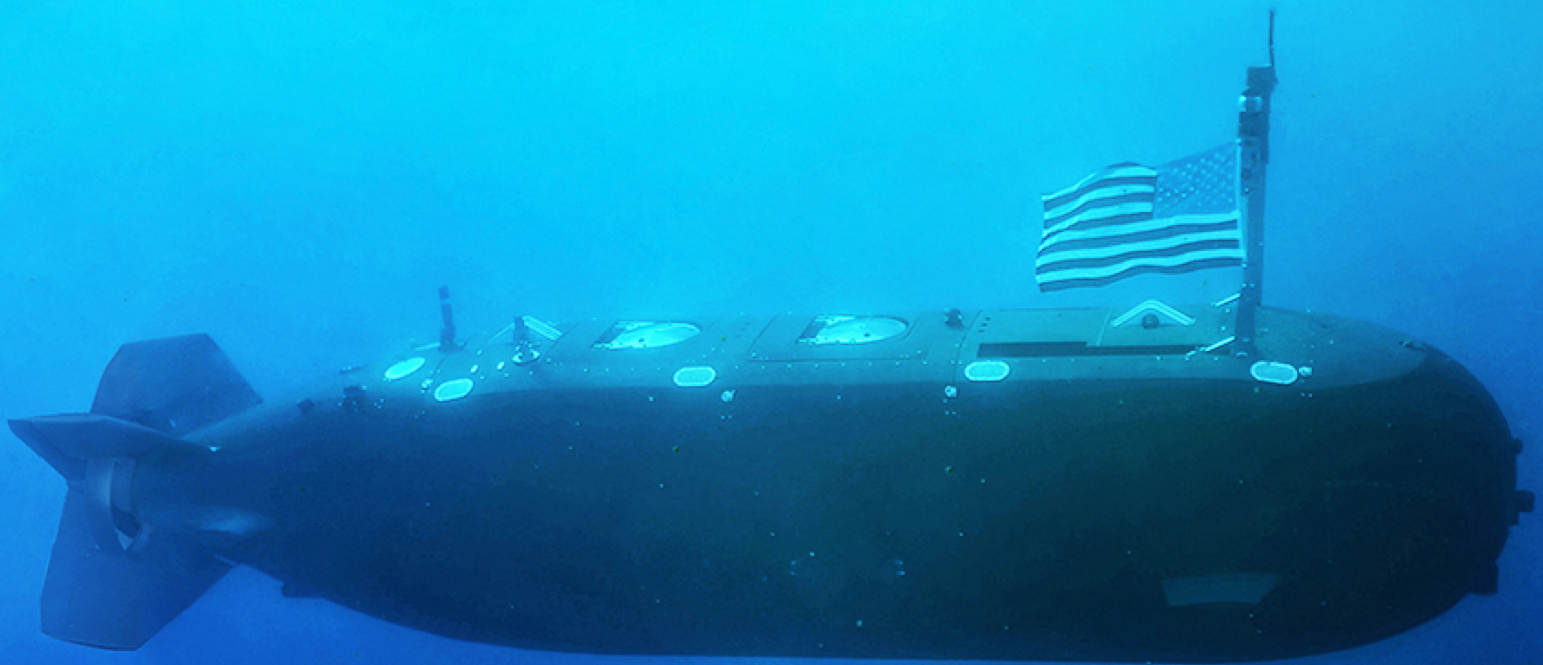


Dry Combat Submersible (DCS)



In October 2024, DOT&E published a classified Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) FOT&E report, which focused on the evaluation of DCS integration with a second type of support platform. Launch and recovery of the DCS from the FOT&E support platform improved from the support platform used during IOT&E.

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 SOF with an undersea mobility materiel solution for use

in relevant special operations environments.

PROGRAM

DCS is an Acquisition Category III program managed by USSOCOM. DCS achieved Milestone C in 2018, and DOT&E approved a TEMP update within the same year. The Navy completed IOT&E in April 2023, DOT&E published a classified DCS IOT&E report in October 2023, and USSOCOM declared initial operational capability in June 2023. The program delivered three DCSs for SOF. The Navy completed the first phase of FOT&E of the DCS in April 2024. DOT&E published a classified DCS FOT&E report in October 2024. Additional phases of FOT&E are planned in FY25.

» MAJOR CONTRACTOR

- Lockheed Martin Rotary Mission Systems – Riviera Beach, Florida

TEST ADEQUACY

In April 2024, the Navy’s Operational Test and Evaluation Force conducted FOT&E in accordance with a DOT&E-approved test plan and with DOT&E observation. Testing evaluated DCS integration with a second type of support vessel. Testing was adequate to determine operational effectiveness of DCS using the support vessel for launch, recovery, and transport of the DCS. Testing provided limited data on operational

suitability of the DCS, due to the focus of test on launch and recovery as opposed to full-length missions. Testing did not assess cyber survivability due to the program making no changes to the DCS that would change findings in the October 2023 DCS classified IOT&E report. DOT&E published a classified FOT&E report in October 2024.

PERFORMANCE

» EFFECTIVENESS

DCS is operationally effective within limited operational environments and with limited mission capability from both evaluated support vessels. Launch and recovery from the second support vessel type met program requirements and took less time than that observed for the DCS support vessel in IOT&E. Details of DCS operational effectiveness are in the classified IOT&E and FOT&E reports of October 2023 and October 2024, respectively.

» SUITABILITY

DCS remains below the suitability threshold for some missions. While improvements were made, insufficient data were available from FOT&E to change the assessment from DCS IOT&E. Details are in the classified IOT&E and FOT&E reports.

» SURVIVABILITY

The assessment of DCS survivability in a cyber-contested

environment is classified. Details are in the classified IOT&E report.

RECOMMENDATION

USSOCOM should:

1. Address the recommendations in the classified IOT&E and FOT&E reports.