense export sales. U.S. contractors may undertake a broad array of activities to satisfy offset requirements. As a result, foreign governments can use offsets to reduce the financial impact of procuring American defense products, obtain technology and manufacturing knowledge, support domestic employment, and create or expand their defense or commercial industries. GAO has been requested to review offset programs and their activities. (1) What types of activities have been undertaken by U.S. contractors to meet offset obligations arising from export sales?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE APACHE LONGBOW'S ABILITY TO MEET PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

(707319)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The key performance parameters of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council require the Apache Longbow to carry 12 Hellfire missiles and achieve a 450 foot per minute Vertical Rate of Climb (VROC). Current contractor data shows that in its primary mission configuration the Apache Longbow can only carry 8 Hellfire missiles. As a result, it appears system lethality is being degraded. (1) How has system weight affected the ability to meet performance requirements and what is the Army doing to avoid overall operational degradation? (2) What is the Army doing to acquire needed capability to exchange target data when not in line of sight?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: CONTRACT AWARD PROCESS FOR JOINT SERVICE LIGHTWEIGHT
INTEGRATED SUIT TECHNOLOGY

(707320)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

A company participating in the Marine Corps and Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (LIST) programs voiced concerns about the way the competitions were administered. The company claimed that it did not have an opportunity to submit an improved material. The requester asked GAO to determine whether the contract award process was administered fairly for all competitors. To make this assessment we will determine (1) Whether industry was properly notified of the opportunity to compete in the programs; (2) whether there was a common cutoff date for material submissions; and (3) whether the basic requirements changed when the Marine Corps LIST program transitioned to Joint Service LIST and, if so, whether the changes affected the competition.

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: HRA 17: IMPACT OF FASA/FARA ON PRICING OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS
(SPARE PARTS)

(707321)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Section 1204 of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act & Section 2401 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 amended the Truth In Negotiations Act to exempt contractors who sell commercial items to the government on a sole-source basis from disclosing "certified cost or pricing data." According to recent DOD Inspector General audits some firms now charge prices excessively higher than prior to enactment. (1) What types of information do contracting officials collect & what types of analysis are conducted to determine whether contractor prices are fair & reasonable? (2) Is appropriate guidance available to assist contracting officials in these efforts? (3) For selected contract actions, are resulting prices higher than prices paid before laws were changed? Why?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: REVIEW OF FOREIGN SOURCING OF DOD WEAPON SYSTEMS

(707325)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of Defense (DOD) collects data on procurement from foreign sources including direct procurement and prime and first tier contractors' procurement from foreign sources. The requester would like GAO to examine the data available on foreign sourcing of DOD weapon systems and combat support equipment. (1) What is the trend in DOD's procurement from foreign sources and are there any significant increases or decreases in products purchased from foreign countries? (2) How accurate is the foreign sourcing data collected by DOD and are contractors reporting their purchases from foreign sources as required?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: HRA 10: BUDGET SCRUB OF THE FISCAL YEAR 1999 DEFENSE
PROCUREMENT AND RDT&E BUDGET

(707332)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Prior budget "scrub" work resulted in substantial funding reductions/rescissions. This assignment focuses on identifying potential reductions available in requested funding due to changes in the procurement and research, development, test and evaluation programs after the budget is developed. We also identify prior year unobligated program funds available due to favorable contract negotiations or delays in procurement and delivery schedules. (1) Should fiscal year 1999 budget requests be denied or reduced in view of changes in requirements, performance, cost options, force structure, and potentially more economical production and delivery rates/schedules? (2) Does DOD have unused funds from prior years that could be used to offset a reduction to the fiscal year 1999 request.

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: DOD ACQUISITION WORKFORCE REDUCTIONS AND RELATED CONTRACTOR
OVERSIGHT ISSUES

(707333)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In recent years, DOD has substantially reduced the size of its overall workforce and the number of its civilian employees. Many of these reductions were made pursuant to earlier Defense Authorization Acts which, among other things, required significant personnel reductions in DOD's acquisition organizations. During this period, DOD has implemented various acquisition reform initiatives. (1) What are the reductions in related segments of the DOD workforce since 1993? (2) What are the occupational fields which yielded the majority of acquisition work force reductions? (3) What processes by which DOD agencies responsible for contractor oversight are seeking to reduce risks in a resource constrained environment?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD INDUSTRIAL BASE DOMESTIC SOURCE RESTRICTIONS

(707337)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Provisions of federal law and agency regulations restrict the government from buying foreign made goods. GAO has been requested to review various restrictions placed on the U.S. Government's purchase of foreign products and services. (1) What are the original bases for the domestic source restrictions in 10 U.S.C. 2534 and those imposed administratively by DOD policy? (2) Do these items meet the Defense Department's national security criteria for limiting procurement to domestic sources:

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TITLE: PREDATOR'S TRANSITION TO PRODUCTION

(707351)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was developed from the existing Gnat-750 as an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) program. It was approved for production without an engineering, manufacturing, and development (EMD) phase. This assignment will determine the status of Predator problems, whether Predator lessons learned are being applied to other UAV ACTDs, and the potential impact of Tactical Control System (TCS) issues identified by the AF. (1) What is the status of problems created by Predator's rapid transition to production without an EMD phase? (2) What steps has DOD taken to ensure these problems are not repeated in other UAV ACTD programs? (3) What is the potential impact of the TCS issues identified by the AF?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF B-2 COSTS TO CORRECT AND IMPROVE CAPABILITIES

(707352)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Fiscal Year 1994 Defense Authorization Act Conference Report directed GAO to review B-2 costs and report at regular intervals until production is complete. This is our sixth job under this direction. (1) What are costs to correct the major deficiencies identified in operational testing? (2) What else is required to meet the full B-2 capability and what will it cost? (3) What are plans and costs to upgrade the conventional capability of the B-2? (4) What were the results of the Phase I Follow-On Flight testing? (5) What is the cost and schedule progress for block 30 modifications as compared to the contract schedule and obligated funds? (6) What are the cost and operational effects of diminishing manufacturing sources for B-2 spare parts?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: FOLLOW-UP ON ANTIARMOR WEAPONS ACQUISITION

