

## **Minutes for September 19, 2002 Data Management Improvement Act (DMIA) Task Force Decision Meeting\***

### **Welcome**

- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Acting Deputy Commissioner, Michael Becraft, opened the meeting at 9 am with remarks that emphasized the importance of the work of the Task Force and its challenges.
- DMIA Task Force Chair, Michael Cronin, had a roll call; made opening remarks; reviewed the agenda; and opened the floor for general questions, comments, and opening remarks by Task Force members.
  - All Task Force members were present except representatives from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Transportation.
  - A certified public recorder recorded the meeting.
- After all opening remarks were made the Chair gave the floor to the Information Technology (IT) consultants.

### **IT presentation**

- IT consultants from Los Alamos National Laboratory presented a summary of their preliminary findings and fielded questions and comments from Task Force members.

### **Debate and voting on Task Force recommendations**

- DMIA Task Force Executive Director, Dominica Gutierrez, began the debate and voting on Task Force recommendations section of the meeting by reading into the record the Task Force's rules on voting.
  - Brief summary of rules: The Chair would attempt to reach consensus on each recommendation after a period of debate. If a consensus is not reached on any one of the recommendations, then there will be a provision in the report for a minority view for the recommendation in question. This method was chosen in order for all Task Force members' views to be reflected.
  - At this point in time, the Task Force had 37 proposals that were generated from four subcommittees (airport, seaport, northern land border and southern land border) and these proposals fell into 10 common topics (Facilities and Infrastructure; Resources Personnel and Equipment; Cooperation and Coordination; Enrolled Low Risk Facilitation Initiatives; Information Technology Systems; Quality of Life, Environmental and Local Impact; Entry; Exit; Documentary Requirements; and Miscellaneous). Task Force reviewed all proposals.

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\* Closed meeting per Federal Register Notice 02-21484.

- Task Force breaks for lunch at 1pm.
- After lunch, the Task Force members requested to begin this session by finalizing the wording and total number of proposals that were generated from the subcommittees.
  - After a thorough review, the Task Force agreed on the wording for the 37 proposals from the subcommittees, and added two more for a total of 39.
- Task Force members then debated on the 10 proposed Task Force recommendations for Congress regarding an entry/exit system.
  - After the debate and voting sessions were completed, the outcome was nine overall recommendations to Congress. Consensus was reached on all nine recommendations and no minority report was required. (For more information, see [www.ins.gov](http://www.ins.gov) and follow the Border Management link to the DMIA Task Force webpage.)
- INS Commissioner Jim Ziglar addressed the Task Force and reiterated his appreciation for the Task Force's hard work and its importance to the INS and the people of the United States.
- Chair read into the record the two public comments:
  - Chris Parker Enterprises commented that an automated entry/exit system should include:
    - Basic electronic record of each I-94 arrival record issued, including departure requirements;
    - I-94 should have a barcode that can easily be scanned in a timely and accurate manner upon departure;
    - Records of individuals must have unique identifiers and a 10 year immigration record on each person should be maintained in the database; and finally
    - The database should be available to all INS and State department personnel that determine admissibility and adjudicate benefits applications.
      - Limited access to the database should also be provided to state and local law enforcement officials.
  - Jim Kenaston from Mercer University had some comments concerning Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS):
    - There is no way to actively indicate that the student has arrived in the U.S., but has not reported to school to begin classes because a 31-day period after the student has arrived must first come to pass.
    - F-2 dependents are not required to present documents to school officials upon arrival at the school.

- Task Force members agree to meet for an administrative session on October 7 to make final edits to report to Congress and to view a presentation of the Workforce Analysis Model by Regal Decision Systems, Inc.
- Executive Director makes closing remarks.
- Chair closed the meeting at 6:15pm.