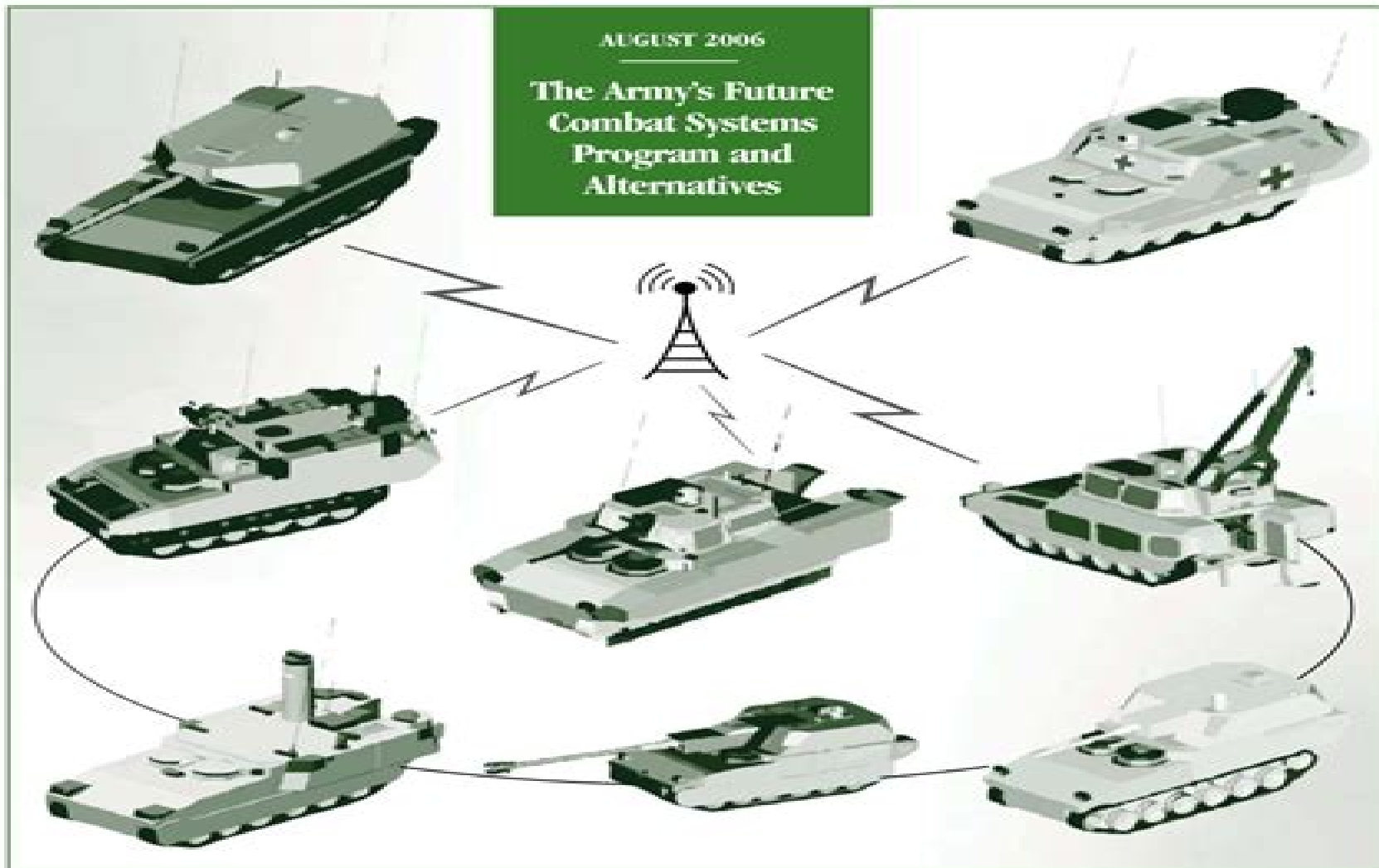


A  
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STUDY

AUGUST 2006

**The Army's Future  
Combat Systems  
Program and  
Alternatives**



# The Army S Future Combat Systems Program And Alternatives

**JS Bruner**



## **The Army's Future Combat Systems Program And Alternatives:**

**The Army's Future Combat Systems Program and Alternatives**, 2006 In today's environment of rapidly evolving conflicts the Army's goal is to have units that have the combat power of heavy units but that can be transported anywhere in the world in a matter of days To address concerns about the armored vehicle fleet's aging and the difficulties involved in transporting it as well as to equip the Army more suitably to conduct operations overseas on short notice using forces based in the United States the service created the Future Combat Systems FCS program in 2000 A major modernization effort the program is designed in part to develop and purchase vehicles to replace those now in the heavy forces the new vehicles would be much lighter thereby easing the deployment of units equipped with them In the analysis presented in this report the Congressional Budget Office CBO examined the current status of the Army's fleet of armored vehicles and assessed the speed of deployment of the service's heavy forces It also evaluated the FCS program considering the program's costs as well as its advantages and disadvantages and comparing it with several alternative plans for modernizing the Army's heavy forces

