



**Privacy Impact Assessment Update  
for the  
Border Network (BorderNet)  
and  
Northeast Test Bed (NET-B)  
(formerly the Border and Transportation Security  
Network (BTSNet) Spiral 1)**

**DHS/PIA/S&T-001(a)**

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### Abstract

The Border Network (BorderNet) (formerly named the Border and Transportation Security Network, or BTSNet) is a technology test bed developed and maintained by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) located at the United States-Mexico border. The purpose of the test bed is to test and evaluate technologies in an operational environment that assist DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) field agents in securing our nation's borders. S&T is updating the initial Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) (published January 2006) to reflect the addition of the mobile enrollment technology and surveillance cameras, and the deployment of an additional test bed site at the United States-Canada border, called Northeast Test Bed (NET-B).

### Introduction

The original BorderNet PIA (originally named the BTSNet PIA) documents the BorderNet project which provides an operational test bed to develop, evaluate, and demonstrate technological capabilities for securing the U.S. border against the entry of terrorists and their instruments of terror, criminals, and illegal aliens into the country.<sup>1</sup> The test bed enables S&T and CBP to test technologies in operationally relevant conditions. One of the goals for the test bed was, and continues to be to provide technological solutions and capabilities that strengthen situational awareness during CBP field agent operations. Given its value to CBP field agents, BorderNet will continue to be used as a test bed site to conduct operational tests on technologies that support CBP operations.

The BorderNet project "Spiral 1" consisted of the test and evaluation of a mobile database query capability. This capability uses mobile technology (vehicle-mounted mobile data computers (MDCs)) to physically extend law enforcement biographic and biometric database query capabilities, traditionally limited to a field station function. This system enables field agents to conduct biographic or biometric queries on individuals apprehended or detained at the border through the mobile devices. CBP field agents may collect surname, first name, father's surname, mother's surname, date of birth, alien number, gender, hair color, eye color, height, and weight directly from detainees to initiate the query. Database queries are transmitted through the mobile devices via wireless communications. Mobile database queries allow field agents to more quickly assess their operational and security posture by identifying individuals on terrorist watch lists, known criminals, and repeat illegal border crossing offenders. Under CBP authorities, CBP field agents may detain individuals who are observed or suspected of illegal border crossings or other illegal border activities. CBP field agents at the BorderNet test bed found the mobile query capability to be valuable to their operations and will continue to operate the system for testing purposes, as documented in the PIA published in 2006. Additionally, S&T is deploying the mobile query system technology to the NET-B test site to conduct test and evaluation activities on the technology and determine the operational utility and effectiveness in a new operational environment under different operating conditions.

BorderNet and NET-B are active test bed sites where S&T develops, deploys, and evaluates new border security capabilities. To build off of the mobile query system, S&T will test and evaluate the

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<sup>1</sup> The original PIA *Border and Transportation Security Network (BTSNet) Spiral 1*, January 18, 2006, can be found here: [http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy\\_pia\\_btsnet.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_pia_btsnet.pdf)



mobile enrollment system at the BorderNet test site. The mobile enrollment system allows CBP agents to collect biographic data such as name, date of birth, place of birth, and biometric information such as 10-print fingerprints, and a photographic image from detainees and enroll them into the Enforcement Case Management System (ENFORCE) database.<sup>2</sup> Similar to the mobile query system, the mobile enrollment system enables CBP agents to enroll detainees into the ENFORCE database from the field, rather than transporting them to a field station. Currently, enrollment of detainees into ENFORCE is a standard CBP field station procedure. The mobile enrollment system is only tested at the BorderNet test bed; S&T is not testing this at the NET-B test bed.

Within the BorderNet and NET-B test bed sites, S&T is also testing surveillance cameras that capture long range images to monitor cross border activities. Operationally, the camera data is used to validate sensor alarms which are triggered by movement or other activity on the border. The cameras are automatically directed to the sensor alarm location to validate the cause of the alarm. As the camera technologies are for testing purposes only, S&T does not use the camera data for law enforcement purposes.

BorderNet and NET-B do not store any collected information or returned query results; they are merely access points that allow entry into existing database systems routinely utilized by border agents and other law enforcement organizations. Neither the mobile query nor enrollment system creates a collection database. Biographic and biometric queries are already being conducted by CBP; the system simply enables the field agents to conduct the query remotely, using the mobile device.

## Reason for the PIA Update

### Mobile Enrollment Technology

To build off of the mobile query technology, S&T is adding the mobile enrollment technology to their border technology test bed sites. The mobile enrollment technology consists of a mobile computer with enrollment system software, a fingerprint capture device, and a camera to record the information necessary for an ENFORCE record. The fingerprint capture device is the same device used in the station environment. This effort integrates and tests the components of the ENFORCE enrollment in a mobile configuration. The mobile enrollment technology enables CBP field agents to enroll detainees into the ENFORCE database from the field, rather than physically transporting them to a field station.

