



Highlights of [GAO-05-802](#), a report to congressional committees

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Acquisition of the Electronic Records Archives Is Progressing

Why GAO Did This Study

Since 2001, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has been working to acquire the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) system. In August 2004, NARA awarded two contracts to design the ERA system. The agency plans to select one of the resulting designs for the development of the system in August 2005.

Conference Report 108-792 directed GAO to report on ERA's costs, schedule, and performance. Our objectives were to determine

- the extent to which NARA has achieved the ERA program's cost, schedule, and performance objectives and the extent to which the agency has identified risks to future objectives and
- the status of NARA's efforts to address prior GAO recommendations on the acquisition.

GAO is not making any recommendations at this time because NARA has plans in place to address identified weaknesses.

What GAO Found

The ERA program is meeting its cost, schedule, and performance objectives and has identified risks to the program's objectives. For example, the program has

- achieved all major milestones to date on or ahead of schedule,
- accepted three major contractor deliverables that met the program's performance standards, and
- identified risks to the program including the lack of an integrated schedule that encompasses agency projects related to ERA.

NARA continues to make progress in addressing recommendations from prior GAO reports: the agency has implemented one recommendation by hiring two key ERA personnel and has partially implemented the other recommendations (see table). For example, NARA has addressed one of the two security weaknesses by bringing classified systems under the central control and protection of the chief information officer, and it has completed corrective action on five of nine security weaknesses in systems operating on its network. However, the Office of the Inspector General has identified additional security weaknesses, including

- the lack of a formal, documented, and tested agency disaster recovery plan and
- inadequate physical and logical security in areas such as password and systems configuration management.

Until NARA fully addresses all prior recommendations, risks remain to the successful implementation of the system.

Summary Status of NARA's Progress in Addressing GAO Recommendations

Prior recommendation	Status	Progress
1. Staffing	implemented	NARA filled the vacant key positions; the quality assurance specialist was hired in July 2004 and the security officer in May 2005.
2. Enterprise architecture	partially implemented	While NARA has improved the enterprise architecture, several elements are incomplete, including the target architecture.
3. Information security	partially implemented	Information security has been improved; however, weaknesses remain.
4. Document review process	partially implemented	While a documented review process has been designed, it has not been finalized and implemented.
5. Acquisition program policies and plans	partially implemented	Even though most policies and plans have been significantly revised, none are fully compliant with IEEE standards.

Source: GAO.

www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-802.

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Linda D. Koontz at (202) 512-6240 or koontzl@gao.gov.