

# USSOCOM Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) Now



The Navy's Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) completed an evaluation of the cyber survivability of the Dry Combat Submersible Now (DCS Now) in FY22. However, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) delayed the at-sea portion of operational test until FY23 due to COVID-19, weather, and materiel issues on DCS Now Boat #1. DOT&E will report on DCS Now operational effectiveness and suitability in FY23 upon completion of IOT&E.

## SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

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The DCS Now is a 39.4-foot long, submersible vessel with lock-in/lock-out capability for up to eight Special Operations Forces (SOF) occupants. The DCS Now is battery-powered and operated by two pilots. The DCS Now maintains a one-atmosphere dry environment within the personnel compartments.

## MISSION

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USSOCOM is developing DCS Now for covert insertion and recovery of SOF from denied areas. By reducing operator exposure to the underwater environment, the dry environment of DCS Now improves mission endurance and range over existing small submersibles. The DCS Now further enhances SOF mission capability with additional payload capacity.

## PROGRAM

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DCS Now is an Acquisition Category III program managed by USSOCOM. In 2018, the program achieved Milestone C and DOT&E approved a Test and Evaluation Master Plan update. Initial Operational Capability, originally planned for FY19, is

now projected in FY23 following the completion of IOT&E. In 2021, DOT&E approved IOT&E test plans for at-sea testing and shore-based cyber survivability testing.

### » MAJOR CONTRACTOR

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- Lockheed Martin Rotary Mission Systems – Riviera Beach, Florida

## TEST ADEQUACY

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In December 2021, DOT&E approved a test plan for OPTEVFOR to conduct at-sea evaluation of DCS Now for IOT&E. However, developmental test continued through the remainder of FY22 due to delays from COVID-19, non-supportive weather, and materiel issues on DCS Now Boat #1. OPTEVFOR expects to commence operational test in 1QFY23.

In February 2022, OPTEVFOR completed cyber survivability tests consisting of a cooperative vulnerability and penetration assessment and an adversarial assessment of DCS Now. DOT&E observed these tests, and they were conducted in accordance with the DOT&E-approved test plan.

## PERFORMANCE

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### » EFFECTIVENESS

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Operational test of the DCS Now is delayed until FY23 and data are not available to provide a preliminary assessment of operational effectiveness. DOT&E will report operational effectiveness of DCS Now upon completion of IOT&E in FY23.

### » SUITABILITY

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Operational test of the DCS Now delayed until FY23 and data are not available to provide a preliminary assessment of operational suitability. DOT&E will report operational suitability of DCS Now upon completion of IOT&E in FY23.

### » SURVIVABILITY

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Analysis of the cyber survivability test remains in progress and assessment is classified. DOT&E will report the cyber survivability of DCS Now upon completion of IOT&E in FY23.

## RECOMMENDATION

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USSOCOM should:

1. Work with OPTEVFOR to complete operational testing as soon as practical.