

Introduction: The Terms of Reference

The Panel's Terms of Reference appears in Appendix I. Its essential charge is to make recommendations that will help the Navy to deploy effective computational resources, at reasonable cost, in the 1990's and beyond. The Terms of Reference was developed after the DoD report to Congress in 1984 and before the submission in late 1987 of the Development Options Paper (DOP). The DoD report stated that the Navy would phase out its current generation of standard embedded computer resources by 1990. The DOP described potential approaches to NGCR.

The Terms of Reference was approved in April 1987. Between approval in April 87 and study initiation in April 1988, the NGCR program was established and the DOP submitted. On 29 April 1988, a Navy Decision Briefing resulted in the approval by OP-098 and OP-094 of the approach recommended by SPAWAR and the establishment of \$140M in funding for the NGCR Program. The approach is an open systems architecture with published interface standards derived through joint Navy/industry working groups.

The approved approach included many program challenges as expressed by NAVSEA and NAVAIR. It was recognized that there was a need for the NRAC Panel on NGCR to validate the technical approach. The Navy needed an independent look at the issues raised in the DOP and a validation of its conclusions. As the study progressed, it became clear that not only some of the DOP's conclusions but also some of the assumptions given in the Operational Requirement were highly questionable. Accordingly, the panel expanded its efforts to address these issues as well.

Overall, this report addresses all issues in the Terms of Reference and makes recommendations in terms of modifications to the current NGCR program and to Navy policies.

The Panel's briefing program is reviewed in Appendix II.