(707356)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In a previous GAO report, we found that DOD had not reexamined the need for the number of antiarmor weapons since the decline of the Warsaw Pact, nor had they ensured that alternatives were considered before acquiring a new system, or that the systems would be affordable. DOD responded that they planned a study to look into the disposition of antiarmor systems. Based on the changing environment, the results of this study, and one by the Army, we plan to review the current status of antiarmor weapon systems. (1) What antiarmor weapons are in inventory and are in development? (2) Does DOD have or plan to have more capability than needed based on the current threat and doctrine requirements? (3) To what extent do antiarmor weapons duplicate effort? (4) Are the systems affordable?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: HRA 17: REVIEW OF DOD CONTRACTOR BILLING PROCESS

(707358)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD contractors returned over \$5 billion to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) from fiscal year 1994 through April 1997 due to billing/payment errors. DFAS acknowledged some errors as its own but reported that most errors were outside its control. One key control to detect improper government payments is contractor billing systems. (1) To what extent do defense contractors have adequate contract billing systems? (2) Where deficient, what steps is DOD taking to get contractors to improve their systems? (3) Are there indications that reduced contract oversight and audit resources has impaired DOD's ability to oversee contractor billing systems and obtain corrective actions? (4) What information is available on duplicate contractor billings paid by DFAS?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: HRA 17: REVIEW OF DOD DETERMINATION OF COMMERCIALITY AND PRICE
REASONABLENESS

(707359)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Recent legislative changes have broadened the definition of a commercial item and encouraged DOD to more fully adopt commercial pricing practices. For commercial items, cost or pricing data is not required. (1) What is DOD's basis for classifying selected systems as commercial? (2) How did DOD determine the prices for these systems were fair and reasonable? Additionally, the requestor asked GAO to examine DOD's use of waivers to avoid obtaining cost or pricing data.

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES FO REPORTED DISBURSEMENT DATA WHEN
RECORDED IN ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

(918916)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In 1993, GAO reported that Army accounting stations were changing appropriation citations 17 percent of the time when recording disbursements in accounting systems. By changing the appropriation being charged, accounting stations could be jeopardizing compliance with Title 31 of the U.S. Code, which requires that funds be spent only for the purpose for which they were appropriated. The requestor is concerned that these practices may still be occurring and asked us to review Air Force, Army, and Navy accounting. (1) Are payment transactions recorded differently in accounting and disbursing systems? (2) What kinds of differences exists? (3) What reasons can be given for the differences? (4) How should the disbursement have been recorded?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

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TITLE: REVIEW OF CONTRACTS ASSOCIATED WITH A 1992-93 AIR FORCE CASE

(918919)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In 1992 and 1993, a civilian employee of the Air Force, embezzled \$504,461 from DOD. The employee was indicted and pleaded guilty in June 1996. Evidence obtained by requestor's staff indicates that the company directly involved in one of the schemes submitted false invoices and received approximately \$322,032 in erroneous payments which were subsequently returned to the government. (1) What are the historical billings, payments, deliveries, etc. under the contract? (2) Were the contract deliverables that the government paid for received by the government? (3) Did on-going GAO work at the DFAS Dayton OpLoc identify internal control weaknesses related to the recent matter at that location? (4) What internal control weaknesses were observed at the locations covered by this review?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

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TITLE: NAVY PROCEDURES FOR RECORDING OBLIGATIONS FOR PROBLEM
DISBURSEMENTS

(919052)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In June 1995, the Comptroller of DOD issued detailed guidance for researching and resolving problem disbursements, including in-transit transactions. The policy, which was revised to allow more time to research in-transits, requires that obligations be posted for unresolved in-transits by June 30 of the 5th year after the related appropriation accounts have expired--90 days before the appropriation accounts are to be cancelled. To what extent has the lack of supporting documentation a) prevented identification of Navy's in-transit disbursements to existing obligations? b) resulted in the recording of new obligations to resolve problem in-transits? c) impaired the reliability of obligations and expenditures recorded in Navy's accounts and reported to Treasury?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

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RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

TITLE: EFFECTIVENESS OF EM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

(141094)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Since 1989, DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) has spent about \$2 billion on its Office of Science and Technology's (OST) program to develop new technologies. Dissatisfaction with EM's performance was the focus of Congressional hearings and led to this request for this review. (1) To what extent have EM-developed innovative cleanup technologies been deployed at DOE sites, and how does this deployment rate compare to other government organization that develop environmental technologies? (2) What obstacles exist to deploying innovative technologies? (3) What is EM doing to overcome obstacles to deploying innovative technologies? (4) What changes in EM processes or organizational structure should be made to increase the deployment of innovative technologies?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

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TITLE: DOE'S PROCESS FOR DETERMINING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPERCOMPUTERS

(141113)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) contractor-operated laboratories have at least 55 supercomputers and have plans to acquire more. This review will determine if DOE has a process for determining and justifying its need for additional supercomputers. (1) How many supercomputers has DOE purchased since 1994, at what cost, and how much funding has DOE requested for supercomputers in FY'99 and FY2000? (2) What is the (a) stated need for each of DOE's supercomputers, the (b) utilization rate for these machines and (c) could facilities potentially share these resources? (3) Do DOE and its contractors have a process for verifying the need for additional supercomputers and how does this process compare with the information technology investment process set forth in the Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA)?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

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TITLE: ANALYSIS OF SPENDING FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS

(141173)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The U.S. government funded 805 international science and technology (S&T) agreements with 78 countries in fiscal year (FY) 1995, through 13 federal agencies. The agreements are important to American foreign policy and diplomacy, provide access to U.S. R&D programs, and jointly address global problems. (1) How many international S&T agreements did federal agencies participate in and/or fund during FY 1997 and what were the purposes of these agreements? (2) How much money did agencies spend during FY 1997 for activities that directly and indirectly supported international S&T agreements? (3). What are the responsibilities of the Departments of State and Commerce, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the U.S. Trade Representative for activities pertinent to S&T agreements?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

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TITLE: FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY LICENSING UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12591 AND (141200)
THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 allows universities, other nonprofit institutions and small businesses to retain title to and commercialize inventions they create under federally-funded research projects. Executive Order 12591, issued in 1987, extended the same basic benefits to larger, for-profit corporations. (1) How do federal agencies ensure that corporations are complying with the provisions of EO 12591 regarding inventions created under federally-funded projects? (2) How are federal agencies exercising their rights to and using their royalty-free licenses available under the provisions of the Bayh-Dole Act and EO 12591?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DEPT OF ENERGY'S ACCELERATED STRATEGIC COMPUTING (141213)
INITIATIVE

