The Future Combat System (FCS) is central to Army transformation efforts, comprising 14 integrated weapon systems and an advanced information network. In previous work, GAO found that the elements of a sound business case—firm requirements, mature technologies, a knowledge-based acquisition strategy, a realistic cost estimate, and sufficient funding—were not present. As a result, FCS is considered high risk and in need of special oversight and review. Congress has mandated that the Department of Defense (DOD) decide in early 2009 whether FCS should continue.

GAO is required to review the program annually. In this report, GAO analyzes FCS development, including its requirements definition; status of critical technologies, software development, and complementary programs; soundness of its acquisition strategy related to design, production and spin-out of capabilities to current forces; and reasonableness of costs and sufficiency of funding.

What GAO Recommends

GAO is making recommendations to the Secretary of Defense that specific criteria should be considered during the 2009 milestone review and alternatives to the program analyzed should FCS fail to deliver needed capabilities when and as expected. DOD concurred with GAO’s recommendations.


To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Paul Francis, 202-512-4841, francisp@gao.gov.