



## IT Program Assessment TSA - Alien Flight Student Program (AFSP) (2010)

### Review Assessment

The DHS Chief Information Officer conducted a comprehensive program review of the TSA Alien Flight Student Program (AFSP) on January 8, 2010. The AFSP was chartered in November 2001 under the Aviation and Transportation Security Act to ensure that non U.S. citizens (non-USCs) seeking flight training by FAA regulated providers do not pose a threat to aviation or national security. AFSP conducts security threat assessments (STA) on non-USC candidates, maintains records on persons that may pose a threat or need additional processing or referrals, and refers STA results for further investigation or law enforcement action as appropriate. AFSP is funded by fees paid by applicants rather than by appropriated funds, and has been in sustainment (O&M) since 2005.

Major findings during the DHS CIO IT Program Review of the AFSP include the following.

- The AFSP program, because it is fee-funded, has been and continues to be subject to funding shortfalls due to lower than expected enrollments of non-USCs in flight schools.
- TSA, working with the DHS Screening Coordination Office, is pursuing a rulemaking for a Universal Fee Rule that will provide necessary flexibility for TSA to provide common screening, vetting, and IT support capabilities to the universe of programs supported by TTAC. Implementation of the Universal Fee Rule will help mitigate the funding issues AFSP has faced as a stand-alone fee-funded program.
- AFSP does not have a COOP site. Going forward, AFSP will be supported by the TSA Transportation Threat Analysis Center (TTAC) IT Modernization program, which will provide COOP capabilities for all supported programs.
- The AFSP program has potential performance and storage issues due to aging technology. These issues will be mitigated when the TTAC IT Modernization Program capabilities come on-line and support AFSP.
- AFSP is working closely and effectively with the TSA TTAC IT Modernization Program to ensure AFSP needs are met going forward.

### Mitigation Strategy

Findings and issues from the DHS CIO IT Program Review of the AFSP program are being effectively addressed by AFSP and TTAC management, and will be mitigated by the Universal Fee Rule and the implementation of the TSA TTAC IT Modernization Program.

**Score: 3**