



# Homeland Security

## IT Program Assessment ICE- Student & Exchange Visitor Information System II (SEVIS II) Program (2010)

### Review

The DHS Chief Information Officer conducted a comprehensive program review of the ICE- Student & Exchange Visitor Information System II (SEVIS II) Program on November 16, 2009. SEVIS II is an upgraded IT capability to support the Student and Exchange Visitor (SEVP) program, which is a Congressionally-mandated and fee-funded program to administer, manage, and enforce current regulations for non-U. S. Citizens (non-USCs) who come to the U. S for student or exchange visitor purposes.

The SEVP tracks and monitors students, exchange visitors, and their dependents in the U.S. in F, M, or J classes of admission; maintains information on student or exchange visitor's programs of study or research; ensures that schools issue Certificate of Eligibility only for programs of study approved by SEVP; and SEVIS manages approval and oversight of schools certified by SEVP and sponsor programs designated by Department of State. SEVIS II will support SEVP by supporting SEVP business process, providing a person-centric view of the individual student or exchange visitor; providing critical, real-time information to law enforcement officials with enhanced integration of biometric IDs collected by US-VISIT, improved search/query capability, and elimination of the use of paper forms for immigration purposes; and will increase data integrity and provide greater interoperability among U.S. Government information systems.

SEVIS II will replace the original SEVIS, which is based on a transaction-based architecture fill file-based data interfaces for exchange of data; legacy SEVIS interoperability is severely limited, as are search/query and reporting capabilities.

### Assessment

DHS CIO found no significant issues with the manner in which ICE is managing SEVIS II. Effective and qualified program management is evident, requirements are being effectively captured and managed, progress is being demonstrated, plans going forward appear reasonable and well-founded, and risks are identified and manageable with mitigation plans in place. Follow-up actions to the Program Review include:

- The SEVIS II project is currently in breach of the original baseline that called for an October 2009 deployment. Rebaselining has not yet been finalized. The SEVIS II Project sent a baseline breach notification letter to the DHS Acquisition Program Management Division (APMD) in October 2009. The SEVIS II Project Management team is currently working a plan for breach remediation in support of rebaselining the SEVIS II project.
- Regarding potential vetting capability reuse, the SEVIS II Program Manager (PM) will review the DHS Credentialing Framework, Integrated Planning Guidance (IPG) on Person Screening, and the draft Screening Coordination Office (SCO) Vetting Workgroup recommendations, and based on that, the SEVIS II PM will provide the OCIO with (1) specific confirmation that SEVIS II is fully compliant with guidance and recommendations regarding screening and vetting, and (2) specifically identify guidance and recommendations where SEVIS II is not in compliance, with a justification for exception of plan to come into compliance.
- Regarding the recent independent review conducted on the SEVIS program, the SEVIS PM will schedule a briefing to be given to the DHS CIO on proposed SEVIS program rebaselining alternatives.
- Regarding the rebaselining, the APMD will work with the SEVIS PM to set a new Acquisition Review Board (ARB) meeting date (post-February 2010) for establishment of a new SEVIS Acquisition Program Baseline (APB).

**Score: 3**