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative program, a key part of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program, is designed to produce high-speed computers (including software) to simulate nuclear weapon performance. The program's goal is a computer that is at least 100 times faster than existing machines (1 teraflop) by 2004. The total cost is estimated to exceed \$4 billion. (1) what is the status of the program in meeting its key milestones? (2) is hardware and software development and performance to date adequate? (3) is the program within its projected budget? (4) what are the most significant technical risks facing the program?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S HARD AND DEEPLY BURIED TARGET DEFEAT CAPABILITY (701136)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD is evaluating alternative concepts to enhance its capabilities to defeat hard and deeply buried targets. In February 1998, we issued a classified report to the Secretary of Defense on this issue. The objective of this effort is to produce an unclassified version of that report. (1) What is DOD's assessment of the nature, extent, and significance of the risk posed by potential adversaries hardening and deeply burying high priority facilities? (2) To what extent is DOD comparing requirements to capabilities, including planned improvements, in determining mission need?

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TITLE: JOINT AIRBORNE SIGINT ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM REVIEW

(707198)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD is developing a Joint Airborne Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) Architecture (JASA) which is being implemented by the Joint SIGINT Avionics Family (JSAF) program. This architectural approach is to facilitate the evolution of all DOD airborne SIGINT platforms to a common architecture with interoperable components. (1) What are the past and future costs, and funding availability for DOD's JASA/JSAF program and program office? (2) What are the JASA/JSAF program schedules, deliverable products, and technology risks in the extent and impact of schedule concurrence and the potential for a gap in the modernization of existing SIGINT systems? (3) How effective will DOD's JASA management structure be in providing users with needed capabilities at reasonable costs?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE
(UAV) PROGRAMS

(707245)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

After two major Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program failures costing \$1.6 billion over the past 10 years, DOD now plans to develop & procure four other UAV systems in hopes that they can be used to support reconnaissance operations as well as be modified for other missions such as Signals Intelligence and weapons delivery. Between FY 1995 & 2001, DOD plans to spend about \$2.3 billion to acquire UAV systems. (1) Has DOD adequately justified the need to develop four new UAVs? (2) Has DOD determined if existing systems can meet UAV requirements? (3) Has DOD developed adequate joint systems to distribute the new UAVs imagery data? (4) Since Vietnam what has DOD invested in attempting to field UAVs with operational capability? (5) Why has DOD had so little success in fielding UAVs?

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TITLE: SURVEY OF THE ARMY'S PLANS TO DEVELOP AND PRODUCE THE FORCES
XXI BATTLE COMMAND, BRIGADE AND BELOW (FBCB2)/TACTICAL INTERNET
(TI) HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

(707284)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

As part of its plans to digitize the battlefield, the Army recently completed a Milestone I/II In-Process Review which transitioned the experimental Applique project into an approved acquisition program intended to provide field commanders with sufficient Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) and Tactical Internet (TI) hardware and software to equip an "interim" digitized division by the end of FY 2000. While cost estimates for the first division are sketchy, billions will be spent to digitize the entire Army. (1) Has the Army adequately defined the FBCB2/TI requirements? (2) What cost, schedule, and performance issues confront the Army?

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TITLE: HRA 10: REVIEW OF DOD'S SPACE-BASED INFRARED SYSTEM-HIGH COMPONENT

(707291)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Department of Defense (DOD) plans to spend about \$18 billion developing the Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) satellite system to replace the Defense Support Program (DSP)--a space-based early warning system to detect ballistic missile launches. There are indications that DOD's baseline plan for launching the remaining DSP satellites and acquiring and launching SBIRS-High satellites may result in excessive deployed capabilities. DOD has considered some alternative approaches, but has temporarily postponed changes to the plan. (1) Does DOD's plan for deploying SBIRS-High fully consider the use of existing infrared capabilities? (2) Are there feasible alternatives to DOD's plan? (3) What are the key issues that must be addressed to implement alternative plans?

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TITLE: HRA 10: DOD'S MILSTAR SATELLITE, ADVANCED EXTREMELY HIGH FREQUENCY, AND TERMINAL PROGRAMS

(707293)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The multibillion dollar Milstar satellite system is designed to provide national command authorities and strategic and tactical forces with a highly survivable worldwide communications capability. The first two satellites were launched in 1994 and 1995 with capabilities primarily designed for strategic nuclear conflict. The next four satellites are to be launched in 1999 through 2002 with increased tactical capabilities primarily designed for theater conflict. (1) To what extent is the Milstar system capable of supporting the strategic nuclear mission? (2) To what extent will the Milstar system be ready to support tactical missions? (3) What is DOD doing to assess an expected degradation in Milstar constellation capabilities before an advanced system becomes available?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S "CROWN JEWEL" RATED C4 SYSTEMS

(707294)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to review DOD's efforts to obtain and defend information superiority. (1) What is DOD doing to establish a DOD-wide C4 (Command, Control, Communications and Computers) architecture and how will the recently announced Assistant Secretary of Defense (C3I) reorganization impact those efforts? (2) What progress has DOD made developing and implementing information superiority related systems based on the Global Command and Control System (GCCS) and new digital radio development efforts? (3) What has DOD done to implement the 1996 Defense Science Board recommendations on Information Warfare--Defense?

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TITLE: HRA 10: EVALUATION OF COMPONENT AND SIMULATIONS TESTING (707296)
PLANNED FOR USE IN THEATER HIGH ALTITUDE AREA DEFENSE (THAAD)
RELIABILITY AND PRODUCTION READINESS ASSESSMENTS

ISSUE PROBLEM:

As a result of the fourth consecutive Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) flight test failure, the Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), established two independent review teams to assess the THAAD program. A primary recommendation of the teams was for additional component testing during and after the interceptor assembly process. However, the Commander of the Army's Space and Strategic Defense Command has expressed concerns that adequate component testing is still not being conducted prior to flight testing. (1) Has the Army adequately addressed DOD Independent Review Teams' recommendations? (2) To what extent will simulations be used in decisions about THAAD? (3) How and when will simulation results be validated?

