

GAO

National Security and International
Affairs Division

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National Security Analysis Issue Area Plan

Fiscal Years 1995-97

Foreword

The National Security Analysis issue area is one of the General Accounting Office's 35 issue areas. Relying heavily on input from congressional committees, as well as industry, academia, and agency officials and other experts, GAO develops strategic plans to ensure that our limited resources are directed towards the most important concerns of the Congress.

GAO serves as a source of timely, accurate information and unbiased analysis for decisionmakers in the Congress and executive agencies. For each issue area, GAO's strategic plan describes the significance of the issues, our objectives, and the focus of our work. Our work results in such products as reports, briefings, and testimonies.

The National Security Analysis issue area reviews programs in the Department of Defense, the individual military services, and other supporting defense agencies. The principal issues we cover are

- the military services' roles and functions and how they can best be accomplished;
- the effectiveness and affordability of DOD's planned force structure;
- the extent to which planned defense budgets are affordable and consistent with national security priorities; and
- the extent to which the intelligence community is adequately addressing the threat and new requirements.

In the pages that follow, we describe our key planned work on these pivotal issues.

Because events may significantly affect even the best of plans, our planning process allows for updating the plan and responding quickly to emerging issues. If you have any questions or suggestions about this plan, please call me at (202) 512-3504.



Richard Davis
Director
National Security Analysis Issues

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Table I: Key Issues

Issue	Significance
Roles and functions: What roles and functions should U.S. military forces fulfill and how can they best be accomplished?	During the Cold War, the services spent billions of dollars developing costly overlapping capabilities, some of which may no longer be needed and are no longer affordable.
Force structure: Are DOD's restructuring plans likely to produce an affordable and effective force?	The current Congress will be reassessing the adequacy of DOD's planned force structure. Maintaining an effective yet affordable military force will require a fundamental reassessment of force structure needs.
Budget and affordability: Are budgets for national security programs affordable and consistent with security priorities?	There is a widespread concern in the Congress that planned defense budgets are inadequate to support the planned military force and that inadequate defense budgets will result in a hollow force.
Intelligence: Is the U.S. intelligence community adequately addressing the changed threat and new requirements?	The United States spends tens of billions of dollars each year on intelligence programs, most of which were developed during the Cold War years. In view of the new security environment, many believe these programs need to be reassessed. A step in that reassessment is the recently established intelligence commission.

Table I: Key Issues

Objectives

Focus of work

—Evaluate the changing role of U.S. forces in carrying out new missions.
—Assess DOD’s process for identifying needed changes in service roles and functions.
—Identify opportunities for greater specialization or consolidation of key combat functions.

—Opportunities to better adapt air power to the changing national security environment within reduced defense budgets
—Assessment of the recommendations of the Commission on Roles and Missions
—Implementation of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommendations on roles and functions

—Assess whether the force structure is properly shaped to support warfighting requirements.
—Assess the active/reserve force mix.
—Evaluate options for meeting changing requirements for forward presence.
—Assess DOD requirements for nuclear forces and evaluate alternative force structure options.

—Planned mix of combat forces
—Size and role of reserve forces
—Future U.S. nuclear posture
—DOD’s forward presence requirements

—Evaluate the affordability of DOD’s proposed programs.
—Assess whether DOD budgets are based on accurate data and realistic assumptions.
—Assess whether DOD’s financial plan and budget execution match its priorities.

—Affordability of defense programs within planned defense budgets
—Nondefense spending in the defense budget
—Budgetary analysis of infrastructure and personnel accounts

—Determine whether unnecessary duplication exists between intelligence organizations and programs.
—Evaluate the accuracy of intelligence estimates used to support force structure and weapon acquisitions.
—Assess the role of intelligence agencies in supporting new missions.

—Streamlining intelligence functions
—Consistency of force structure and weapons needs with threat estimates
—Intelligence support for peace operations

Table II: Planned Major Work

Issue	Planned major job starts
Roles and functions	— “Air Power” ^a —Role of bombers in future conflicts ^a
Force structure	—Army plans to implement DOD’s bottom-up review force structure —Forward presence —Structure of Army National Guard combat forces —General support forces drawdown
Budget and affordability	—Affordability of planned military forces within the fiscal year 1996 Five Year Defense Plan —Assessments of DOD’s budget for infrastructure and personnel
Intelligence	—Intelligence support to peace operations —Accuracy of DOD intelligence budget systems

^aOngoing assignments

Table III: GAO Contacts

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