

2013 GAO Duplication Report

Mission Area	Number of Estimated Duplicative/ Overlapping Programs	Number of Departments Involved	Estimated Cost of Programs or Potential Savings	Notable Findings & Quotes
1. Catfish Inspection		3 agencies FDA Food Safety and Inspection Service the National Marine Fisheries Service	\$14 million in potential savings	“Both FDA and National Marine Fisheries Service officials stated that continuous inspection will not improve catfish safety, and according to FDA officials, is counter to the use of FDA’s hazard analysis requirements in which systems are most efficiently monitored periodically rather than daily.”
2. Combat Uniforms	6 programs	4 agencies Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force	\$82 million in development and acquisition cost savings	<p>Since 2002, military services have increased the number of camouflage uniforms used from two to seven service-specific camouflage uniforms with varying patterns and colors, spending roughly \$500 million to procure new uniforms.</p> <p>The Army is developing new combat uniform options and associated protective gear, which may cost up to \$4 billion over 5 years.</p> <p>As a result of DOD’s fragmented approach, military personnel could be exposed to increased risk on the battlefield: some Navy construction and intelligence units were issued woodland uniforms to wear in desert environments, while others in the same types of locations were dressed in desert camouflage.</p>
3. Defense Foreign Language Support Contracts		159 contracting organizations in 10 different DOD components	\$50-\$200 million annually (5-20%) in potential savings	<p>“DOD centralized contracting for foreign language translation and interpretation services for contingency operations by designating the Army as the executive agent to manage contracting.”</p> <p>“Between FY08-12, the Army, as executive agent, obligated ~\$5.2 billion on contracts for translation and interpretation services.”</p> <p>“During the same period, multiple DOD components obligated ~\$1.2 billion for foreign language support services outside</p>

				<p>of the Army’s contracts to support the needs of contingency operations, pre-deployment training and day-to-day military activities.”</p> <p>“Without a more complete understanding of where it is spending resources on foreign language support contracts, DOD has not had the information it needs to ... provide reasonable assurance that it is fully leveraging its buying power. “</p>
4. Renewable Energy Initiatives	679 programs	23 agencies and their 130 sub-agencies	\$4 billion per year from 2002-2008, however it increased to \$15 billion in FY2010	<p>“In evaluating wind initiatives...GAO identified 7 initiative that have provided duplicative support-financial support from multiple initiatives to the same recipient for a single project...In many cases, wind project developers combined the support of more than one Treasury initiative and, in some cases, received additional support from smaller DOE or USDA gran or loan guarantee programs.”</p> <p>“GAO found that 157 initiatives—nearly 25 percent of the renewable energy initiatives identified—were established, received additional funding, or were impacted in some other way by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.”</p>
5. Joint Veterans and Defense Health Care Services		2 agencies Veterans Affairs and Defense	\$102 billion in FY2013	<p>“As GAO has reported for over a decade, VA and DOD lack information technology (IT) systems that permit the electronic exchange of comprehensive patient health information, a significant barrier in their collaboration efforts.”</p>
6. Medicaid Program Integrity	2 Medicaid Integrity Program Medicaid Integrity Group	HHS	The Medicaid Integrity Program receives and annual appropriation of about \$75 million	<p>GAO found duplication within the National Medicaid Audit Program and State Program Integrity Assessments</p> <p>“In FY 2012, 19.2 billion (7.1 percent) of Medicaid’s federal expenditures involved improper payments”</p>
7. Department of Homeland Security Research and Development	3 programs	DHS	\$568 million authorized in FY 2011	<p>GAO reported in September 2012 that DHS does not have a department-wide policy defining R&D or guidance directing components how to report R&D activities. As a result, the department does not know its total annual investment in R&D, which limits DHS’s ability to oversee components’ R&D</p>

				<p>efforts and align them with agency-wide R&D goals and priorities.</p> <p>On the basis of that analysis and interviews with these components, GAO identified 35 instances among 29 contracts where DHS components awarded R&D contracts that overlapped with R&D activities conducted elsewhere in the department. Taken together, these contracts were worth about \$66 million.</p>
8. Field-Based Information Sharing	<p>5 programs</p> <p>268 field-based entities</p>	<p>3 agencies</p> <p>DHS, DOJ, ONDCP</p>	<p>\$129 million total for first three in FY 2011, other two are classified</p>	<p>“Information obtained by law enforcement that relates to terrorism has no single source and is derived by gathering, fusing, analyzing, and evaluating relevant information from all levels of government.”</p> <p>“ Because it involves the efforts of several federal agencies, this information sharing is by definition fragmented and can produce unique perspectives when information from multiple sources is combined. However, this fragmentation can be disadvantageous if activities are uncoordinated, as well as if opportunities to leverage resources across entities are not fully exploited.”</p> <p>“However, DOJ, DHS, and ONDCP do not specifically hold field-based entities accountable for coordinating with each other.”</p>
9. Justice and Treasury Asset Forfeiture	<p>2 programs</p>	<p>2 agencies</p> <p>DOJ and Treasury</p>	<p>\$2.2 billion in total for FY 2011</p>	<p>“Both the DOJ and Treasury Department operate asset forfeiture programs that are designed to prevent and reduce crime through the seizure and forfeiture of assets.”</p> <p>“Since 2003, Justice and Treasury have made limited progress in sharing storage facilities or contracts, and have not fully explored the possibility of coordinating the management of their assets that could be consolidated to achieve efficiencies, effectiveness, and cost savings.”</p> <p>“GAO’s analysis ...showed that about 23 to 40 percent of Marshals and Treasury’s contracted facilities for these three categories are within 20 miles or less of one another. For example, 40 percent of</p>