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TITLE: SURVEY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP (707297)
DEFENSES AGAINST CRUISE MISSILES

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The fiscal year 1996 Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense to coordinate & strengthen cruise missile defense programs to assure that the U.S. develops & deploys affordable & operationally effective defenses against cruise missile threats. The Act also directed that an implementation plan be submitted to the congressional defense committees. Subsequent committee reports expressed concern that (a) the implementation plan has not been submitted & (b) the Services and Defense Advanced Research Project Agency appear to be developing unique plans rather than building systems optimized to meet the needs in joint operations. (1) Are the efforts to develop cruise missile defense sufficiently coordinated to assure that the threat is addressed in the most cost effective manner?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S ADVANCED CONCEPT TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION (707299)
(ACTD) PROGRAMS

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) projects have been the source of Congressional debate since FY1995. During the FY1998 budget deliberations, Congress again raised several questions concerning the ACTD program. Our review will address these issues. (1) Are the objectives of the ACTD program--early user demonstrations and expedited deployment of mature technology to meet urgent military needs--consistent, compatible, and understood by program participants? (2) Are the risks understood and are adequate management controls in place to ensure program objectives are accomplished? (3) How can the ACTD program be restructured to better complement the normal acquisition process?

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TITLE: HRA 10: ASSESSMENT OF NAVY PLAN FOR MINE COUNTERMEASURES

(707301)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

At congressional direction, the Navy has recently developed a Mine Warfare Campaign Plan. This effort was intended to provide an investment strategy for providing near-term solutions to fill capability shortfalls & to begin the integration of organic mine countermeasures capabilities throughout the Navy. (1) What comprises the annual certification process and has the Navy determined whether there is a funding shortfall? (2) Has the Navy determined what type of mine countermeasures force should exist in the future? (3) What is the status of research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) systems nearing a production decision?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD LASER WEAPON PROGRAMS FOR MISSILE DEFENSE

(707317)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

DOD plans to spend billions of dollars to develop laser weapon defense capabilities against missiles, rockets, and other selected targets. DOD has several programs underway to develop and place these capabilities on the ground, in the air, and in space. Congress has expressed concern over the cost and risk of these programs because they involve technologies which are relatively immature. (1) What laser weapon systems are being considered for defense capabilities against missiles, rockets, and other selected targets? (2) What is the current status and cost of each system? (3) What technical challenges hinder the viability of each system? (4) What coordination exists among the programs that are developing the systems?

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TITLE: VULNERABILITY OF U.S. SYSTEMS TO ELECTRONIC ATTACK

(707318)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Joint Economic Committee has held hearings twice during the past year to call attention to the threat posed to U.S. military and commercial electronic systems by potential adversaries using electronic warfare devices. To call more attention to this important subject, the Committee has asked GAO to survey DOD to determine (1) what steps DOD is taking to gauge the dangers associated with radio frequency weapons, jammers and other electronic warfare devices, and (2) what steps DOD is taking to minimize this threat to systems currently being acquired.

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TITLE: HRA 10: COMPARISON OF DOD AND COMMERCIAL PRACTICES FOR
INSERTING TECHNOLOGY INTO MAJOR PROGRAMS

(707336)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

This assignment will examine how best commercial practices can assist DOD in removing immature technology as a source of problems late in a product development program, thus improving cost/schedule outcomes. (1) How are DOD and commercial companies organized to provide mature technology to product development programs on a timely basis? (2) How do DOD and commercial product development programs ensure that technology is mature before it is inserted into their products? (3) What factors keep DOD from using best practices to mature technology before inserting it into product development?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S HIGH ALTITUDE ENDURANCE UNMANNED AERIAL
VEHICLE PROGRAM

(707340)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 requires that GAO review DOD's High Altitude Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (HAE UAV) Program which consists of two vehicles--Global Hawk and Dark Star. Specifically, we need to determine if the unit flyaway cost for each vehicle is within DOD's cost goal of \$10 million. (1) Did the methodology and assumptions used to develop the cost goal follow DOD procedures? (2) What is DOD's progress in meeting its cost goal? (3) Can these vehicles meet the user's time frames and performance requirements?

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TITLE: HRA 10: REVIEW OF ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING IN BEST
PRACTICES

(707343)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

There have been many acquisition reform initiatives and commercial best practices advocated over the last 5 years to improve the government's ability to acquire the best value. DOD and GAO acknowledge that "culture" is a significant barrier in getting new initiatives and best practices accepted. Training is one of the most important tools in breaking down the barriers to change. This job will review how DOD trains and educates its major weapon system acquisition work force to implement the best commercial practices we have described in recent audit reports. (1) Does the weapon acquisition training curriculum teach best practices? (2) Is the training delivered effectively? (3) Does the training successfully carry over into the workplace?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE AIR FORCE'S F-22 ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (707344)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

This review is mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 and requires GAO to issue a report on the F-22 program by March 15 each year and respond to the following questions. (1) To what extent is the F-22 meeting its goals for the engineering and manufacturing development program, especially in terms of cost, schedule, and performance? (2) What is the status of the modifications made to the program since fiscal year 1998 and what, if any, significant impact will those modifications have on the cost and performance of the F-22? (3) What is the plan for the F-22 development program for the next fiscal year? (4) Will the F-22 engineering and manufacturing development program be completed within the congressional cost limitation as adjusted by the Air Force?

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TITLE: EVALUATION OF THE ARMY'S TEST AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DEFENSIBILITY OF DIGITIZED BATTLEFIELD SYSTEMS (707347)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Army is working through a series of Advanced Warfighting Experiments (AWEs) and other tests to digitize the battlefield by creating a vast network of computers, sensors, and communications systems that would provide a common picture of the battlefield from soldier to commander simultaneously. It is pursuing this vision under a program estimated to cost over \$17 billion. (1) Have the Army AWEs and other tests incorporated activities to stress systems under consideration to test their defensibility? (2) Are judgements as to the defensibility of those systems properly being incorporated into the design of digitization architectures and into the decisions about specific system acquisitions?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE COMANCHE HELICOPTER PROGRAM (707348)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Comanche helicopter, under development since 1983, is expected to perform reconnaissance and attack missions well into the 21st century. Critical to achieving these capabilities is the implementation of an affordable program that successfully develops and integrates advanced technologies including composite materials, avionics, propulsion systems and computer software. (1) What is the status of program costs and how do they impact the Army's overall aviation modernization plans? (2) Can the Comanche, based on current test data and projected performance, meet the technical and performance requirements for carrying out its missions? (3) Will the Comanche be adequately tested before major production decisions are made?

