

IT Program Assessment

ICE - Intelligence Fusion Systems (IFS)

Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the ICE IFS program during September 2011. Program observations include the following:

The IFS supports multiple investigative and intelligence operations by providing unclassified information for data collections, data mining, analysis, and reporting. The IFS assists ICE Special Agents (SA), Enforcement and Removal Officers (ERO), and Intelligence Analysts in enforcing United States Immigration and Customs Laws. In addition, IFS assists the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in detecting benefit fraud and helps the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) discover patterns and new techniques used by US Code (USC) violators. IFS is a Steady State (O&M) investment and operates on a legacy architecture, future plans for IFS include a modernization initiative to upgrade the technology. The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) acquisition plan for IFS has been reviewed by the DHS Chief Information Officer through the Acquisition Review Board (ARB) on April 8, 2010 and was approved with no additional conditions.

IFS has the following capability and service gaps:

- Establish the capability to search multiple databases and assemble information into a common analytical environment.
- Establish the capability to search and analyze information obtained from Document Exploitation missions.
- Enable nationwide access for users who have authorized accounts and secure network connections.
- Enable a single, integrated environment to analyze data from criminal investigations and law enforcement intelligence.
- Become more compliant with DHS and ICE architecture models.

Assessment

Future plans for IFS include a modernization initiative to upgrade the technology to create better database and search capabilities, and to become more compliant with the DHS and ICE architectures. Current plans include expanding mapping capabilities within the system to better integrate database functions. Based on the portfolio review dated June 6, 2011, it is recommended that the program continue as planned with the following rationale — the Program continues in O&M and continues to demonstrate execution of requirements. The CIO assesses the ICE IFS program as a Level 4 - Moderately Low Risk.

Score: 4