

Minutes for September 23, 2003 Data Management Improvement Act (DMIA) Task Force Decision Meeting*

Welcome

- Dominica Gutierrez, DMIA Task Force Executive Director, opened the meeting at 9:30 am by remarking that a lot of hard work had been done to reach this point and appreciated everyone's efforts. She outlined how the day would unfold and hoped that the Task Force will accomplish their objective of sending to Congress recommendations with the full consent of the members at this meeting. She then introduced Lora Ries, Director of Immigration Policy, Border and Transportation Security (BTS) Directorate, sitting in for the delayed DMIA Task Force Chair, C. Stewart Verdery, Assistant Secretary BTS Policy and Planning
- Ms. Ries emphasized the importance of the work of the Task Force and its challenges; complemented the Task Force on their 2002 Report to Congress; and looked forward to reading the 2003 Report to Congress.
- DMIA Task Force Chair, C. Stewart Verdery, 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 present
 - A certified public recorder recorded the meeting.
- After all opening remarks were made the Chair opened the floor to begin the deliberations over the Task Force recommendations to Congress.

Debate and voting on Task Force recommendations

- Mr. Verdery began the debate and voting on Task Force recommendations section of the meeting by giving the floor to Ms. Gutierrez to read into the record the Task Force's voting rules.
- Ms. Gutierrez:
 - 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 could be a provision in the report for a minority view for the recommendation in

* Closed meeting per Federal Register Notice 03-22431

question. This method was chosen in order for all Task Force members' views to be reflected (A minority report was not required as the group reached consensus on all recommendations).

- At this point the Task Force had 14 proposals that were generated from Task Force members' notes and observations during the various site visits and briefings that the Task Force had had during the past 7 months. These proposals fell into 6 general topics (Cooperation and Coordination; Facilities and Infrastructure; Resources Personnel and Equipment; Information Technology (IT) Systems Interoperability; Enrolled Low Risk Initiatives; and United States Visitor Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT). The Task Force reviewed all proposals.
- Task Force breaks for lunch at 1:30pm.
- After lunch the Task Force debated on the 14 proposals for Congress regarding increasing cooperation and coordination among federal, state, local and private groups; facilities and infrastructure; and information IT interoperability.
 - After the debate and voting session were completed, the outcome was 12 overall recommendations and no minority report was required (The 2003 Report to Congress can be viewed in its entirety after delivery to Congress, due December 31, 2003, on the DMIA Task Force webpage by going to www.immigration.gov).
- Task Force members agree to meet for an administrative meeting session on October 16 to make final edits to the report to Congress and have some preliminary discussions on the future of the Task Force after December 31, 2003.
- Chair and Executive Director makes closing remarks.
- Chair closed the meeting at 6:30pm.