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TITLE: ASSESSMENT OF DOD, OTHER GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL SATELLITE CONTROL CAPABILITIES (707353)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In 1996, National Space Policy directed DOD to (1) integrate and enhance its satellite control capability and (2) foster integrated and interoperable satellite control for all government space activities. The Air Force attempted to develop a standardized satellite control system, but abandoned this effort in late 1997. Each satellite program is now allowed to develop their own control system, precluding possible cost savings. This individual program approach appears contrary to national policy and inconsistent with other government and commercial practices. (1) What are the merits of DOD's approach to providing satellite control capabilities? (2) What are the alternatives for achieving more common and less costly satellite control operations?

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TITLE: REVIEW OF DOD'S INFORMATION SUPERIORITY EFFORTS (707354)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to review DOD's efforts to obtain and defend information superiority. (1) What is DOD doing to establish a DOD-wide Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) architecture? (2) What progress has DOD made developing and implementing information superiority related systems based on the Global Command and Control System (GCCS) and new digit radio development efforts? (3) What has DOD done to implement the 1996 Defense Science Board recommendations on Information Warfare-Defense?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: COMMONALITY IN BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS (707368)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

All ballistic missile defense (BMD) systems currently under development perform similar or overlapping functions and sometimes rely on the same technology. From time to time, the Congress and Department of Defense officials have raised questions about the possibility of using common equipment or at least common components. (1) What controls and incentives exist to ensure that the services and contractors take advantage of opportunities to save money through the use of common equipment and components? (2) What programs exist to ensure that appropriate BMD technologies are shared between the services? (3) Was adequate consideration given to a common Theater High Altitude Area Defense and Navy Theater-wide Defense program kill vehicle?

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TITLE: THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (713013)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Because of large public and Congressional interest in the care and use of animals in government research activities, GAO has been mandated to evaluate the Department of Defense's research studies that employ animals. (1) To what extent does DOD-funded research using animals address validated military needs? (2) To what extent does DOD-funded research on animals unnecessarily duplicate work done elsewhere? and (3) To what extent does DOD-funded animal research incorporate methods to reduce, replace, and refine the use of animals (the "3 Rs")?

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TITLE: THE POTENTIAL USE OF SYNTHETIC SQUALENE AND GULF WAR ILLNESSES (713014)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Recent reports have associated certain vaccines administered by DOD prior to the Persian Gulf War with some of the illnesses suffered by veterans. They allege that the vaccines contained synthetic squalene, and that this has produced an immune response that includes some of the symptoms being reported. We will determine what evidence exists for these allegations. (1) Has DOD ever performed or sponsored research on squalene? (2) Has DOD or any other federal agency used adjuvants with squalene in any developmental drugs or vaccines? (3) What biotech or pharmaceutical firms were involved? (4) Is there a valid test for squalene antibodies? (5) Have our troops or DOD civilian personnel ever been given squalene in any form? Did DOD consider treatment with non-approved vaccines?

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TITLE: ROLE OF THE RESEARCH WORKING GROUP OF THE PERSIAN GULF VETERANS COORDINATING BOARD IN THE SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW (713026)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO has been asked to examine research funded by the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board (PGVCB). (1) What is the role of the Research Working Group (RWG) of the PGVCB in assessing the scientific merit of applications for grants to conduct Gulf War illness-related research? (2) What funding was requested by the proposals that RWG reviewed, which did it recommend for funding, and how much funding was announced?

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TITLE: DEFENSE AGAINST LOW LEVEL CW

(713028)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

This report will document information provided to our requesters on May 4, 1998 in an oral briefing on defense against low-level chemical weapons (CW). (1) To what extent does DOD policy and doctrine address exposures to low levels of chemical warfare agents? (2) What is the research literature of the performance effects of low-level exposures, in isolation, or in combination with other contaminants likely to be found on the battlefield? (3) What is the proportion of the DOD chemical/biological defense budget that directly addresses low-level threats?

CONTACT: CHAN, KWAICHEUNG

PHONE: (202) 512-3092

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP FUNDS

TITLE: REVIEW OF NUNN-LUGAR-DOMENICI ACT IMPLEMENTATION TO ASSIST FIRST RESPONDERS TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (701125)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Nunn-Lugar-Domenici (NLD) Domestic Preparedness Program will provide assistance to authorities to help prepare for possible terrorist incidents. (1) What are legislative & program objectives of the NLD Program & the status of implementation? (2) What are strengths & weaknesses of the Program design, management, & interagency coordination? (3) What were criteria & methodology for selecting cities to receive assistance under the legislation, what factors were & were not considered in the calculus? (4) What methodology was used to assess capabilities & needs of participating cities, what factors were & were not considered? (5) What is the potential cost of equipping & maintaining the capability of a city to respond to a terrorist incident involving a weapon of mass destruction?

CONTACT: DAVIS, RICHARD A

PHONE: (202) 512-3504

TITLE: METHODS AND CRITERIA OF THE ARMED SERVICES FOR ASSESSMENT OF FACILITIES' CONDITION AND FOR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND PRIVATE SECTOR PRACTICES (713021)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

No single system exists to evaluate the repair & maintenance needs of the military services, which hold about 2 billion square feet of facilities & spend about \$5 billion annually on maintenance. GAO has been asked to review Real Property Management (RPM) needs. (1) What are the RPM methods & criteria of the services? (2) How do RPM methods and criteria of the other large entities compare to those of DOD? (3) For the services, what is the relationship between RPM ratings & the allocation of resources?

CONTACT: CHAN, KWAICHEUNG

PHONE: (202) 512-3092

TITLE: DOD QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES: MILITARY FAMILIES (713029)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Recent reports from the press, the Defense Science Board, and a Congressional delegation to Bosnia and the Persian Gulf have highlighted concerns about difficulties related to military family life in the current operations environment. (1) How are military family life conditions identified, measured and validated by DOD? (2) How have family conditions changed over time and how do they compare across services? (3) What programs has DOD developed to address family life issues in the military? (4) How effective are these programs in addressing the needs of military families?