				Treasury contracted vehicle storage facilities are located 20 miles or less from a Marshals contracted vehicle storage facility.”
10. Dissemination of Technical Research Reports				<p>“The Department of Commerce’s National Technical Information Service (NTIS) was established in 1950 and tasked with collecting and distributing certain reports.”</p> <p>Despite the fact that 75 percent of these reports are available on other public sources, and 95 percent of those are available for free, NTIS continues to charge the public, and even other federal agencies, for these reports.</p> <p>“Specifically, GAO estimated that approximately 621,917, or about 74 percent, of the 841,502 reports were readily available from one of the other four publicly available sources GAO searched</p> <p>“The source that most often had the reports GAO was searching for was another website located at http://www.Google.com.”</p>
11. Geospatial Investments		31 federal departments and agencies	“Interior estimated the federal government invests billions of dollars in geospatial data annually and reported that duplication among investments is common.”	“Until the FGDC, federal departments and agencies, and OMB decide that investments in geospatial information are a priority [...] investments will remain uncoordinated, and federal agencies will continue to acquire duplicative geospatial information and waste taxpayer dollars.”
12. Export Promotion		3 agencies Commerce SBA Ex-Im Bank	\$350 million in export promotion and \$7 billion in financing assistance to small businesses.	<p>“Some SBA services overlap with Commerce counseling services and Export-Import Bank financing programs.”</p> <p>“These overlapping services can be confusing for small businesses and may result in an inefficient use of government resources.”</p>
13. International Broadcasting	43 of the Broadcastin	Broadcasting Board of	Total cost of maintaining the 43	“GAO found that nearly two-thirds of the BBG language services [...] overlap with a language service offered by another BBG

	g Board of Governors' language services	Governors	overlapping language services is \$149 million.	entity.” 20% of BBG appropriations are duplicative.
14. Rural Water Infrastructure	3 programs	2-USDA and EPA	Combined funding of \$4.3 billion	“Funding for rural water and wastewater infrastructure is fragmented across the three federal programs GAO reviewed [...] leading to program overlap and potential duplication of effort by communities that apply for funding from the programs.”
15. Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs	76 programs 22 drug abuse <u>treatment</u> 21 drug abuse <u>prevention</u> 13 drug abuse prevention & treatment	10 agencies	\$4.5 billion spent in FY 2012	“There was evidence of overlap across 59 programs (nearly 80 percent).” 29 drug abuse prevention and treatment programs reported that they had <u>no</u> coordination with other federal agencies and programs.
16. Higher Education Assistance	21 programs	4 federal agencies	Department of Education: \$141.8 billion Treasury: \$25 billion in tax revenue foregone Veterans Affairs: \$7.4 billion Department of Defense: \$531 million	“The fragmented nature of federal higher education assistance may make it difficult for some families to understand and make the best use of this assistance.” If the Department of Veterans Affairs had coordinated with the Department of Education it may have avoided a 6% increase in improper payments.
17. Veterans' Employment Training	6 programs	2 Departments Labor and Veterans Affairs	\$1.2 billion in FY2011	“Despite these efforts, the unemployment rate for veterans who have recently separated from the military is higher than that for other veterans and nonveterans.” The Dept of Labor is requesting that Congress defund the Labor's Veterans' Workforce Investment Program “According to Labor officials, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program staff participation at DOD job fairs reduces the amount of time available for their primary duties, such as providing

				intensive services to program participants.”
18. Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Fees		USDA and Customs and Border Patrol	\$325 million in potential cost savings	USDA does not charge some classes of fees that it has the authority to charge, and does not set its fees at rates that would cover program costs.
19. Crop Insurance		USDA	\$1.2 billion in potential cost savings	Congress should set a limit on the premium subsidies for crop insurance as it does for other farm programs or reduce premium subsidy rates for all participants.
20. Joint Basing		2005 BRAC planned consolidation of 26 military installations to 12 joint bases	\$249 million over a 20-year period	<p>“DOD reduced its 20-year cost savings estimate for joint basing by ~90% --from \$2.3 billion (2005) to \$249 million (2012)”</p> <p>DOD decided to defer near-term savings to better ensure long-term success—contradicting its 2005 recommendation that joint basing would produce cost savings that would <i>immediately</i> exceed the implementation costs</p> <p>“OSD officials said they did not have a plan in place to guide the efforts to achieve cost savings and efficiencies ... because joint basing is a relatively new initiative and they are still resolving implementation issues and working to achieve cultural change”</p> <p>OSD developed a data collection tool to capture cost savings information, but the tool does not exclude costs and savings that are not specific to joint basing, so no accurate accounting of cost savings is available</p>
21. Department of Energy Isotope Program			“GAO is unable to quantify the potential for further financial benefits because Isotope Program officials have not performed the assessments needed to determine the market value or what customers are willing to pay for most of the isotopes it sells.”	DOE has not formally assessed the value of the isotopes that it sells.
22. Additional			GAO estimates the	“GAO has long reported that a broader