The Army's Future Combat Systems Program and Alternatives Frances M. Lussier, 2006      The Army's Future Combat Systems Program and Alternatives Congressional Budget Office, 2014-11-05 Roughly half of the Army's combat forces at the end of 2005 were so called heavy units forces that are equipped with armored vehicles and that provide significant firepower To support those units the Army maintains a fleet of approximately 28 000 armored vehicles Now that the Cold War is over some defense experts have questioned the relevance of such vehicles to the current national security strategy and their continued usefulness notwithstanding their contributions to recent operations such as Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom The average age of the armored combat vehicle fleet at the end of 2005 was relatively high and the fleet comprises vehicles designed several decades ago Moreover units equipped with the vehicles in the current fleet are too large and too heavy to be moved overseas easily and quickly by the Air Force's C-17s the most numerous of its long range transport planes For all practical purposes heavy units must be transported overseas by ship a process that takes weeks In today's environment of rapidly evolving conflicts the Army's goal is to have units that have the combat power of heavy units but that can be transported anywhere in the world in a matter of days To address concerns about the armored vehicle fleet's aging and the difficulties involved in transporting it as well as to equip the Army more suitably to conduct operations overseas on short notice using forces based in the United States the service created the Future Combat Systems FCS program in 2000 A major modernization effort the program is designed in part to develop and purchase vehicles to replace those now in the heavy forces the new vehicles would be much lighter thereby easing the deployment of units equipped with them But the FCS program poised to develop a total of 18 new systems including eight manned vehicles to replace those in the Army's current armored fleet and a network to connect them all will not field any new vehicles until December 2014 at the earliest Furthermore because those new vehicles will be expensive the Army plans to buy relatively small quantities of

them each year As a result the armored vehicles now in the Army s combat units will not all be replaced by FCS components until after 2035 a prospect that has evoked concerns about the costs of maintaining those older vehicles and upgrading them to prevent their becoming obsolete In addition questions have been raised about the FCS program s technical feasibility and affordability Some experts doubt that the Army can develop and test the necessary technologies in time to start producing lightweight manned vehicles by 2012 a requisite for meeting the deadline to field them according to the Army s current schedule Another concern is funding for the quantities of FCS equipment that the Army is now planning to buy Any reduction in the FCS procurement rate would force the Army to retain its already aging armored vehicles even longer and to invest more funds in their maintenance

**The Army's Future Combat System and Alternatives** Frances M. Lussier,2006-08

The Army's Future Combat Systems Program and Alternatives United States. Congressional Budget Office,2006 **A CBO Study, The Army's Future Combat Systems Program and Alternatives, August 2006** ,2006 **A CBO Study** ,2006 The Army is attempting to transform itself from a force designed primarily to fight large and protracted wars in a limited number of locations to one capable of reacting rapidly to crises anywhere in the world In its endeavor to make its combat units more versatile and agile the Army is planning to replace its heavy aging armored combat vehicles with newer lighter systems that it expects will be as lethal and survivable as the vehicles they are replacing Several types of manned vehicles as well as unmanned aerial and ground vehicles missile launchers and communications links would be developed and procured within a single program known as the Future Combat Systems FCS program This study by the Congressional Budget Office CBO which was prepared at the request of the Ranking Member of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee of the House Committee on Armed Services considers the near and long term implications of the FCS program It also examines several alternatives for modernizing the Army s armored forces and estimates the costs and savings associated with those options as well as their effects on the Army s fleet of armored vehicles and the ability of its armored units to deploy overseas In keeping with CBO s mandate to provide objective impartial analysis the report makes no recommendations

**Defense Acquisitions: the Army's Future Combat Systems' Features, Risks, and Alternatives**

Paul L. Francis,2008-12 To become a more responsive and dominant combat force the U S Army is changing its strategy from bigger and stronger weapons to faster and more agile ones The Future Combat Systems FCS which the Army calls the greatest technology and integration challenge ever undertaken is expected to meet the Army s transformational objectives For FCS first developmental increment the Army has set aside a 5 1 2 year timetable from program start May 2003 until the initial production decision Nov 2008 This testimony is about FCS key features whether the program carries any risks and if so whether there are alternatives for developing FCS capabilities with fewer risks Illustrations Army's Future Combat System (FCS): Background and Issues for Congress Andrew Feickert,2011 This is a print on demand edition of a hard to find publication The Future Combat System FCS was a multi year multi billion dollar program at the heart of the Army s

