



IT Program Assessment TSA- Security Technology Integrated Program (STIP) (2010)

Review

The DHS Chief Information Officer conducted a comprehensive program review of the TSA - Security Technology Integrated Program (STIP) on April 15, 2010. The STIP program, a joint effort co-funded by the Passenger Screening Program (PSP) and Electronic Baggage Screening Program (EBSP), is a TSA-wide Enterprise system that delivers data from passenger and baggage screening security technologies (in a common format) in order to facilitate data interchange/exchange through a single network for effective communication and metrics reporting. STIP has Enterprise Management, Configuration Management, Resource Management and Equipment Maintenance capabilities.

To date, the program has successfully networked 300 pieces of Transportation Security Equipment (TSE) out of the approximate 16,000 TSEs located at 450 airports nationwide. Challenges such as competing Program priorities, shifting TSA direction, disparate TSE Operating Systems (OS), and newly deployed, non-STIP compliant technologies hinder a more rapid migration to STIP. The Program Management Office maintains a high level of confidence that cost and schedule will remain as planned. Findings during the review are as follows:

- Most of the remaining planned modifications to the TSEs will be a retrofit of existing equipment to enable networking capability.
- This program predates the adoption of National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) standards and utilizes the S&T standards for imaging. It also utilizes XML and does not have a date set for conversion to NIEM.
- There may be bandwidth issues as a result of new STIP capabilities, however TSA is in the discovery phase to determine whether or not this will be a significant issue.
- The current increment is adding enhanced security controls to allow remote access to the system.
- The planned ability to utilize remote access procedures will enable the program to conduct proactive maintenance, push out new capabilities to the equipment and reduce mean TSE downtime.
- The program enablement schedule indicates that during fiscal year 2010, many deployment/installation activities are being initiated. This schedule is viewed as aggressive, yet achievable by the Program Office and the Component leadership.
- The funding profile indicates that the majority of the O&M contains modification costs to existing technology. The 15,700 remaining TSEs will be upgraded by the end of FY2013.

Assessment

The TSA- Security Technology Integration Program provides a critical mission capability at a relatively inexpensive cost. The program establishes a common data reporting system that works reliably and securely on multiple vendor OS platforms. It collects and standardizes unique TSE data in near-real time. The STIP IT Program Review surfaced cost and schedule concerns as the program rapidly deploys/installs numerous technology upgrades to existing TSEs. The program manager will provide the DHS CIO with a status update regarding these deployments at the end of the fiscal year so as to maintain departmental oversight during this critical phase.

Score: 4