

GAO

Briefing Report to the Chairman,
Subcommittee on Defense, Committee
on Appropriations, House of
Representatives

February 1990

BATTLEFIELD AUTOMATION

Army Tactical Command and Control System's Cost and Schedule



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National Security and
International Affairs Division

B-228648

February 8, 1990

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we evaluated the Army's efforts to implement the Army Tactical Command and Control System (ATCCS) program. Our objective was to update the cost and schedule of ATCCS since our December 1987 report.¹

Background

The ATCCS program is the Army's comprehensive approach to automating its tactical command and control systems and improving its communications systems. The \$20 billion effort is designed to enhance the coordination and control of combat forces through automated management of five key battlefield functional areas: (1) field artillery, (2) tactical intelligence, (3) combat service support, (4) forward area air defense, and (5) force maneuver control. ATCCS is comprised of nine segments: five command and control systems, three communications systems, and one common hardware and software program to provide computer commonality.

Results in Brief

From August 1987 to June 1989, seven of the nine segments that comprise ATCCS had experienced delays in development and production. These delays have caused the initial operational capability to slip for the seven systems from 4 to 27 months.

Since August 1987, costs decreased for four systems and for the common hardware and software program and increased in the other four. Army estimates show the consolidated ATCCS costs decreased from about \$21.4 billion to about \$20.6 billion, a decrease of \$779 million. This change includes decreases of about \$1.95 billion offset by increases of about \$1.17 billion. The cost decreases resulted from reduced equipment quantities and revised cost estimates, while cost increases were the

¹Battlefield Automation: Army Command and Control Systems Acquisition Cost and Schedule Changes (GAO/NSIAD-88-42FS, Dec. 1987).

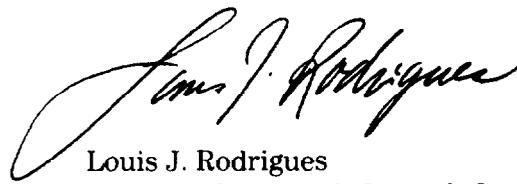
result of requirement changes, development problems, and schedule delays.

We discussed a draft of this report with Department of Defense and Army officials and included their comments where appropriate. Appendix I provides an overview of ATCCS' cost and schedule, and appendix II contains additional details on ATCCS. Our objective, scope, and methodology are described in appendix III.

Unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 10 days from the date of this letter. At that time, we will send copies to interested parties and make copies available to others upon request.

Please contact me at 275-4841 if you or your staff have any questions concerning the report. Other major contributors to this report are listed in appendix IV.

Sincerely yours,



Louis J. Rodrigues
Director, Command, Control, Communications,
and Intelligence Issues

