Secure Border Initiative

SBI\textit{net} Planning and Management Improvements Needed to Control Risks

This testimony summarizes GAO's February 2007 report on SBI\textit{net}, one element of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Secure Border Initiative (SBI). SBI\textit{net} is responsible for developing a comprehensive border protection system. By legislative mandate, GAO reviewed SBI\textit{net}'s fiscal year 2007 expenditure plan. This testimony focuses on (1) the extent that the plan provided explicit and measurable commitments relative to schedule and costs, (2) how DHS is following federal acquisition regulations and management best practices, and (3) concurrency in SBI\textit{net}'s schedule. GAO assessed the plan against federal guidelines and industry standards and interviewed program officials.

What GAO Recommends

GAO recommended that DHS (1) ensure that future expenditure plans include explicit and measurable commitments relative to the capabilities, schedule, costs, and benefits associated with individual SBI\textit{net} program activities; (2) modify the SBI\textit{net} contract to include a maximum quantity or dollar value; and (3) re-examine the level of concurrency and appropriately adjust the acquisition strategy. DHS concurred with the first and third recommendations, but not the second. DHS stated that the contract already contains a maximum quantity. GAO disagrees and believes DHS needs to modify the contract to ensure that it is consistent with regulations.

www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-504T.

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Rich Stana at (202) 512-8816 or stanar@gao.gov, or Randy Hite at (202) 512-3439 or hiter@gao.gov.