Opportunities to Improve IRS Enforcement of Tax Law		IRS	IRS could recover some portion of the tax gap, which in 2006 was \$450 billion.	opportunity to address the tax gap involves simplifying the tax code, as complexity can cause taxpayer confusion resulting in unintentional noncompliance as well as provide opportunities to hide willful noncompliance.”
23. Agencies’ Use of Strategic Sourcing		4 agencies	GAO explains that in the private sector, strategic sourcing saves 10% or more.	“In fiscal year 2011, the Departments of Defense (DOD), Homeland Security (DHS), Energy, and Veterans Affairs (VA) accounted for 80 percent of the \$537 billion in federal procurement spending, but reported managing about 5 percent, or \$25.8 billion of their procurements, through strategic sourcing efforts and reported a combined savings of \$1.8 billion.”
24. Opportunities to Help Reduce Government Satellite Program Costs		5 agencies	“savings estimates reported to date are in the hundreds of millions of dollars over the life of the projects”	“Moreover, although federal statute and the U.S. Space Transportation Policy were intended to support the U.S. industrial base by requiring the government to use U.S. commercial launch services, the policy significantly limits the government’s ability to take advantage of available foreign commercial launch options for hosted payloads because many commercial satellite providers routinely use launch vehicles from other countries.”
25. Medicare Prepayment Controls		CMS	GAO cannot quantify the potential savings, but found over \$114 million that could easily have been saved.	“The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has estimated that \$29.6 billion—or 8.5 percent—of the \$350 billion in payments for services provided to about 37 million beneficiaries in the traditional Medicare fee-for-service program in 2012 were improper.”
26. Medicaid Supplemental Payments		Medicaid	“GAO’s analysis of providers for which data are available suggests that savings could be in the hundreds of millions, or billions, of dollars.”	“GAO’s analysis of the available information suggests many states are making Medicaid payments to many providers that are far in excess of those providers’ costs of providing Medicaid services.”
27. Medicare Advantage Quality Bonus Payment Demonstration		Medicare	“Although the demonstration is now in its second year,...HHS still has an opportunity to achieve significant cost savings— about \$2 billion, based on GAO’s analysis of CMS	“Whereas about one-third of MA enrollees would have been covered by contracts eligible for a bonus in 2012 and 2013 under PPACA, about 90 percent of enrollees are covered by such contracts in these 2 years under the demonstration.”

			actuaries' estimates—if it cancels the demonstration for 2014.”	
28. Checked Baggage Screening		TSA	“If TSA applied a 75 percent cost share to all reimbursable agreements ... from fiscal years 2012 through 2030, the agency’s anticipated expenditures for these modifications would be reduced by a total of roughly \$300 million.”	“TSA enters into reimbursable agreements whereby the agency assumes financial responsibility for a portion—generally 90 percent—of an eligible facility modification project’s costs to install baggage screening systems”
29. Cloud Computing		7 agencies	GAO estimates that millions of dollars could be saved if agencies properly implement the “cloud-first” policy	“For example, of the plans we reviewed, 5 did not include estimated costs for implementing the new cloud service, 5 did not include major milestones, 11 did not include performance goals, and 14 did not include plans to retire the associated legacy systems.”
30. Information Technology Operations and Maintenance		5 agencies	GAO sees ‘the potential for savings on billions of dollars in IT investments”	“Regarding why DOD and VA had not developed policies and were not performing analyses, officials from those agencies stated that in lieu of conducting operational analyses, they assessed the performance of steady state investments as part of developing their annual plans and business cases submitted to OMB (called exhibit 300s). While GAO previously reported that using the exhibit 300 process can be a tool to manage investment performance, GAO’s analysis showed that the process does not fully address 11 of the 17 factors.”
31. Tobacco Taxes			“Taking these two actions will address further revenue losses that amounted to an estimated \$615 million to \$1.1 billion between April 2009 and September 2011.”	“According to GAO’s analysis and interviews with government, industry, and nongovernmental organization representatives, the tax disparities created incentives for price-sensitive consumers to substitute higher-taxed products with lower-taxed products, particularly as manufacturers have made changes so that their lower-tax products more directly substitute for the higher-tax products.”