1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Commissioner

October 29, 2010

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Janet Napolitano
Secretary

FROM: Alan Bersin
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Report on the Comprehensive, Science-Based Re-Assessment of the Secure Border Initiative-Network Program

Purpose

On October 4, 2010 you approved CBP's technology deployment for Arizona that was derived from our Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) of the Secure Border Initiative-network (SBInet) and the Border Patrol's operational assessment of technology needs for Arizona. Subsequent to your approval, OMB requested a report summarizing the findings of the AoA and describing the path forward prior to executing the technology deployment plan. In addition to OMB, it is envisioned the report would be used for Congressional and press briefings and released publicly to ensure maximum transparency.

Background:

The SBI*net* program, as conceived in 2005, was intended to cover the entire Southwest border with a highly integrated set of fixed sensor towers. Early in its design, SBI*net* gave little, if any, consideration to other technologies, as the presumption was that SBI*net* would handle all technology needs.

Discussion

The attached report describes the technology plan that CBP intends to deploy and the implications of the plan.

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

REPORT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE, SCIENCE-BASED RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE SECURE BORDER INITIATIVE-NETWORK (SBI*net*) PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Secure Border Initiative-network (SBI*net*) program, as conceived in 2005, was intended to cover the entire Southwest border with a highly integrated set of fixed sensor towers. Early in its design, SBI*net* gave little, if any, consideration to other technologies, as the presumption was that SBI*net* would handle all technology needs. Original plans called for deployment across the Southwest border to be complete by 2011 at a total cost of about $8 billion. By January 2010, the SBI*net* operational deployments had just begun along 53 miles of border area in Arizona—well behind the intended schedule. Engineering development activities had overrun cost targets, creating significant concern that the final program price tag could well exceed the $8 billion estimate.

Dating back to her tenure as Governor of Arizona, Secretary Napolitano has long been concerned by SBI*net*'s continued and repeated technical problems, cost overruns and schedule delays, and believed they raised fundamental questions about SBI*net*'s ability to meet the needs for technology along the border. During 2009, Secretary Napolitano asked Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for an analysis of the SBI*net* program. Based on this analysis, in January 2010, Secretary Napolitano ordered a Department-wide reassessment of the SBI*net* program that incorporated an independent, quantitative, science-based "Analysis of Alternatives" to determine if SBI*net* was the most efficient, effective and economical way to meet our nation's border security needs.

DHS completed the first phase of the assessment in Fall 2010, focused on the Arizona border, as half of all illegal border crossings currently occur there. This assessment combined the quantitative, science-based results of the Analysis of Alternatives, the input of U.S. Border Patrol agents on the front lines and the analysis of the Department's leading science and technology experts. The assessment--the first of its kind that the Department had ever undertaken for SBInet--focused on the viability and cost-effectiveness of SBI*net,* evaluating the operational value against its projected cost.

Based on the assessment, the Department has concluded that the SBI*net* program, as originally proposed, is no longer appropriate. While it has generated some significant advances in technology that can improve CBP's agents' ability to detect, identify, deter and respond to threats along the border, SBI*net* does not and cannot provide a single technological solution to border security. Secretary Napolitano has directed CBP to end SBI*net* and instead utilize existing, proven technology solutions tailored to the distinct terrain and population density of each border regions--a significant departure from the original SBI*net* concept of a single, wide-ranging fixed tower-based solution across the entire border.

This new secure border technology plan will include a mixture of proven surveillance technologies, including commercially available Mobile Surveillance Systems[1], Unmanned Aerial Systems, thermal imaging devices, and tower-based Remote Video Surveillance Systems[2]. Where appropriate, this technology plan will also include elements of the former SBI*net* program that have proven successful, such as stationary radar and infrared and optical sensor towers.

The Department believes that the new plan provides better coverage, more effective balance between cost and capability tailored to each area of the border, faster deployment of technology, and better linkage between operations and technology, complementing the Administration's unprecedented investments in manpower, infrastructure and resources to secure the Southwest border.

The new plan will be implemented within current budget projections and will utilize funding previously requested for SBInet. CBP intends to acquire all the technologies in the new plan, including the integrated fixed towers, through full and open competitions. It is anticipated that the Arizona technology deployment will be complete in 2014 with significant elements available in 2011.

