



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

19 FEB 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: GAO Draft 2009 Assessment of Selected Weapon Programs

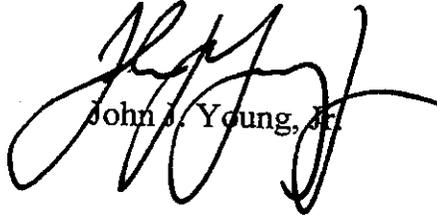
GAO is about to publish their annual assessment of defense acquisition programs. I have attached the highlight page. Since GAO does not generally note positive progress, I want to emphasize a few key good news points in the highlight page:

- "DoD performance in some of these areas is driven by older programs."
- "newer programs, on average, have not shown the same degree of cost and schedule growth."
- "For 47 programs, GAO assessed in-depth, the amount of knowledge attained by key decision points has increased in recent years."
- "In December, 2008, DoD revised its policy for major defense acquisition programs." This is the new DoD 5000 Directive on acquisition program management.
- "The (new DoD 5000) policy recommends holding early systems engineering reviews; includes a requirement for early prototyping; and establishes review boards to monitor requirements changes - all positive steps."

The report also notes a minor reduction in the estimated total acquisition cost growth from \$301B to \$296B, despite an increase from 95 to 96 in the number of programs. We will fully analyze this report and provide you a more detailed summary.



I would note that I continue to struggle to get billets and funding for new positions in AT&L and throughout the defense enterprise. I believe GAO accurately notes that "A majority of the programs GAO assessed were unable to fill all authorized program office positions, resulting in increased workloads, a reliance on support contractors, and less personnel to conduct oversight."



John J. Young, Jr.

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
CJCS
VCJCS
USD(C)
ASD(NII)
PA&E