

IT Program Assessment CBP –TECS Modernization

Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the CBP TECS program (formally referred to as TECS Modernization) during September 2011. Program observations include the following:

The CBP TECS program seeks to modernize a key system for border enforcement and the sharing of information about people who are inadmissible or may pose a threat to the security of the United States. TECS plays an essential role in the screening of travelers entering the United States and in supporting the screening requirements of other Federal agencies.

TECS has had significant accomplishments to include:

- Acquisition Review Board approval of acquisition decisions
- DHS approval of acquisition documentation
- Achieving full federal staffing
- Obtaining DHS Resource Allocation Decision (RAD)
- Publishing the CBP Primary and Secondary Processing Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)
- Establishing communication with stakeholders including online communities
- Conducting Integrated Governance Committee and Executive Steering Committee meetings

Assessment

The CBP TECS program has made great progress in addressing the concerns raised in the 2010 program review. As shown above, they successfully published required Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) and they are no longer understaffed. The programs management strategy is better positioned for success, using an incremental approach characterized by:

- Decreasing risk and user impact by separating the program into logical projects
- Providing immediate benefit to user community by modernizing Secondary in initial project
- Building a program organization model and focusing on the difficult challenges with early projects
- Ensuring that subsequent projects benefit from lessons learned in early projects
- Ensuring that subsequent projects migrate from legacy TECS onto the modernized platform
- Projects are time phased to align with budget and capability requirements

The CBP TECS program is focusing on the Data Center migration effort, which is faced with significant risk, because it is a large, complex effort that must be accomplish while

still maintaining operational effectiveness. Unplanned work for legacy TECS systems could pull personnel off of modernization tasks. The CBP TECS program management team has identified these risks and identified alternate resources and planning efforts to mitigate risk consequences. The CIO assesses the CBP TECS Modernization program as Level 4 - Moderately Low Risk.

Score: 4