Further, independent, quantitative, science-based assessments will continue along each sector of the Southwest border to determine the optimal combination of technology, and eventually across the Northern border.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SOUTHWEST BORDER INITIATIVE

Since the beginning of this Administration, DHS has dedicated unprecedented personnel, technology, and resources to the Southwest border. Today, the Border Patrol is better staffed than at any time in its 86-year history, having nearly doubled the number of agents from approximately 10,000 in 2004 to more than 20,500 today. DHS has doubled the number of personnel assigned to Border Enforcement Security Task Forces; tripled the number of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intelligence analysts working along the U.S.-Mexico border; quadrupled deployments of Border Liaison Officers; and begun screening 100 percent of southbound rail shipments for illegal weapons, drugs, and cash--for the first time ever. DHS has also deployed additional canine teams trained to detect drugs and weapons and non-intrusive inspection technology that help identify anomalies in passenger vehicles at the Southwest Border.

These initiatives and investments have yielded impressive results. During this Administration, seizures of contraband along the Southwest border have increased across the board and illegal crossings continue to decline. In fiscal years 2009 and 2010, CBP seized more than $104 million

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[1] Within this report, we use Mobile Surveillance System (MSS) broadly to refer both to the current configuration of MSSs deployed along the border, as well as to the systems DHS will purchase from the ongoing competitive Mobile Surveillance Capability (MSC) procurement. MSSs are mobile (usually pickup truck-mounted) extensible poles with a radar, day camera, and night camera. The truck operator can view the signals from the cameras and radar on a display in the cab of the truck.

[2] Remote Video Surveillance Systems, or RVSSs, are pairs of day and night cameras, often mounted on fixed poles. Each camera displays its individual image on a monitor at a Border Control Station.

in southbound illegal currency—an increase of approximately $28 million compared to 2007-2008. CBP and ICE also seized more than $282 million in illegal currency, more than 7 million pounds of drugs, and more than 6,800 weapons in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 along the southwest border—increases of more than $73 million, more than 1 million pounds of drugs and more than 1,500 weapons compared to 2007-2008. Moreover, Border Patrol apprehensions decreased 36 percent from nearly 724,000 in fiscal year 2008 to approximately 463,000 in fiscal year 2010—indicating that fewer people are attempting to cross the border. Further, in FY 2009 and FY 2010, ICE made over 20,100 criminal arrests along the Southwest border, an increase of approximately 12% compared to the two previous years. Over 12,850 of these arrests were of drug smugglers and over 2,560 were of human smugglers.

The recent passage and signing of Southwest border security supplemental legislation will provide additional capabilities to secure the Southwest border at and between our ports of entry and reduce the illicit trafficking of people, drugs, currency and weapons. Specifically, this bill provides $14 million for improved tactical communications systems along the Southwest border; $32 million for two additional CBP unmanned aircraft systems; $176 million for 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents to be deployed between ports of entry; $68 million to hire 250 new Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at ports of entry and to maintain 270 officers currently deployed to ports of entry; $80 million for 250 new ICE agents; and $6 million to construct two forward operating bases along the Southwest Border to improve coordination of border security activities. Further, President Obama has deployed 1,200 National Guard troops to the Southwest border to contribute additional capabilities and capacity to assist law enforcement agencies.

TECHNOLOGY AND BORDER SECURITY

Reduction in the flow of illegal traffic between the ports of entry depends not on a single element like technology alone, but on the appropriate combination of personnel, tactical infrastructure, and technology. Personnel are the most robust and adaptable of these resources, as Border Patrol agents conduct surveillance and respond to incursions. Tactical infrastructure, primarily focused on physical fencing, enhances the ability of personnel to respond by creating delays or by making it easier for agents to reach a particular area.

The Border Patrol primarily uses technology for detection and surveillance between ports of entry, enabling CBP to maximize its effectiveness in responding to and disrupting illicit activity. In other words, technology helps provide awareness of the amount and types of illegal activity at the border. Technology supports personnel so that they can spend more of their time responding to incursions and less time detecting them.

