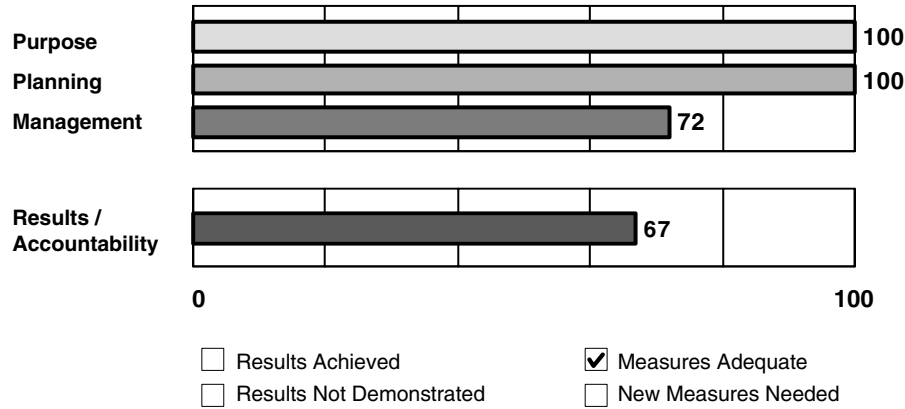


Program: Air Combat Program

Agency: Department of Defense--Military

Bureau: Procurement



Key Performance Measures

	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Number of performance objectives for individual weapons systems unmet	1999	0	0
	2000	0	0
	2002	0	0
	2003	0	
Annual Measure: Percent change in acquisition costs for individual aircraft programs from estimated cost of program. For example, actuals show deviation for the F/A-18E/F fighter program. Data from DoD's annual Selected Acquisition Reports. The Dec 2001 report represents a 2-year reporting period (1999-2001) due to the absence of a Dec 2000 report.	1999	<10%	4.7%
	2000	<10%	5.3%
	2002	<10%	4.1%
	2003	<10%	

Rating: Moderately Effective

Program Type: Capital Assets

Program Summary:

The air combat program consists of a number of individual aircraft and helicopter research, development and procurement programs that, taken together, comprise DoD's investment in air combat capabilities. Individual programs reviewed include fighter aircraft such as the Air Force F/A-22 fighter, the Navy F/A-18E/F attack fighter and the multiservice Joint Strike Fighter, as well as Army helicopters such as the Apache Longbow and Comanche. Findings reflect the performance of individual programs since DoD does not manage air combat as a single program.

Findings include:

1. The PART analysis showed that the program purpose is clear, owing to the unique military requirement of these systems.
2. The Air Combat program scored well in planning because of DoD's extensive planning, programming and budgeting system, which matches program plans with budgets and ensures that analyses of capabilities are done before individual programs begin.
3. DoD's management of the overall air combat program is currently based on the extensive system of regulations governing how individual acquisition programs are managed. Through these regulations DoD tracks the progress of individual programs and can hold managers accountable for their programs -- as has recently been shown by changes in management personnel in the F/A-22 program.
4. DoD's individual programs within the overall air combat program are delivering aircraft at targeted rates, but in several cases, such as the F/A-22, with cost increases.
5. DoD is moving towards a "capabilities based" assessment of its programs, rather than the traditional assessment of individual acquisition programs. Until the air combat program is managed as a single program (consisting of several systems) with clear long-term goals, it will be difficult to assess in this way. For example, DoD has not yet defined several annual goals or other performance measures for the air combat program as a whole.

In response to these findings, the Administration:

1. Proposes that DoD refine methods for assessing the efficiency and effectiveness (or otherwise) of the overall air combat program in light of the needs of the 2001 QDR defense strategy and the global war on terrorism.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
11,454	15,573	16,360