

DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND MANAGEMENT

Defense Capabilities and Management (DCM) leads GAO's efforts to support congressional oversight of the Department of Defense (DOD) as it modernizes to meet a broad array of threats in the 21st century. The United States has emerged from the cold war as the sole superpower, with a military unchallenged in capability. Sustaining this force now costs taxpayers about \$400 billion annually. Charting the future makeup and use of the military forces is a major issue facing Congress and the President. To assist, DCM studies a wide range of current and future defense issues. These include assessing defense plans and force capabilities to deal with adversaries who demonstrably are more likely to strike vulnerable civilian or military targets in nontraditional ways to avoid direct confrontation with U.S. military forces on the battlefield.

Our Work

DCM provides timely analyses, recommendations, and policy options to congressional and executive branch officials to improve federal policies and programs in the following areas: defense planning and force structure, operations and readiness, homeland security, military and civilian personnel, logistics, defense infrastructure, and defense resources.

We are responsible for planning and conducting work at locations in the United States and around the world. DCM staff are located in Washington, D.C., and several field offices across the country, including Atlanta, Norfolk, Dallas, Dayton, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

We focus on assisting Congress to

- assess DOD's ability to maintain adequate readiness levels while addressing the force structure changes needed in the 21st century;
- assess DOD's effectiveness in combating terrorism under emerging plans for ensuring homeland security and in responding to terrorist acts at home and abroad;
- assess DOD's overall human capital management practices to ensure a high-quality total force;
- improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of DOD's logistical systems;
- evaluate DOD's management of military facilities, using best business practices;
- improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of DOD's logistical systems to provide better support at less cost; and
- analyze DOD's future year budgets for affordability and realism and evaluate DOD's efforts to adopt modern management principles.

KEY CONTACTS

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Henry L. Hinton, Jr.

DIRECTORS

Neal P. Curtin
Ray Decker
Barry W. Holman
Sharon Pickup
William Solis
Derek B. Stewart
Janet St. Laurent

PHONE

(202) 512-4300

MAILING ADDRESS

U.S. General Accounting Office
*Defense Capabilities and
Management*
Room 4440B
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Accomplishments and Key Projects

Examples of our recent accomplishments include the following:

- DCM saved the government and taxpayers over \$5.5 billion in fiscal year 2002. For example, we questioned a number of expenditures made from contingency funds that Congress provided to DOD. We attributed the questionable expenditures in part to a lack of DOD cost consciousness. As a result, Congress reduced DOD's contingency funding by \$650 million. In another case based on our work, billions of dollars of military property that the services had shipped to disposal facilities was made available for potential reuse. Resulting DOD changes saved \$525 million in the next 2 fiscal years.
- DCM also provided valuable assistance to Congress and the executive branch in nonmonetary areas, such as safety and quality of life. For example, as a result of a series of our reports, DOD improved its capability to operate in a chemical and biological environment at seaports in South Korea.

Currently, DCM is working to

- evaluate the military's transformation from a cold war force to a 21st-century fighting force;
- evaluate impact on military readiness of training initiatives;
- assess business transformation efforts;
- evaluate reform of logistics systems;
- assess effectiveness of selected military operations;
- assess DOD's use of contractors;
- assess the condition of facilities and funding for repairs and new construction;
- assess aerial refueling requirements and plans for leasing rather than buying more aircraft;
- assess force protection against terrorist attacks anywhere;
- evaluate management of military and civilian employees;
- analyze future budget requests, including contingency operations, for affordability and consistency with strategic plans;
- assess whether DOD plans and budgets will be sufficient to obtain enough equipment to execute the September 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review strategy;
- evaluate improvement of chemical and biological defense capabilities; and
- assess DOD's chemical demilitarization program for compliance with treaty agreements and for safety and timeliness.