



IT Program Assessment

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Analysis and Operations (A&O) Common Operating Picture (COP)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a program health review of the Analysis and Operations, Common Operating Picture program. This assessment represents the program's status through March 2012.

Description and Background:

The Common Operational Picture (COP) is the core DHS situational awareness (SA) capability for effective decision making, rapid staff actions, and appropriate mission execution. It is an integrated SA application that supports the DHS mission of responding to threats and hazards to the nation by collecting, sharing and displaying multi-dimensional information that facilitates collaborative planning, and responses to these threats. The National Operations Center (NOC) COP capability supports White House, DHS Secretary and Deputy Secretary, DHS operations leadership, Federal, state, tribal, local decision makers and stakeholders by providing consistent, timely, and accurate reporting of critical information for events of national and international significance. In FY09, DHS identified three key technology enhancements to be integrated into A&O COP program: 1) improving NOC Senior Watch Officer (SWO) data infusion; 2) auto-ingestion of data from multiple sources; and 3) creation of a consolidated, centralized data repository. The benefits of these enhancements are real-time, situational awareness, alerts, advanced analytics, data visualization, and collaboration with the DHS Geospatial Information Infrastructure.

Current program efforts focus on operation and maintenance of the system as well as ongoing technical refresh activities.

Risks and Issues:

The following risks are associated with the A&O COP program:

- If Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) NextGen dependencies and release schedule are not planned for, there could be delays in the deployment of the COP negatively impacting its functionality and performance.
- If there is a delay in the approval of key software products, then COP deployment schedule will be delayed.
- If there is no classified COP solution, NOC must rely on manual reporting and email thereby impeding effective communication during nationally significant events.
- If NOC COP does not have Single Sign-On (SSo) authentication, the NOC COP upgrade will not have the functionality necessary to authenticate users.



- If a complete list of COP interdependent systems is not identified, system certification and accreditation (C&A) activities will be negatively impacted.

Mitigation Strategy:

The COP program has risk mitigation strategies in place, to include:

- Coordinating with the HSIN release team, clearly mapping and communicating HSIN dependencies and scheduling activities with respect to HSIN phase deployments.
- Capturing requirements for the classified COP solution in anticipation of available funding and exploring various funding sources
- Having the Information System Security Officer (ISSO) work with the Office of Operations Coordination and Planning (OPS) leadership to staff this activity, establishing appropriate processes and funding to begin early start of C&A
- Coordinating with the HSIN team to ensure interoperability of an Open Single Sign-on (SSo) solution

Assessment:

Moving technical oversight of the program under the auspices of the OCIO resulted in a technical assessment that improved the probability of programmatic success. The development will rely upon an agile sprint cycle with evaluations for each sprint performed by the NOC Operations user community. Implementing the Federal CIO's 25 Point Implementation Plan, the COP PMO is currently working with DHS Enterprise Architecture team to identify areas that can be integrated with other DHS systems. There are currently no open TechStat issues with the program.

Although the identified mitigation strategies are in place, this program will continue to be monitored to ensure successful execution. The CIO assesses the A&O COP program as **Medium Risk**.

Score: 3