CONTACT: CHAN, KWAICHEUNG

PHONE: (202) 512-3092

**TITLE: HRA 19:AUDIT PROCEDURES FOR GAO, OIG, AND AUDIT SERVICES
REVIEWING THE DEFENSE FUND BALANCE**

(919211)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The DOD IG audited DOD's FY '97 financial statements & GAO reviewed that work in accordance with FAM 650. DOD reported a 9/30/97 Fund Balance with Treasury of \$169.5 billion. Given the expected disclaimer of opinion, auditors performed some audit procedures on FBWT, but they did not (1) address ending balance assertions, (2) determine if DOD or Treasury should adjust their records for differences between transactions reported by the services & those processed by Treasury, or (3) test FBWT transactions to determine whether the proper appropriation was cited. On this job, we will develop audit plans to test internal controls, address areas not previously covered, determine what level of involvement is needed from each audit agency & how to coordinate the work done by various audit teams.

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

PHONE: (202) 512-9542

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY'S (IAEA) SAFEGUARDS PROGRAM (141079)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The discovery of a large, clandestine nuclear weapons program in Iraq after the Persian Gulf war led the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to embark on a series of measures to strengthen its nuclear safeguards program. (1) What is the scope of IAEA's safeguards program, and how and why has the inventory of nuclear materials and facilities under IAEA safeguards changed? (2) How is IAEA funding and managing its traditional safeguards program given its expanding responsibilities? (3) How are IAEA and the United States implementing the strengthened safeguards system and what will be the costs? and (4) What analysis has IAEA done to support its expectation that the strengthened safeguards system will make its safeguards program more efficient and effective?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: DOE'S INITIATIVES FOR PROLIFERATION PREVENTION IN THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES (141152)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In 1994, the Department of Energy (DOE) established the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP) program. The program is designed to primarily engage Russian nuclear weapon scientists in peaceful applications of technology that are expected to lead to commercial benefits for both the United States and Russia. IPP is part of the U.S. Government's strategy to minimize the threat of nuclear weapons getting into the hands of terrorist organizations or hostile nations by employing Russian nuclear weapons scientists. (1) What is the purpose and scope of the IPP program? (2) What are the financial costs of the IPP program for fiscal years 1994-1998? (3) What is the status of IPP projects and how are they being monitored? (4) How is the program meeting its nonproliferation and commercialization objectives?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: REVIEW OF IAEA'S ACTIVITIES IN NORTH KOREA UNDER THE U.S./NORTH KOREAN AGREED FRAMEWORK (141196)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The October 1994 U.S./North Korean Agreed Framework is helping North Korea to acquire two modern nuclear reactors in exchange for a freeze on North Korea's nuclear weapons program and North Korea's pledge to, among other things, eventually comply with its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The agreement specifies that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will monitor the freeze and eventually resolve questions about the amount of nuclear material in North Korea's possession. (1) What is the scope of IAEA's activities under the U.S./North Korean Agreed Framework? (2) What is the status of these activities?

CONTACT: REZENDES, VICTOR S

PHONE: (202) 512-3841

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE EXPORT LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

(707335)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Fiscal Year 1996 DOD authorization and appropriations acts established the Defense Export Loan Guarantee Program. This program backs private sector loans to eligible countries that require financing for the purchase or lease of U.S. defense equipment and services. Proposals to revise the Defense Export Loan Guarantee Program are now being made. The requester would like GAO to provide information that would assist in evaluating current proposals. (1) What is the status of the program? (2) Was alternative financing available and on what terms? (3) What are the economic benefits to DOD of these export sales and do administrative fees cover the cost of the program?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: ISSUES RELATED TO EXPORT CONTROLS OF COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES

(707361)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

GAO was asked to testify on a recently issued report, "EXPORT CONTROLS: Change in Export Licensing Jurisdiction for Two Sensitive Dual-Use Items." (1) How have export controls for commercial communications satellites evolved over the years? (2) What concerns and issues were debated in the transfer of commercial communications satellites to the export licensing jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

PHONE: (202) 512-4199

TITLE: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE BY MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

(711230)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) What expectations do Banks have regarding meaningful consultation with concerned publics about their proposed operations - particularly those with significant environmental implications? (2) How are these expectations being put into practice?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY BEST PRACTICES TO OVERSEAS HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL FURNISHINGS PROCESS (711259)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

(1) How efficient & effective is the process for housing employees overseas? (2) How efficient and effective is the process for providing residential furnishings for overseas employees? (3) Are there opportunities to apply best practices to the process for housing overseas employees and providing residential furnishings for overseas employees?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

PHONE: (202) 512-9651

TITLE: REVIEW OF STATE DEPARTMENT'S IRM MODERNIZATION EFFORTS (711268)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The requester asked GAO to provide an independent assessment of whether the State Department can achieve its strategic and tactical Information Resource Management (IRM) goals within a projected 5-year budget of \$2.7 billion. (1) What is the current condition of State's IRM infrastructure and what does State expect to accomplish by the end of its current 5-year modernization program? (2) Has State adequately anticipated its funding requirements for its 5-year modernization program? (3) Has State fully considered all potential obstacles and implementation issues in its strategic and tactical plans? (4) Has State prioritized its modernization projects and developed a contingency plan to respond to any funding gaps or technical setbacks which might arise?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: EFFECTIVENESS OF U.N. PEACEKEEPING REFORMS (711279)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In recent years, the United States has not paid U.N. peacekeeping assessments in full because of concerns about peacekeeping's effectiveness and efficiency. Before agreeing to pay U.S. arrears for peacekeeping (now over \$700 million), Congress wants answers to the following questions: (1) Have ongoing reforms made U.N. peacekeeping more effective and efficient? (2) Have these reforms resulted in more reliable and accurate peacekeeping budgets that help contain, and accurately reflect, the cost of operations? (3) Do U.S. arrears represent actual expenses incurred by the United Nations?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE WORLD BANK AND IMF'S FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS THE (711288)
EXTERNAL DEBT OF THE HIGHLY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In September of 1996, the governments of the major industrialized countries agreed to follow the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's framework to address the external debt problems of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC). The HIPC plan is designed to enable poor countries with good policy performance to escape from unsustainable debt burdens. The key questions are (1) What is the overall context in which the HIPC Initiative is being implemented? (2) How is the HIPC framework structured and implemented? (3) What are the areas of concern regarding the HIPC framework's ability to meet its goals?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: REVIEW OF EXPORT CONTROLS FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTERS (711296)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Recently revealed U.S. exports of high performance computers (HPCs) to military or proliferation end-users in Russia and China have drawn critical attention to the effectiveness of the 1995 export decontrol policy. (1) What was the basis for the 1995 decontrol of HPC exports and the projected "widespread" availability of HPCs above 7,000 million theoretical operations per second (MTOPS) by fall 1997? (2) What have been the trends since decontrol in U.S. HPC exports, especially to Tier 3 countries? (3) How well do current HPC export controls work? (4) What is the national security threat of exporting U.S. HPCs to countries of concern? (5) What is the impact of foreign sales on U.S. exporters?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: U.S. AND UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS (711298)
EPIDEMIC

