



Highlights of [GAO-04-521](#), a report to the Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs Follow Legal Authority, but Some Activities Need Reassessment

### Why GAO Did This Study

The Department of State requested \$415 million to fund programs in the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR) appropriations account for fiscal year 2005. Interest has been expressed in learning about whether programs are being implemented in accord with the law, and in the extent to which programs use experts hired on a contractual basis.

GAO was asked to determine (1) the legal authorizations for the programs and the extent to which programs are implemented in accord with these authorizations and (2) the extent to which program management and implementation use outside experts.

### What GAO Recommends

GAO recommends that the Secretaries of State and Commerce evaluate the extent of integration of export control activities of the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund and the Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance Program.

GAO also includes two matters for congressional consideration:

- conditioning future funding for the Tracker export control system until the Secretaries of State and Commerce have completed the evaluation and
- clarifying through legislation the scope of the NDF's activities.

[www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-521](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-521).

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Joseph Christoff, 202-512-8979, and [ChristoffJ@gao.gov](mailto:ChristoffJ@gao.gov).

### What GAO Found

The seven major programs funded through the Department of State's Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs appropriations account are authorized by law and engage in activities that are in accord with their authority. However, the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) engages in activities that, while authorized by law, appear to be inconsistent with expectations about the scope of the program's mission. Past appropriations committee reports and testimony by the Secretary of State indicated that the NDF is designed to respond to urgent, unanticipated nonproliferation events of immediate concern to the United States. However, at least half of the NDF's \$35 million budget request for fiscal year 2004 and 57 percent of the \$34.5 million request for fiscal year 2005 were designated for longer-term activities preplanned through the annual budget process, including expansion of an export control system called Tracker. Furthermore, the Tracker system has been developed and deployed independently of another Department of State program, the Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance Program, which supports the development of export control capabilities in foreign countries. Currently, the Tracker system is not integrated into the export control assessments and activities of this program or the export control activities of other Departments, such as the Department of Commerce.

Program management offices, which range in size from 1 to 26 staff, average about 80 percent federal employees and 20 percent experts hired on a contractual basis. In contrast, projects funded by these programs are implemented by experts on contract from other U.S. government agencies (who may also be federal employees), outside contractors, or international and nongovernmental organizations.

The Department of State concurred with the need to integrate export control activities, but took exception to other issues regarding the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund.

The major programs in the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs account		
Nonproliferation programs	Anti-terrorism programs	Regional stability and humanitarian assistance programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund</li> <li>• Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance Program</li> <li>• Science Centers and Bio-Chem Redirection Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-terrorism Assistance Program</li> <li>• Terrorist Interdiction Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humanitarian Demining Program</li> <li>• Small Arms/Light Weapons Destruction Program</li> </ul>

Source: GAO.