

## Strategic Sealift Program (SSP)

### SUMMARY

- DOT&E issued a beyond low-rate initial production report in July 2004, evaluating the Strategic Sealift Program (SSP) ships operationally effective and operationally suitable.
- Production and testing of the SSP ships is complete.

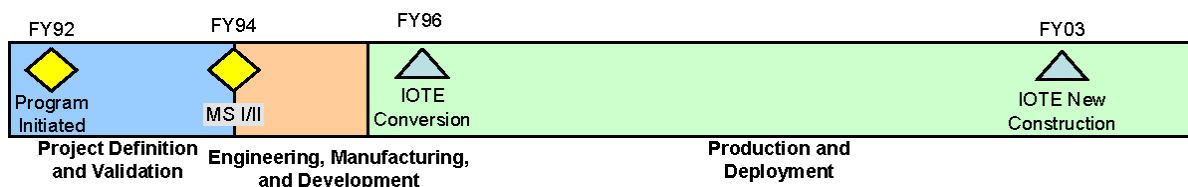
### SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The SSP consists of nineteen large, medium-speed roll-on/roll-off ships in four different designs. Construction and delivery of all ships is complete. The ships can provide a surge transport capability, or be filled with combat equipment and pre-positioned for a projected military force. They are about 950 feet long and 106 feet wide (to enable transit through the Panama Canal), and displace about 59,000 long tons. Their top speed is 24 knots and they have a 12,000 nm range without refueling. They can conduct self-sustained roll-on/roll-off and lift-on/lift-off operations at a pier or at anchorage. SSP ships are not armed and do not have a combat system, but they do have a command, control, communications, and intelligence suite sufficient to perform their mission.



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### TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY



The SSP completed its operational evaluation in FY03. Actual operational data from FY04 verified the correction of outstanding deficiencies from the operational testing. The Military Sealift Command used these ships extensively for transport of Army equipment to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Of the 7.31 million square feet of cargo moved by surge sealift during these operations, SSP ships moved 5.3 million square feet (72 percent). The performance of the ships in these actual operations provides additional support for the conclusions as to their effectiveness and suitability.

### TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The ships are operationally effective and operationally suitable. Although SSP ships are required to support cargo operations at anchor in Sea State 3, there is no plan to test this capability because there is no cargo lighterage system, existing or planned, that can safely accept cargo transfer above Sea State 2.