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Estimates indicate the 30 million people worldwide have contracted HIV/AIDS virus, with another 10,000 infections occurring daily. About 90 percent of those infected reside in the developing world. (1) What are the strengths and weaknesses of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) activities to combat HIV/AIDS? (2) Are USAID financial and operational controls sufficient to ensure that funds are spent efficiently and effectively? (3) How well is the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) meeting its mission to lead an expanded response to the epidemic?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: REVIEW OF THE U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO OF CUBA (711301)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The U.S. embargo of Cuba was legislated in 1961 and further strengthened in 1992 (Cuban Democracy Act) and 1996 (Helms-Burton Act). With limited exceptions, no U.S. products, technology, or services may be exported to Cuba, either directly or through third countries. (1) What are the legal restrictions of the embargo, including those related to trade in telecommunications products and services and financial transactions related to travel? (2) What are the roles of each U.S. government agency that implements these restrictions? (3) What is the source, composition and financing of Cuba's imports?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

PHONE: (202) 512-9651

TITLE: TREASURY'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE NEW INDEPENDENT STATES (711304)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Moneys appropriated to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have been transferred to Treasury for a program of providing technical assistance to Eastern Europe and the New Independent States for economic restructuring. (1) What are Treasury's program costs, and how do they compare to those of USAID? (2) What was the cost and rationale for placing supervisory advisors in Paris and London? (3) How is the program being managed? (4) What planned results has Treasury achieved?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: LABOR CONDITIONS IN CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE APPAREL INDUSTRY (711319)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

While there has been a broad debate in recent years about the desirability of linking trade agreements and labor standards, the Caribbean Basin is one place where U.S. trade benefits have been explicitly tied to worker rights standards since the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) went into effect Jan. 1, 1984. Providing, or taking steps to provide, internationally recognized worker rights is a condition of eligibility for CBI trade preferences. The CBI apparel industry is one of the largest export sectors, with persistent allegations of worker rights abuses. (1) Have steps been taken to improve labor conditions in the CBI apparel industry? (2) What have been private sector efforts to address concerns about working conditions in CBI countries?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: REVIEW OF IMMIGRANT AND NONIMMIGRANT RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS (711322)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Because of State's and Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) concerns about the potential for abuse in the special immigrant and nonimmigrant religious worker visa programs--sections 101(a)(27)(C) and 101(a)(15)(R) of the Immigration and Nationality Act--the requester has asked that GAO review the program. This program is temporary and will be up for reconsideration in about 2 years. There is support on the Hill to make the program permanent. (1) To what extent has State and INS encountered potential abuses and other problems in the programs? (2) What steps are State and INS taking to investigate and/or control the abuse/problems? (3) Are there statutory modifications that would help reduce the potential for abuse?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: BUDGETARY PRESSURES OF NATO/EUROPEAN UNION EXPANSION AND EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION MEMBERSHIP (711325)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Accession into NATO of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland is expected to entail costs for both current and new members, although the amounts involved have not yet been established. Current NATO members also face budgetary pressures associated with meeting currently agreed-upon NATO force goals and entering into the European Monetary Union (EMU). Moreover, the three prospective NATO member countries are seeking European Union (EU) membership, which entails economic requirements. (1) What budgetary pressures do current NATO allies face, with entry into the EMU, and what are the implications for likely levels of defense spending? (2) What budgetary requirements will new NATO members need to meet as a condition of EU membership, and what are the implications for defense spending?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: RULE OF LAW (ROL) PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (711326)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In the early 1980s, the U.S. began helping Latin American countries improve their law enforcement and judicial systems as a way to support democratic principles and institutions. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. has begun doing much more, including commercial and regulatory law reform. This is referred to as rule of law (ROL). By 1993, GAO had raised a number of concerns including the lack of coordination among the U.S. agencies involved and the lack of objective criteria for assessing the success or failure of country programs. In 1993 and 1995, the Administration testified that these concerns were being addressed. (1) How are ROL programs managed and coordinated among U.S. entities, and among other donors? (2) How are results measured and what has been achieved?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: IMPACT OF CANADIAN WHEAT IMPORTS

(711335)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is a state trading enterprise (STE) that has monopoly power over Canadian wheat sales to other countries. It has been the focus of many U.S.-Canada grain disputes over the past decade, since the passage of the U.S.-Canadian Free Trade Agreement. (1) How does the CWB operate (include its management structure, its assistance from the Canadian government, its export pricing practices, and the advantages it provides to Canadian farmers)? (2) What are the strengths and limitations of data collected by the United States on CWB wheat exports? (3) What are the natures and uses of trade remedies applicable to the activities of STEs found in international agreements and U.S. trade laws?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

(711338)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The International Joint Commission is a binational U. S./ Canadian commission founded in 1909 to issue judgements and resolve disputes involving water resources along the countries' common borders. The requesters asked us to examine the activities of the International Joint Commission. (1) What are the sources and uses of funds under the Commission's control? (2) Is the Commission acting in accordance with its founding treaty as it carries out its functions? (3) What is the level of managerial and audit oversight of the Commission by the Department of State and other Federal agencies providing the Commission funding?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE TEXTILE AND APPAREL IMPORTS
FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(711347)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Congress is considering authorizing a new trade and investment policy towards sub-Saharan Africa. One of the provisions in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 1432/S. 778) would provide duty-free, quota-free access for sub-Saharan textile and apparel imports into the U.S. GAO was asked to collect the views of major U.S. importers. (1) Would this bill, and other alternative proposals that may be considered by the Congress, result in increased textile and apparel imports from sub-Saharan Africa? (2) What factors would influence U.S. importers' decisions on importing such products from countries in sub-Saharan Africa?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: EXTENT AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY IN THE
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND'S FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND
SURVEILLANCE

