

Dry Combat Submersible (DCS)



In October 2023, DOT&E issued a classified IOT&E report following the completion of IOT&E of the Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) in April 2023. DCS is operationally effective within limited operational environments and with limited mission capability. DCS is not operationally suitable. DOT&E's assessment of DCS cyber survivability is contained in the classified IOT&E report.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

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

MISSION

U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) developed DCS to provide Special Operations Forces (SOF) with an undersea mobility material solution for use in relevant special operations environments. The program will provide three DCS's for SOF.

PROGRAM

DCS is an Acquisition Category III program managed by USSOCOM. DCS achieved Milestone C in 2018 and DOT&E approved a Test and Evaluation Master Plan update the same year. The Navy ended IOT&E in April 2023 and intends an FOT&E of the DCS in FY24. USSOCOM declared initial operational capability in June 2023.

» MAJOR CONTRACTOR

- Lockheed Martin Rotary Mission Systems – Riviera Beach, Florida

TEST ADEQUACY

The Navy completed IOT&E of DCS in April 2023. Testing was in accordance with DOT&E approved test plans and DOT&E observed all test events. Testing was adequate to determine operational effectiveness and suitability, as well as cyber survivability of DCS against nearsider and insider threats. Testing did not assess cyber survivability against outsider threats because the test plan specified evaluation through a program protection analysis. DOT&E submitted a classified IOT&E report in October 2023.

PERFORMANCE

» EFFECTIVENESS

DCS is operationally effective within limited operational environments and with limited mission capability. Details are in the classified IOT&E report.

» SUITABILITY

DCS is not operationally suitable. Details are in the classified IOT&E report.

» SURVIVABILITY

DCS survivability assessment in a cyber-contested environment is classified. Details are in the classified IOT&E report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

USSOCOM should:

1. Address recommendations included in the classified IOT&E report.
2. Submit an FOT&E test plan for DOT&E approval.