

IT Program Assessment CBP – Integrated Fixed Towers (IFT)

Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the CBP Integrated Fixed Towers program during September 2011. Program observations include the following:

IFT will help establish and maintain effective control of land borders between ports of entry by detecting, identifying and classifying illegal entries into the U.S. IFT will facilitate the efficient and effective response to illegal entries by providing operational situational awareness and significantly improving agent/officer safety. IFT is building upon the SBINet investment in fixed tower surveillance and is using applicable program artifacts to establish needed capabilities. IFT research has established that advances in commercially available sensors can perform the required mission. IFT has analyzed information from the Army, Night Vision & Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD), the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana, and the Space and Warfare Systems Center Pacific organization.

- IFT has completed a Joint Intelligence Support Plan (ISP) for use of IFT information
- IFT participates in the DHS-wide Common Operating Picture (COP) collaboration effort (DHS CIO sponsored)
- Internal CBP coordination is used to support facility modifications as well as tower location and construction efforts

The risks identified by the program follow:

- Funding reductions to the original program baseline pose a risk to this program as well as requirements from potential counter intelligence requirements.
- There are moderate schedule challenges given the tasks of acquiring land for installing and maintaining the towers.

Assessment

Challenges remain concerning locating and maintaining in-place towers and associated surveillance technologies. Current oversight and component governance are improving, personnel capabilities are being improved, and stronger program management is now in place. The DHS CIO assessment is that the baselines for the SBINet derivative programs have improved and IFT should continue to success CIO will continue to monitor program health. The CIO assesses the CBP IFT program as level 3 – Medium Risk.

Score: 3