(711357)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Congress is considering whether to provide \$18 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to recapitalize IMF & expand credit lines IMF may use in emergencies. Some Members of Congress are concerned that IMF is not sufficiently publicly transparent about its operations and programs to allow an informed decision on the funding request. (1) How publicly transparent is IMF in its financial operations & financial reporting? (2) Could/how could public transparency of IMF's finances be improved? (3) To what extent does IMF publicly disclose the results of its main surveillance activity, annual "Article IV" consultations with member governments? (4) What is the basis for that level of transparency, & what are the arguments and evidence for & against increasing Article IV transparency?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

PHONE: (202) 512-9651

TITLE: RULE OF LAW FUNDS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

(711360)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In the early 1980s, the U.S. began helping Latin American countries improve their law enforcement and judicial systems as a way to support democratic principles and institutions. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. has begun doing much more, including commercial and regulatory law reform. This is referred to as rule of law (ROL). The requesters asked that GAO describe what ROL programs and activities the U.S. is funding, with particular emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). (1) What U.S. agencies have provided ROL assistance? (2) How much ROL funding has been made available for up to 5 fiscal years worldwide by region? (3) What specific ROL programs and training have been provided to LAC by country?

CONTACT: NELSON, BENJAMIN F

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TITLE: THE RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DATA ON
VIETNAM

(713020)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Due to concerns about recent economic troubles in various Asian countries and discussions regarding a bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam in the near future, the requester asked GAO to examine the following: (1) What are the methodologies that the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Commerce, and other agencies use to determine the accuracy and reliability of statistics regarding a target country? (2) What is the process of data collection, processing, and dissemination of economic statistics from Vietnam?

CONTACT: CHAN, KWAICHEUNG

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**TITLE: AUDIT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 1998 CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT-WIDE
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LINE ITEM**

(919233)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

The International Affairs line item covers AIMD's work related to the fiscal year 1998 financial audits and related work at several agencies, primarily the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), as well as the Departments of Treasury and Agriculture. (1) Are FY 1998 international affairs line item and related disclosures fairly stated on the government-wide consolidated statements? (2) Are there material weaknesses in internal controls that continue to impair the audibility of the International Affairs Line Item?, and (3) Were significant laws and regulations relating to the line item identified, tested, and instances of noncompliance properly reported?

CONTACT: JACOBSON, LISA G

PHONE: (202) 512-9542

TITLE: HRA 27: NASA INFORMATION SECURITY**(511631)****ISSUE PROBLEM:**

The security of the federal government's information systems is of increasing concern to Congress, which has initiated a series of ongoing investigations of security vulnerabilities in various agencies. NASA systems appear to be a frequent target of hackers. The agency has documented a continued increase in penetrations of its systems over the last year and is concerned about new threat exposures and system vulnerabilities inherent in rapidly advancing computer/network technologies as it moves to global Internet connectivity. During our evaluation, we will assess (1) how susceptible NASA's information systems are to unauthorized access, (2) whether mission critical systems are vulnerable, and (3) what the agency is doing to address this potential problem?

CONTACT: BROCK JR, JACK L**PHONE: (202) 512-6240****TITLE: SPACE EXPLORATION: POWER SOURCES FOR DEEP SPACE PROBES****(707327)****ISSUE PROBLEM:**

The Cassini deep space probe was launched to Saturn on October 15, 1997. The requester has expressed concern about Cassini's Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs), which provide electrical power for most deep space probes. The requester is seeking an assessment of the analyses NASA conducted to ensure the safety of Cassini's RTGs during launch and near-earth orbit, and whether there are alternative power sources for future deep-space missions. (1) Does the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by NASA accurately reflect the risks posed by the Cassini mission? (2) What are the alternatives to using RTGs? (3) Is there sufficient investment in the development of alternative power sources for deep space probes? (4) What future missions are planned that will use RTGs?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J**PHONE: (202) 512-4199****TITLE: HRA 9: NASA'S ACTIONS THAT COULD WARRANT REMOVAL OF ITS CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FROM GAO'S HIGH-RISK LIST****(707328)****ISSUE PROBLEM:**

Since the 1990s, GAO has considered NASA's contract management a high risk area. In a March 1997 report, GAO stated that its decision to remove NASA contract management from high risk depended on NASA's ability to produce accurate & reliable procurement-related information. The congressional Results Caucus has made NASA's contract management an agenda item. GAO has been asked to review NASA's efforts to improve procurement assessment & decide whether those efforts are sufficient to remove NASA contract management from our high-risk list. (1) Is NASA implementing an international quality standard for procurement? (2) Is NASA implementing a procurement quality initiative (metrics)? (3) Does NASA have a plan to support "roll out" of its integrated financial management system?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J**PHONE: (202) 512-4199**

TITLE: INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION: U.S. LIFE-CYCLE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

(707342)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

In September 1997, GAO gave testimony describing the deteriorating cost situation of NASA's International Space Station. We expressed concern over potential future cost growth. The testimony and related work caused Congress to become increasingly concerned, and we were requested to update our June 1995 space station life cycle resource requirements report (Code 707307). (1) Is Congress sufficiently informed of budget requirements for the space station program?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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TITLE: NASA ELECTRONIC NOTICE PILOT TEST PROGRAM

(707346)

ISSUE PROBLEM:

Section 5062 of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA) of 1994 (P.L. 103-355) authorized NASA to conduct a test of alternative notice and publication requirements and to waive Commerce Business Daily posting requirements for some procurements. FASA requires GAO to report on the results of the test and make recommendations. (1) How did NASA conduct and evaluate the pilot and what were the results? (2) What are NASA's plans for future use and development of this web-based Internet Service? (3) What are the views of industry and government agencies on Federal adoption of the NASA model?

CONTACT: RODRIGUES, LOUIS J

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