

094245



REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

Review Of Testing And Evaluation Policies And Procedures

B-163058

Department of Defense

*BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES*

~~710647~~
094245

APRIL 18, 1974



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-163058

61-1
To the President of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives

1-5
On August 7, 1972, we reported to the Congress on "The Importance of Testing and Evaluation in the Acquisition Process for Major Weapon Systems" (B-163058). That report made several recommendations to the Department of Defense (DOD) for improving testing and evaluation.

Because of the importance of testing, we made this follow-on review of the testing and evaluation policies and practices associated with 16 major acquisitions. DOD and the services have made policy, procedural, and organizational changes that largely meet the recommendations contained in our August 7, 1972, report.

We reviewed the reporting of testing data to the Congress required by Public Law 92-156, section 506. As required by that law (now repealed, but with the same requirements embodied in 10 U.S.C. 139), DOD submitted test data on Congressional Data Sheets to the Congress on those major weapon systems that involved procurement fund requests. However, many tests necessary to prove the feasibility of programs are completed before procurement funds are requested. Therefore, test data on major acquisitions should be reported to the Congress during early development phases before procurement requests.

Test data comparable to that submitted under Public Law 92-156 is not reported to the Congress in the same format or detail on high cost systems in early stages of development. This includes major programs, such as the Army's SAM-D missile, the Navy's AEGIS missile, and the Air Force's B-1 bomber. At present, limited information on test results is reported to the Congress for these types of systems as part of the budget justification material.

We believe, however, it would be useful to the authorizing and appropriating Committees if this data were submitted in the same form and content as on the Congressional Data Sheets. This would provide the Congress a consistent picture of the progress of major systems. On November 20, 1973, we

710647

APR 29 1975

recommended to DOD that it report test data on all major systems appearing as line items in the defense budget, whether in research and development or production, in the same form and detail that is now used for the Congressional Data Sheets.

On February 28, 1974, DOD agreed that the recommendation was feasible and would enhance the value of test data reported to the Congress. (See app.) DOD said that the Navy had already taken action similar to our recommendation and that the Army and Air Force would implement the recommendation beginning with the fiscal year 1976 budget justification. DOD further stated that, when the recommendation is fully implemented, about 72 weapon systems will be affected.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James B. Stacks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Comptroller General
of the United States



DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

28 February 1974

Mr. J. H. Stolarow
Deputy Director, Procurement and
Systems Acquisition Division
United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Stolarow:

This letter is in response to your letter of November 20, 1973, to the Secretary of Defense, which requested comment on a draft report to the Congress on the subject, "Review of Testing and Evaluation Policies and Practices" (OSD Case #3739). The draft report contains a recommendation that DoD report test data on all major weapon systems appearing as line items in the Defense budget with the same content that is now used for Congressional Data Sheets as required under U.S. Code Title 10, Chapter 4, Section 139 for programs under procurement. DoD agrees that the recommended action is feasible and could enhance the value to the Congress of the test and evaluation data reported on major programs in RDT&E.

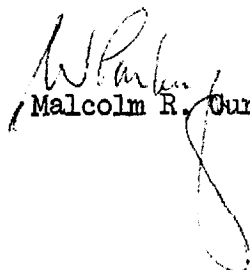
There is now a requirement that each Service prepare a book of RDT&E Major Weapon System Descriptive Summaries, which contain much of the test data recommended for inclusion. The distribution of these major program books to the committees of Congress is the same as that for the Congressional Data Sheets, except that only three copies are delivered to the House Armed Services Committee, compared with five copies of the Congressional Data Sheets. Thus, a convenient mechanism for implementing the recommendation exists.

As an indication of the amount of additional information which will be provided when the recommendation is implemented, the FY 1974 Congressional Data Sheets numbered approximately 98, and by coincidence the Major Weapon System Acquisition Program Descriptive Summaries also totalled 98. Twenty-six programs appeared in both categories, so that the total number of programs which would have been affected for FY 1974 was approximately 72. Similar numbers are expected to apply for FY 1975 and FY 1976.

APPENDIX

The Navy already had taken action similar to that recommended in the draft report for its RDT&E Program Descriptive Summaries for the FY 1975 budget justification material. It is feasible to have Army and Air Force material organized to implement the recommendation beginning with the budget justification for FY 1976.

Sincerely yours,


Malcolm R. Currie

Copies of this report are available at a cost of \$1 from the U.S. General Accounting Office, Room 4522, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20548. Orders should be accompanied by a check or money order. Please do not send cash.

When ordering a GAO report please use the B-Number, Date and Title, if available, to expedite filling your order.

Copies of GAO reports are provided without charge to Members of Congress, congressional committee staff members, Government officials, news media, college libraries, faculty members and students.