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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 7, 2011

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Department of the Navy launched the Next Generation Enterprise Network (NGEN) program in 2007 to replace and improve services provided through the Navy Marine Corps Internet (NMCI) program. The first increment of this critical program is to include capabilities comparable to NMCI, as well as enhanced information assurance and increased government control over network operations, at an estimated cost of about \$50 billion through fiscal year 2025. However, in March 2011, GAO reported that Navy did not adequately demonstrate that the current NGEN acquisition approach was the most cost-effective. In addition, GAO recommended that the department limit further investment in NGEN until it conducts an interim review to reconsider the selected acquisition approach. Navy officials have since indicated that changes to the acquisition strategy are underway.

In light of this substantial investment and the important service that it is intended to provide, we are writing to request that GAO conduct a follow-up study to support the committee's oversight of NGEN. In this regard, your study should evaluate the Department of the Navy's revised plans for acquiring NGEN, including the basis for the department determining that the acquisition approach reflected in this plan is the most cost-effective.

We look forward to receiving the results of your study. If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Molly Wilkinson of Senator Collins' staff at (202) 224-4751 and Sarah Garcia of Senator McCaskill's staff at (202) 224-1014.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting
Oversight