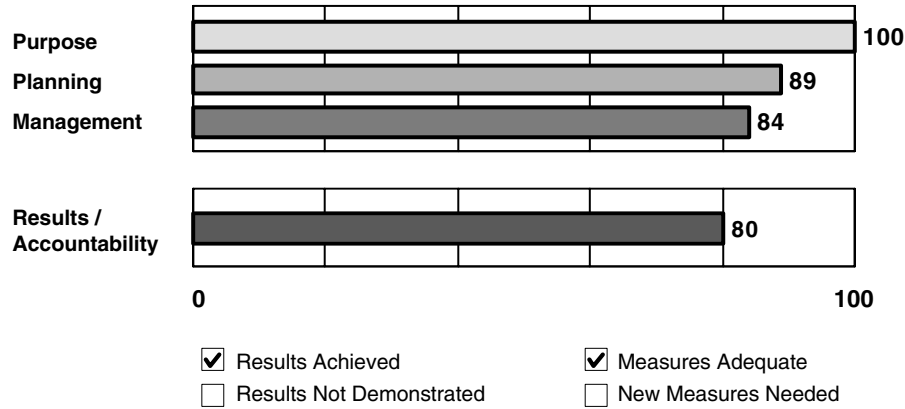


Program: Basic Research

Agency: Department of Defense--Military

Bureau: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Key Performance Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Certification in biennial reviews by technically competent independent reviewers that the supported work, as a portfolio, is of high quality, serves to advance the national security and is efficiently managed and carried out.	2003 and later	100%	
Long-term Measure: Portion of funded research that is chosen on the basis of merit review Reduce non-merit-reviewed and -determined projects by one half in two years (from 6.0% to 3.0%)	2005	-50%	

Rating: Effective

Program Type: Research and Development

Program Summary:

The Basic Research program includes scientific study and experimentation to increase fundamental knowledge in the physical, engineering, environmental and life sciences and consists of a wide portfolio of projects. The program is carried out primarily through grants to universities and non-profits. The results of this research are expected to improve the country's defense capabilities, although the actual results of any specific project are unpredictable. Notable successes in the past have led to advances in satellite communications and imagery, precision navigation, stealth, night vision and technologies allowing greatly expanded battlefield awareness. Due to the long-term nature of research results, the R&D PART emphasizes assessment of the process of choosing funded projects and independent assessments of how well the research portfolio is managed.

The assessment indicates that the basic research program has clear purposes of providing options for new weapons systems, helping prevent technological surprise by adversaries, and developing new scientists who will contribute to the DoD mission in the future. DoD can document--through its contracts and grants management regulations, public announcements of award competitions and results from independent review panels--the methodical management of its program. Additional findings include:

1. The grants/contract solicitation, review and award processes are competitive.
2. The program is reviewed regularly by technically capable outside reviewers, which recommend improvements they would like to be implemented. They indicate that the work is of overall high quality.
3. The program has competent planning and management.
4. Earmarking of projects in the program has increased in the past decade and contribute less than the typical research project to meeting the agency's mission.

In response to these findings, the Administration will:

1. Continue to emphasize the use of independent review panels in assessing the performance of the program.
2. Work with the research community and Congress to explain the need to limit claims on research grant funds to proposals that independently can meet the standards of a strict merit-review process.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
1,334	1,417	1,309