

electronic warfare threat simulators and aerial targets. These resources are critical to effective test and evaluation of the air defense systems of all three services. As a result of the shortages, DOD is fielding weapon systems without sufficient knowledge of their ability to survive in combat. Field commanders are operating weapons with unknown and perhaps dangerous limitations. This was underscored by the Secretary of Defense in his fiscal year 1984 report to the Congress. He cited the lack of an aerial target to represent the supersonic low-altitude and antiship missile threat for test and evaluation as a major problem area. Without a suitable target, weapon effectiveness in that area remains unknown.

We recognize that totally realistic operational environments cannot be achieved without going to war; our concern here is that tests be as realistic as possible. Without test resources that adequately replicate the threat, the true performance capabilities of weapon systems will not be proven and significant risks may go unexposed until deployment and actual use.

We are making several recommendations to the Secretary of Defense that will, if implemented, strengthen the quality and usefulness of test planning, overcome the organizational