

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Post Tracking System (PTS)

Why it's Needed

The FPS, a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), is responsible for providing security and law enforcement services for the roughly 9,000 federal facilities owned or leased by the General Services Administration. FPS contracts for at least 13,200 Protective Security Officers to stand post at over 2,500 Federal facilities nationwide. FPS currently manages and monitors Protective Security Officers (PSOs) via paper documentation, periodic inspections, and manual processes. This is inefficient and does not allow for a fully comprehensive determination that posts are staffed by the correct personnel, that those individuals have the required training and certifications, and that they are covering a post for the correct (and verifiable) periods of time. FPS Inspectors perform on site post inspections and certification audits to verify the contractor's submission, but due to FPS's limited manpower, only a fraction of the submissions and certifications can be verified each month.

What it Does

The Post Tracking System (PTS) provides the ability for FPS contract personnel to record their time and attendance as well as verify their certifications necessary to stand post using three factor authentication in an electronic system. The three factor authentication (PIV card, PIN and a biometric) is a verifiable means that the contractor personnel logging into the PTS is the correct person.

The PTS will allow FPS personnel to remotely (through implementation of a biometric and PIV card), verify guard posts are staffed as required and track PSO certifications to ensure that FPS posts are manned by qualified and cleared PSOs at all times. The PTS will automatically gather and store PSO management data deemed necessary to validate contract invoices, provide management reports, and analyze performance.

The Value

The PTS provides a capability essential to the FPS operational mission and addresses identified contract compliance time and attendance gaps through the use of biometric technologies. This system will ensure that posts are manned in accordance with contract requirements and send alerts to necessary individuals when there is an issue so it may be addressed in an expeditious manner. The PTS will ensure that PSOs have the appropriate certifications to stand post and operate required equipment for that post. The PTS will provide data necessary to produce reports and run analysis to improve efficiencies and compliance.



Canine Law Enforcement Officer and Handler

Next Steps

New technologies are continuously being developed that allow these technologies and capabilities to be smaller, light weight, faster, cheaper, and more accurate. The DHS S&T remains vigilant in driving biometric technology development to meet and enhance DHS operational and mission needs. The DHS S&T remains committed to providing DHS operational and technical requirements to the developers and manufacturers, testing current systems in laboratory environments to verify that they meet the Best Practices and Standards and facilitate pilot testing on current and emerging biometric technologies in new and innovative ways giving our agents and first responders the leading edge against terrorists and criminals.



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To learn more about Post Tracking System (PTS), contact SandTFRG@hq.dhs.gov.