THE INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REPORT IN SUPPORT OF THE INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT
BACKGROUND

What is the Information Sharing Environment (ISE)?

In accordance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act 2004 (IRTPA), the Information Sharing Environment will link the resources (people, systems, databases, and information) of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and foreign allies, to facilitate information sharing, access, and collaboration among users to combat terrorism more effectively.

The Information Sharing Environment is to be created in a manner consistent with national security and the information privacy rights and other legal rights of Americans.

The Information Sharing Environment is not a new technology, database or system; it will be created through further defining, changing, or establishing policies, procedures, cultures, and technologies.

Per IRTPA, terrorism information can include information from the intelligence, law enforcement, military, homeland security, and other communities.

Who is the Information Sharing Environment Program Manager (ISE PM)?

The IRTPA created a new position, called the Program Manager, for a two-year term. The President designated the Program Manager on April 15, 2005.

The IRTPA directs that the Program Manager to:

(1) "plan for, oversee the implementation of, and manage the government-wide Information Sharing Environment;

(2) assist in the development of policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, and standards as appropriate to foster the development and proper operation of the Information Sharing Environment; and

(3) assist, monitor, and assess the implementation of the Information Sharing Environment by Federal departments and agencies to ensure adequate progress, technological consistency and policy compliance, and regularly report its findings to Congress."

Executive Order 13388, creating the Information Sharing Council (ISC) and identifying the PM as the chair, is an interagency forum. The ISC is integral to the success of the ISE as a mechanism that will effectively support and advise the PM during implementation, as well as ensure coordination among participants for the establishment of the ISE.

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What are the President's Guidelines and Requirements for Information Sharing?

Section 1016 of the IRTPA calls on the President to create an Information Sharing Environment for the sharing of terrorism information and to "determine and enforce the policies, directives, and rules that will govern" the ISE.

Section 1016(d) of IRTPA further calls for the President to:

1. Leverage all ongoing efforts consistent with establishing the Information Sharing Environment;

2. Issue guidelines for acquiring, accessing, sharing, and using information;

3. Issue guidelines that protect privacy and civil liberties in the development and use of the Information Sharing Environment; and

4. Require the heads of Federal departments and agencies to promote a culture of information sharing.

On December 16, 2005, the President issued a Memorandum that sets forth seven guidelines and requirements, some of which correspond directly to the requirements of the IRTPA, while others address important collateral issues that are essential to the ultimate success of the ISE.

The implementation of the guidelines and requirements will do the following:

1. Clarify information sharing roles and authorities across agencies;

2. Implement common standards and architectures to facilitate timely and effective information sharing;

3. Improve the Federal government's terrorism information sharing relationships with State, local and tribal governments, the private sector, and potentially foreign allies;

4. Revamp antiquated classification and marking systems as they relate to sensitive but unclassified information;

5. Provide for the further protection of information privacy rights and other legal rights of Americans in the development and use of the Information Sharing Environment; and

6. Require departments and agencies to promote a culture of information sharing by assigning personnel and dedicating resources to terrorism information sharing and by holding their senior managers and officials accountable for improved and increased sharing of such information while protecting national and homeland security.

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What is the Implementation Plan Report for the ISE?

Section 1016(e) of the IRTPA requires the President to submit an Implementation Plan to Congress within 1 year of enactment To initially respond to this requirement, the Program Manager, on January 9, 2006 provided to Congress an Interim Implementation Plan Report (iPlan).

This interim report describes the 11 requirements stated in IRTPA and provides a road map for developing the comprehensive Implementation Plan for the ISE, which is expected to be submitted to the Congress in July 2006.

This interim plan identifies a vision and strategy for the development of the ISE, and describes the corresponding activities to be undertaken by the PM, Federal departments and agencies, State, local, and tribal governments, and private sector entities.

What approach will you use to implement Section 1016 of the IRTPA and the President's Requirements and Guidelines for the ISE?

Given the complexity and size of the ISE, an incremental and iterative implementation approach—fully grounded in the overall ISE vision—offers the most practical and cost efficient strategy to achieve the vision of the ISE. This type of approach, instead of a top-down approach, enables a continuous assessment and integration of programs, evolution of an ISE architecture, and timely performance monitoring and resource management to achieve the long-term vision and goals of the ISE.

To respond to the requirements in Section 1016 of IRTPA, ISE implementation will be based on a three-pronged strategy:

1. Implementation of Presidential Guidelines and Requirements;
2. Support and augmentation for existing information sharing environments, such as the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC); and
3. A process for integrating the Presidential Guidelines and Requirements with the needs of the broader ISE, addressing overall ISE functions, capabilities, resources, conceptual design, architecture, budget, and performance management

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