ENFORCE is a database repository owned and operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that supports the law enforcement activities of certain DHS components. The mobile enrollment capability interfaces to the ENFORCE Apprehension Booking Module which is an event-based application that integrates and supports law enforcement arrest and booking functions including apprehension processing, fingerprint and photographic identification, recording of allegations and charges, and preparation and printing of appropriate forms. It is used to track the apprehension of individuals (both non-U.S. Citizens and U.S. Citizens) who have been arrested for violating U.S. customs and other federal criminal laws, and/or violations of administrative or criminal provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A typical use case scenario for the mobile enrollment system is as follows: An individual is

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<sup>2</sup> The PIA and SORN for ENFORCE can be found here: <http://www.dhs.gov/privacy-documents-ice#14>.



detained at the border for illegally crossing the border. A CBP field agent uses the mobile query capability to determine whether the individual is currently enrolled in the ENFORCE database for previously violating immigration law. The agent then uses the mobile enrollment capability to create a new case for the individual by quickly and efficiently enrolling the individual in the ENFORCE database – a new case is created each time an individual is apprehended. CBP can then use that to cross-reference an individual that has been apprehended multiple times. The enrollment capability allows CBP agents to collect biographic data such as name, date of birth, place of birth, and biometric information such as 10-print fingerprints, and a photographic image which are submitted remotely to ENFORCE. The individual is then transported to a CBP detention facility for further processing. The goal of this technology is to improve operational efficiency and reduce processing time of detainees.

Similar to the mobile query system, the mobile enrollment system does not create a new database. Detainees are regularly enrolled into the ENFORCE database by CBP, but currently it is done at the field station. The mobile enrollment technology enables the enrollment process to be done remotely, in the field.

### Northeast Test Bed (NET-B)

S&T deployed a new test bed site located at the U.S.-Canada border called NET-B. This test bed includes identical technologies as are found in the BorderNet test bed, including the mobile query and enrollment system and surveillance cameras. All technology details have been documented in this document or in the BorderNet PIA published in 2006. CBP field agents operate the technology as it is documented in the PIA, and employ all the privacy protective measures that are used in the BorderNet project. Such privacy protections include:

- Maintaining the mobile query system as a standalone system that only connects to the ENFORCE database; it does not connect or share information with any other internal or external DHS systems;
- Employing access control measures and password protections to prevent unauthorized access to or use of the system;
- Not storing any information on the mobile query system itself; the system merely acts as an access point into the databases being queried;
- Maintaining audit logs of uses; and
- Employing encryption technologies to protect the electronic transmission of data.

### Surveillance Cameras

One of the technologies employed at the BorderNet and NET-B test bed sites are surveillance cameras. The cameras typically capture long range images to monitor cross border activities. The cameras work in conjunction with detection sensor alarms which are triggered by movement or other activity at the border. Operationally, the camera data is used to validate sensor alarms, specifically to validate what triggered the alarm: vehicle, human, or animal. The cameras are not intended for the use of identifying physical characteristics of an individual. Due to their long range use, the cameras produce low-resolution images that do not enable operators to identify individuals by facial characteristics, license plate



information, or other PII. The video images are stored and used by S&T to assess the technology for detection and tracking. They are not stored for law enforcement purposes; however, the data is available to law enforcement should it be necessary.

## Privacy Impact Analysis

### The System and the Information Collected and Stored within the System

The BorderNet mobile enrollment technology increases the capabilities provided to the user but does not increase the type or amount of PII already collected or stored during the interdiction process. Detainee information is routinely entered into the ENFORCE system under existing CBP authority and operations. Prior or subsequent to enrollment, agents can use query capabilities to determine if an individual is a repeat violator or if an individual is registered in any criminal databases. Currently a station level activity, this added mobile enrollment capability makes the process available to the agents out on the field. The enrollment capability collects biographic data such as name, date of birth, place of birth, 10-print fingerprints, and a photographic image that are submitted to ENFORCE. Neither test bed stores any query or enrollment information on local servers. This capability is intended to improve operations efficiency and may reduce some detainee processing time.

No information about an individual is collected by the surveillance cameras. The cameras are intended for long range use which result in low resolution and cannot capture images that show identifying characteristics of a person, license plate numbers, or other PII. Camera images are not used as evidence in law enforcement proceedings.

### Uses of the System and the Information

CBP field agents use the mobile enrollment capability to enroll detainees determined to have violated immigration laws into ENFORCE, a process that is traditionally performed at CBP field stations. Information used for enrolling detainees includes biographic information such as name, date of birth, place of birth, parents' names, personal descriptive information, and biometric information such as fingerprints and a photograph. As part of the current ENFORCE enrollment process, the database performs a criminal check on detainees. Mobile enrollment is only an access point to ENFORCE. After enrollment, no other action occurs under this pilot. CBP field agents may take further action, in accordance with their standard operating procedures and legal authorities. The mobile enrollment system computer utilizes at rest encryption and it connects to ENFORCE via a virtual private network that requires a two-factor authentication process for access. No information is stored on the device once it is submitted to ENFORCE.

