DHS LATENT PRINT ACTIVITIES

The US-VISIT / IDENT System
DHS AGENCIES PROVIDING LATENT PRINT SERVICES

- US-VISIT
- UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
- FORENSIC DOCUMENT LABORATORY
- CUSTOMS LABORATORY (HOUSTON, TX)
SERVICES

- SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE US-VISIT BIOMETRIC SUPPORT CENTERS IN ARLINGTON AND SAN DIEGO (24X7)
  - Latent fingerprint
    - Latent-to-known
    - Known-to-latent
  - 10-Print
  - Watchlist enrollment
  - NSEERS enrollment
OUR DATABASE

- IDENT
  - More than 100 million subjects
  - Daily volume about 100,000 transactions
  - 40,000 new records added daily
  - 70 percent of this database is not replicated elsewhere
  - Consists of immigration records (civil and criminal), downloaded FBI, Interpol and other records
  - More than 40,000 unidentified latent fingerprints
LATENT PRINT ACTIVITIES

- Latent fingerprints are downloaded from FBI, DOD, Intelligence agencies and others
- Approximately 85 latent prints a day received
- Searched sequentially against Watchlist, VISIT Male, VISIT Female, 10-Print and Latent-to-Latent files
Future state with new 10 print processes will allow latent prints to be re-run against repositories as needed.

*Daily print volumes fluctuate significantly but are typically processed as they are received, consequently these daily volumes are not included in the “Prints Waiting to be Processed” queue.
10 Print to Latent Processing

- Department of State 10 print submissions
- Port of Entry 10 print pilot site submissions

Pending Workload
- Approx. 5M DoS and POE submissions
- Working oldest submissions first (FIFO)

Latent Database
- Prints searched against latent database and added to the Latent 10 print repository
- Approximately 18% of searches result in a candidate list being generated (1 or more potential matches to be further examined)

40k Latent Prints

Latent 10-Print Repository

6.0M Individuals

Print

Requiring, on average, 1.2 human verifications per returned candidate
LATENT PRINT ACTIVITIES

- 10-Print to Unidentified Latent Prints
  - Approximately 100,000 sets captured daily at embassies, consulates and ports of entry
  - Run against unidentified latents
  - Growing backlog of work due to current system limitations
LATENT CASE WORK ACTIVITIES

- Low volume now
- No processing/development activities
- Interoperability expected to give other agencies (local, state and Federal) access to this very large database
- Remember – 70 percent of this database is not replicated
- Many visitors do not have fingerprints on file in their home countries but do in US-VISIT
- 367 unknown subjects identified in 2008
STATISTICS

- 41 latent print examiners (approx. 30 FTEs)
- Most are located in Arlington
- Recently averaging about 90,000 latent comparisons a week
- Very low hit rate because of use of AFIS as a national security tool rather than criminal investigation tool
PERSONNEL

- Full-time and part-time
- Many are retirees from FBI, Secret Service, MPD and others
- Experience level very high
- Now planning how we will recruit and train our second and third generation of examiners
ISSUES

• Future staffing – recruiting, selection, training to competency, maintaining competency
• Maximizing effectiveness of examiners
  – What can the systems do to help?
  – What can managers provide to the examiners?
  – Studies to determine the optimum encoding strategies for latent print searches of ten-print databases (JFI volume 57, July/August 2007 A Latent Print Examiner’s Guide to IAFIS)
  – For US-VISIT – how do we keep examiners alert when the hit rate is extremely low?
  – Are there any fitness for duty concerns we need to address such as visual acuity, form blindness, medical conditions that affect abilities
  – How to certify examiners
ISSUES

- Environmental concerns
- Professional culture/management culture
- Workload
- Acceptance/willingness to use new technology
- Monitor size
- Need for recognition
- Fatigue (overtime or part-time employment)
- Confidence in system abilities, e.g. minutiae marking
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