DoD National Airspace System (NAS) Executive Summary

The DoD National Airspace System will be employed to accomplish military air traffic operations and will ensure the seamless conduct of air traffic control for aircraft transitioning between military and Federal Aviation Administration-controlled airspace.

Testing was adequate to evaluate the DoD National Airspace System as operationally effective when a detailed set of performance adaptations appropriate to each individual deployment location are successfully completed. Site-specific integration requires highly skilled subject matter experts to be directly involved in the installation of DoD National Airspace System at each location prior to government acceptance. Without such involvement, potential safety of flight hazards could be introduced into the system. Effectiveness deficiencies are present in the areas of conflict alerts and minimum safe altitude warnings, radar clutter limitations, and processor capacity.

Testing was adequate to confirm the DoD National Airspace System is not operationally suitable. This is because of non-current technical data, incomplete system training, unacceptable DoD Advanced Automation System availability, additional skilled maintenance manpower requirements, additional security upgrades, and system logistics shortfalls. In addition to these corrections, an effectiveness and suitability enhancement program needs to be developed to increase the integrated performance of the full-rate production system.

To have a fully effective and suitable system, the Air Force should:

- Implement a full-rate production system-of-systems optimization directive. The Electronic System Center will function as the cognizant government authority for implementation and formal contractor compliance.
- Accomplish detailed target data processing and characterization analysis to ensure safe and satisfactory configurations are installed at each DoD Advanced Automation System fielding location.
- Use the Federal Aviation Administration's implementation capabilities as appropriate to enhance cross-agency utilization and fielding functions.
- Initiate, implement, and operationally test the advanced signal data processor capability.
- Initiate and implement an improved Digital Airport Surveillance Radar to DoD Advanced Automation System interface analysis capability.
- Initiate a program to resolve the existing deficiencies and potential new deficiencies created by DoD National Airspace System full-rate production.

The correction of deficiencies and inadequacies discovered during this operational evaluation require additional rigorous, thorough, and integrated operational testing. That testing should confirm the current and emerging full-rate production operational effectiveness and suitability of DoD NAS performance for operations under realistic military airspace conditions.

ANNEX - BLRIP EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES