IT Program Assessment

United States Coast Guard – Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Program

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a program review of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) – C4ISR Program. This assessment represents the program's status through March 2012.

Description and Background:

The USCG's C4ISR program is designated high priority by the Component because it aligns with the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296), supports DHS strategic goals, and enables the requirements specified in the Integrated Deepwater System (IDS) Mission Needs statement (MNS). Specifically, the C4ISR system is designed to provide operationally relevant command and control (C2) information and knowledge to Coast Guard commanders to allow for the efficient and effective exercise of authority, while directing and monitoring assigned forces and first responders across the full-spectrum of CG operations. The Common Operational Picture (COP) is a shared understanding of information that spans the operating space. The C4ISR project provides an integrated C4ISR suite of systems that synchronizes the Coast Guard's air, shore, and sea capabilities bridging the gap amongst its ships, aircraft, and shore sites to provide the "eyes and ears" for mission execution. The system will help fill our gap in maritime domain awareness identified in the post-9/11 Deepwater mission needs statement. This system will provide operational commanders, ship commanding officers, aircraft commanders, and operational planners, the tools, intelligence, and COP necessary to survey, detect, classify, identify, and prosecute intended targets, which is the cornerstone of all Coast Guard and DHS missions.

The program is currently focused on Segment 2 development efforts (Federated System) with Segment 3 (Net-Centric, open architecture system design) delayed for seven years. Segment 5 is being used to sustain legacy and shore based assets and segments 6-8 (Post September 11, 2001 mission needs and new asset production alignment) have been cancelled.

FY12 accomplishments to date associated with C4ISR's Segment 2 Spiral 2, include a successful critical design review (CDR) for S/W Baseline, installed S/W patches in the National Security Cutters and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Long Range Surveillance/Medium Range Surveillance (LRS/MRS) assets, successful test readiness review (TRR), successful development and delivery of S/W baseline, successful First Article Test (FAT), and continued refinement of OPC C4ISR requirements.

As indicated in the DHS Integrated Planning Guidance, 2014-2018 (dated February 2012), the current Federal budget environment will, into the unforeseeable future, be marked by fiscal constraints.

Issues and Risks:

Specific risks identified by the project include:

- If the C4ISR baseline is not maintained, additional assets will not have functional C4ISR systems and existing assets will be unsupportable in the near future.
- If information security is not maintained, there is the potential that the authority to operate (ATO) will not be approved.
- If C4ISR does not complete design to meet the Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) Operational Requirements Document (ORD) C4ISR requirements, OPC will not be mission ready.

Mitigation Strategy:

The C4ISR program has developed the following mitigation strategies to address the stated risks:

- If the C4ISR baseline is not maintained, then additional funding will be allocated to address Diminishing Manufacturing Sources (DMS), certification, and authority to operate existing assets.
- To ensure information security requirements are met, C4ISR will be collaborating with the Designated Approving Authority to ensure ATO for MPA, National Security Cutter #1 and 2, and the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) recertification is accomplished on schedule
- To ensure that the OPC C4ISR requirements are mission ready, the program is completing an alternative of analysis, supporting asset preliminary planning, and developing an executable strategy.

Assessment:

The program's existing contract structure, which utilizes earned value management, pin-points specific positives associated with C4ISR's schedule and cost performance. Specifically, all three contract line items numbers (CLINS) of current Segment 2 development and testing efforts have schedule performance indicators at or close to "1," indicating the program's efficient use of time allocated to those program areas. Additionally, all three CLINS have cost performance indicators above "1," indicating the program's efficient use of project resources. Due to the possibility of future program unfunded requests, mitigation strategies will have to be developed that encompass plans outside of increased funding requests. Furthermore, C4ISR has highlighted the potential of increased sustainment costs, further exacerbating the impact of potential program funding shortfalls. Factoring the previously detailed issues and program status, the DHS CIO assesses the C4ISR program as a **Medium Risk**

Score: 3