

GAO  
Accountability • Integrity • Reliability

# Highlights

Highlights of [GAO-03-1061](#), a report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, House Committee on Government Reform

## Why GAO Did This Study

The State Department plans to spend at least \$80 million to purchase and renovate a multibuilding facility in Frankfurt, Germany. The facility, known as Creekbed, is scheduled to open in mid-2005.

The project is a key rightsizing initiative under the *President's Management Agenda* to reassess and reconfigure the staffing of the U.S. overseas presence. Creekbed is expected to achieve the department's major rightsizing and regionalization goals. The Office of Management and Budget expects the project to serve as a model for developing other regional centers.

GAO was asked to determine whether State fully examined the potential for relocating regional staff from outside Germany to Creekbed.

## What GAO Recommends

GAO is not recommending executive action. However, State's comments on a draft of this report are inconsistent with its rightsizing goals for the facility and may indicate a lack of commitment to relocating regional staff as originally planned. GAO believes that State's actions regarding staffing of the facility warrant oversight. Accordingly, GAO is including a matter for congressional consideration that suggests Congress direct State to submit a staffing plan for Creekbed that specifically lists positions to be relocated from outside Germany.

[www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1061](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1061).

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Jess T. Ford at (202) 512-4128 or [fordj@gao.gov](mailto:fordj@gao.gov).

## OVERSEAS PRESENCE

# Rightsizing Is Key to Considering Relocation of Regional Staff to New Frankfurt Center

## What GAO Found

The Department of State indicated it is currently renewing earlier efforts to relocate staff from outside Germany to the new Frankfurt regional center. State said it would pursue a rigorous rightsizing and regionalization strategy in staffing the Frankfurt facility. State prematurely stopped its earlier efforts to relocate regional staff from other posts in August/September 2002 because staffing planners interpreted space planning estimates as indicating that the regional center would be fully occupied. However, according to GAO analysis, the facility was not full and significant additional space existed. After touring the facility and studying staffing requirements and space allocated for specific agencies, GAO found there was space available for additional staff. Successfully staffing the Frankfurt regional facility has the potential to optimize its use and achieve broader regionalization objectives.

Aerial Photo of 23-Acre Regional Center in Frankfurt, Germany



Source: U.S. Department of State.