



# Homeland Security

## IT Program Assessment CBP- Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) Program (2010)

### Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the CBP- Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) Program on 15 March, 2010 with representatives from DHS OCIO, OCFO, PLCY and the Privacy Office, in addition to CBP. Essentially an x-ray machine, the Customs and Border Protection Agency purchases, tests and deploys various sizes of NII technologies to help CBP Officers safely inspect large and small conveyances for contraband and terrorist weapons before they cross United States Borders. With hundreds of Large-Scale NII systems and thousands of Small Scale NII technologies deployed at the US POEs, inspection time is close to 1/16<sup>th</sup> of the manual inspection time, substantially improving both the efficiency and effectiveness of the POE inspection process.

Major findings from the review include the following:

- Interoperability as a function was not part of the original NII program plan. Currently, inspection information collected at individual POE through NII technology is not shared with other NII systems.
- Each NII system requires on-site inspection officials.
- Mobile units allow for secure inspections at seaports where fixed NII units cannot be installed.
- Program Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) weighed manual inspections at all ports against NII technology driven inspections. Other alternatives were found to be less effective than NII in meeting the mission needs.
- Given funding constraints, Program Management Office has efficiently and effectively deployed new and enhanced NII systems at various key POEs.
- The current program inspects cargo that is imported, and does not inspect exported conveyances or cargo.

### Assessment

The Non-Intrusive Inspection program is a fairly mature technical program and it covers a significant number of the identified US Ports of Entry. Reduced program funding presents one of the larger obstacles to full capability deployment in addition to contract award protests. CBP has been creatively finding solutions to its challenges and continues to look for ways to make efficient use of resources. Funding projections may force the CBP to make difficult trade-off decisions in the future regarding the NII program.

**Score: 4**