The surveillance cameras work in conjunction with detection sensor alarms. Operationally, the CBP field agents use the camera data to validate sensor alarms in real time, specifically to validate what triggered the alarm: vehicle, human, or animal. The cameras are not intended for the use of identifying physical characteristics of an individual. Due to their long range use, the cameras produce low-resolution images that do not enable operators to identify individuals by facial characteristics, license plate information, or other PII. S&T uses the camera data to test and evaluate the utility of the surveillance



cameras and determine whether they have the range and resolution necessary to provide valuable input to the detection systems.

### **Retention**

The information used for enrolling detainees is not retained by the mobile enrollment technology. Any information retained by the ENFORCE database will follow the ENFORCE retention schedule and are considered outside the scope of this project.

No information about an individual is collected by the surveillance cameras. The camera footage may be retained for up to 30 days or until the camera system is full and records over itself.

### **Internal Sharing and Disclosure**

The internal data sharing and disclosure has not changed. The BorderNet and NET-B systems do not retain data, and therefore, do not share data with any other internal DHS systems.

### **External Sharing and Disclosure**

The external data sharing and disclosure has not changed. The BorderNet and NET-B systems do not retain data, and therefore, do not share data with any other external systems.

### **Notice**

Notice is provided by the DHS/ICE-011 - Immigration Enforcement Operational Records System (ENFORCE) System of Records Notice (SORN).

BorderNet and NET-B data collection does not require additional notice prior to data collection. Consistent to the original PIA, all data collection for enrollment and subsequent identity resolution data queries are intended to help CBP agents to resolve identities of any detained individuals. All detentions of individuals are based on reasonable suspicion of a violation of law, in accordance to CBP procedures and legal authority.

### **Individual Access, Redress, and Correction**

There are no changes related to access, redress, and correction of data with this update and no additional privacy risks have been identified. All information is collected directly from the detained individual and is assumed to be correct at the time of collection. The BorderNet and NET-B systems do not retain any information. The information collected by the mobile enrollment system is submitted to the ENFORCE database, where it is retained. Individuals must contact the ENFORCE administrators for information on access, redress, and correction of their information.

BorderNet and NET-B allow agents to query existing data systems from the field. The procedures for correcting erroneous information in those systems are established by each individual law enforcement database. If, during an encounter, it is determined that information returned from a database query is erroneous, the detainee is transported to the Border Patrol Station for further processing and identity resolution. Except for enrolling detainees into ENFORCE, BorderNet and NET-B cannot add or change information in the databases it accesses.

No identifiable images are captured by the surveillance cameras. Therefore, individuals



requesting access, redress, or corrections to the recordings will have to provide additional information like time and location to view the correct video. The video is retained for up to 30 days or until the camera system is full and records over itself.

### **Technical Access and Security**

No changes have been made to the technical access and security as a result of this update. To protect against tampering of information in transit or unauthorized access to the information, 256-bit AES encryption is used for all data transmitted over any wireless network segment. No data is recorded on the mobile device.

BorderNet and NET-B log all queries processed by the system and record the following information: date, time, location, and requesting agent. The logs are used to monitor system usage for auditing purposes. PII is never removed or stored externally by BorderNet or NET-B. Both the BorderNet and NET-B servers are located in locked server rooms with only authorized users accessing the information.

### **Technology**

The mobile enrollment capability provides an access point for field entry of data and data query into ENFORCE and criminal databases. The mobile enrollment employs the same fingerprint capture device and system software currently used for enrollment processing at CBP stations. The capability involves the integration of this hardware and software with a mobile computer and wireless data communications network into a portable kit to enable agents to bring this capability to the field. The portability of the mobile device allows agents in the field to enroll a detainee rather than bring them to the station creating a faster and more efficient method of detecting criminals at the border.

The surveillance cameras capture long range images to monitor cross border activities. The cameras are fixed in place, and are used in conjunction with operational field sensors. All camera data are transmitted using 256-bit AES encryption over wireless network segments. Data from cameras are stored up to 30 days or until the camera system is full and records over itself; all data are used in real-time to validate sensor alarms.



The BorderNet and NET-B test bed sites will continue to be used by CBP field agents to conduct operational tests on technologies that support their mission. The mobile query and mobile enrollment technologies being tested do not introduce new processes or create new databases of information; they merely facilitate and provide remote capabilities to processes that CBP already executes. The surveillance cameras provide additional support to the surveillance cameras that are currently used at CBP borders checkpoints. S&T and CBP continue to exercise the privacy protections documented in both the original PIA and this PIA update.

### Responsible Official

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### Approval Signature

Original signed and on file at the DHS Privacy Office.

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