transformation efforts It was to be the Army's major R 2 Program Overview Current FCS Program Status Army's Modernization Strategy Budget Issues 3 Issues for Congress MGVCancellation Army Modernization Strategy and Spin Outs Proposed Ground Combat Vehicles Illustrations **An Analysis of the Army's Transformation Programs and Possible Alternatives** Frances M. Lussier, 2009 A CBO study Assesses the competitiveness of nuclear power compared to other sources of new capacity to generate electricity **Analysis of the Army's Transformation Programs and Possible Alternatives** Frances M. Lussier, 2010 The Army has initiated two programs designed to transform itself from a force focused on fighting the Cold War to one better designed to face the challenges of the 21st century Those two programs the Modularity Initiative and the Future Combat Systems FCS program would change the way the Army is organized and equipped respectively This study considers the near and long term implications of those two programs It also examines three alternatives for modernizing the Army's combat forces using modified versions of the FCS program and estimates the costs and savings of those options as well as their effects on the Army's ability to introduce new technologies into its combat brigades An objective impartial analysis Charts and tables *Budget Options* United States. Congressional Budget Office, 1977 **National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2007...**, [H.A.S.C. No. 109-74], April 4, 2006, **109-2 Hearing**, \*, 2007 **Budget Options: Spending options**, 2008 **US Battle Tanks 1946-2025** Steven J. Zaloga, 2024-11-07 A comprehensive and detailed illustrated examination of the development and combat performance of US battle tanks from the end of World War II through to the present day In this the second of two highly illustrated volumes telling the full history of the design development and operational use of US Army and US Marine Corps battle tanks Steven J Zaloga takes the story from the end of World War II through the US Soviet rivalry of the Cold War period right up to the latest developments in American armored technology US Battle Tanks 1946 2025 draws and expands on material published in Osprey's New Vanguard and Duel series to explain how the US Army attempted to come to grips with the challenges of the nuclear battlefield and examines the introduction of new tank designs such as the famous Patton tank series as well as short lived attempts to develop more radical tanks such as the T95 It covers the overly ambitious and failed MBT 70 tank program and the more austere M1 Abrams that followed a tank that proved to be the best US tank design of the post World War II period and one that is still in service today Published in association with the AUSA Book Program offering quality books about US Army heritage military theory and policy and security in the modern world *CBO Testimony*, 2006 CBO's analysis of the FCS program and potential alternatives supports the following observations B The FCS program must surmount substantial technical and funding challenges if it is to develop and initially field all of the individual FCS components as currently scheduled by December 2014 B According to the Army's estimates total annual costs to purchase the various FCS components could approach 10 billion However if such costs grew as those of similar programs have in the past annual costs could reach 16 billion B Moreover if the Army fields FCS vehicles according to its current schedule more

than 2 billion of additional funding could be needed annually from 2010 through 2016 with lesser amounts required thereafter to maintain and upgrade the Army's inventory of aging ground combat systems. B Although one of the main purposes of the FCS program is to speed the movement of Army combat units overseas replacing the current fleet of armored vehicles with FCS vehicles will not significantly reduce deployment times. B Alternatives to the currently planned FCS program that would eliminate all or part of the program's ground vehicles while retaining its communications equipment and in some cases its sensors would reduce the program's annual costs to about 6 billion to 7 billion. Under such alternatives the Army would incorporate some of those technologies into its current armored vehicles and upgrade those vehicles at the same time thereby increasing their capabilities and extending their useful lives. However if it did so the Army would forgo the potential benefits of the capabilities it now seeks in the FCS program.

**Budget Options: V. 2, August 2009** United States. Congressional Budget Office, **US Military Innovation Since the Cold War** Harvey Sapolsky, Benjamin Friedman, Brendan Green, 2009-04-28 explains how the US military transformation failed in the post Cold war era. Harvey Sapolsky is a leading defence scholar in the US will be of interest to students of strategic studies defence studies military studies US politics and security studies in general.

Long-Term Implications of the Department of Defense's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Submission Matthew S. Goldberg, 2010-11 This testimony is an analyses of DoD's budget requests and preliminary projections for FY 2011 through 2028. Those projections are based in part on the President's 2010 budget request and budget justification materials the Admin provided to the Congress with that request. Among the other sources consulted to supplement this analysis were DoD press releases and briefing materials and the Sec of Defense's announcement in April 2009 of changes to the nation's defense plans. The long term demand for defense resources could be larger than the auditor's base projections. The auditor estimates that supporting the number of deployed service members would require recurring annual appropriations of about 20 billion in 2010 dollars.

*Illus Measuring the Effects of the Business Cycle on the Federal Budget* Frank Russek, 2010 This report offers an alternative measure of the budget that incorporates adjustments for the effects of the business cycle. It is one of a series of periodic reports that the Congressional Budget Office CBO submits to the Committees on the Budget reports about fiscal policy and provide baseline projections of the federal budget. This report is based on information presented in A Preliminary Analysis of the President's Budget and an Update of a Budget and Economic Outlook released in March 2009. Tables and figures

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