Along the Southwest Border, the primary technology system has been the Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS), a tower with a pair of day and night cameras, which are monitored by border patrol agents in a given area. There are currently 250 of these systems deployed along the Southwest Border. More recently, DHS has added other systems, including truck mounted infrared camera systems and radars, (Mobile Surveillance Systems, or MSSs) which are shown on an integrated display within the cab of the truck and are considered one of the most technologically advanced ground-based systems. There are currently (b) (7)(E) [redacted] mobile surveillance

systems (MSSs) deployed along the Southwest border. In addition there are more than 130 aircraft (planes and helicopters) deployed to the Southwest Border along with 3 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs).

SBI*net* HISTORY

Beginning in 2005, the Department initiated an ambitious technology program known as Secure Border Initiative-*network* (SBI*net*). SBI*net* was intended to cover the entire Southwest Border (and eventually the entire border) with a highly effective, comprehensive, and tightly integrated surveillance system where information from multiple sensors could be combined into a single display, providing a clear picture of activity within a large area. Over time, the development of SBI*net* was scaled back due to several factors, including technical issues that led to significant schedule delays and cost overruns; increased use of other technology systems that reduced the demand on SBI*net*; and recognition that personnel and *other* technology could more effectively fulfill security needs in certain areas of the border.

Given these issues, in 2009, Secretary Napolitano asked Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for an analysis of the SBI*net* program. Based on this analysis, Secretary Napolitano froze funding for SBInet beyond the ongoing, initial deployments of Block 1 and ordered a Department-wide reassessment of the SBI*net* program that incorporated an independent, quantitative, science-based "Analysis of Alternatives" to determine if SBI*net* was the most efficient, effective and economical way to meet our nation's border security needs. The assessment focused on two fundamental questions. The first was whether or not the SBI*net* program was viable—in other words, if it could ever be made to work effectively and fulfill the original intent of the program. The second was related to cost-effectiveness. Even if SBI*net* was viable, the assessment evaluated whether other equally or more effective technologies were available at lower cost. Prior to this assessment, the Department had not conducted a comprehensive cost-effectiveness analysis to assess the operational value of the SBInet system against the projected cost even though such an analysis is normally a well-established pre-requisite for a project of this size and scope.

SBI*net* VIABILITY

The issue of viability was evaluated within the context of the initial SBI*net* configuration, known as SBI*net* Block 1, which has completed construction in two areas of the Arizona border-Tucson-1 (TUS-1) and AJO-1. While testing and evaluation in each of these sectors is underway[3], the Border Patrol has begun using the technology. The Border Patrol has used TUS-1 since February 2010 and AJO-1 since August 2010.

[3] Engineering testing of TUS-1 is complete and the results are currently under analysis. In October and November, the Border Patrol will conduct Operational Test and Evaluation of TUS-1. AJO-1 will complete its engineering testing by the end of the year.

Although it is too early to quantify the effectiveness of the SBI*net* Block 1 system, the qualitative assessments from the Border Patrol suggest that select elements of the technology such as sensor towers integrated together to observe a large area in a localized areas, can enhance operational capabilities. In the case of TUS-1, agents noticed an increase in apprehensions of illegal entrants when they first started using the system despite no apparent increase in illegal traffic and, over time, a decrease in activity and apprehensions. In other words, it appears that the use of the TUS-1 system, in association with other initiatives like increased personnel and tactical infrastructure, contributed to decreasing the flow of illegal entrants and increasing the likelihood of their apprehension.

SBI*net* COST-EFFECTIVENESS

To assess the cost effectiveness of SBInet, DHS conducted an analysis using a standard practice known as an Analysis of Alternatives (AoA). The first phase, which is now complete, analyzed technology options for Arizona. The Department will conduct additional phases in the coming months to complete the analysis of the entire Southwest Border.

In the AoA, DHS quantified the effectiveness of various possible technology solutions by identifying the most important elements of effectiveness, and then assigning scores that reflect how well each technology option supports each of these elements. These scores are called "Measures of Effectiveness" (MOEs). Because there are several MOEs, each one was weighed, then combined into a single, overall effectiveness score.

The AoA also generated rough-order-of magnitude (ROM) cost estimates for each technology option. Together, the AoA compared the overall effectiveness score and ROM for each option. Figure 1 presents an example of this analysis:

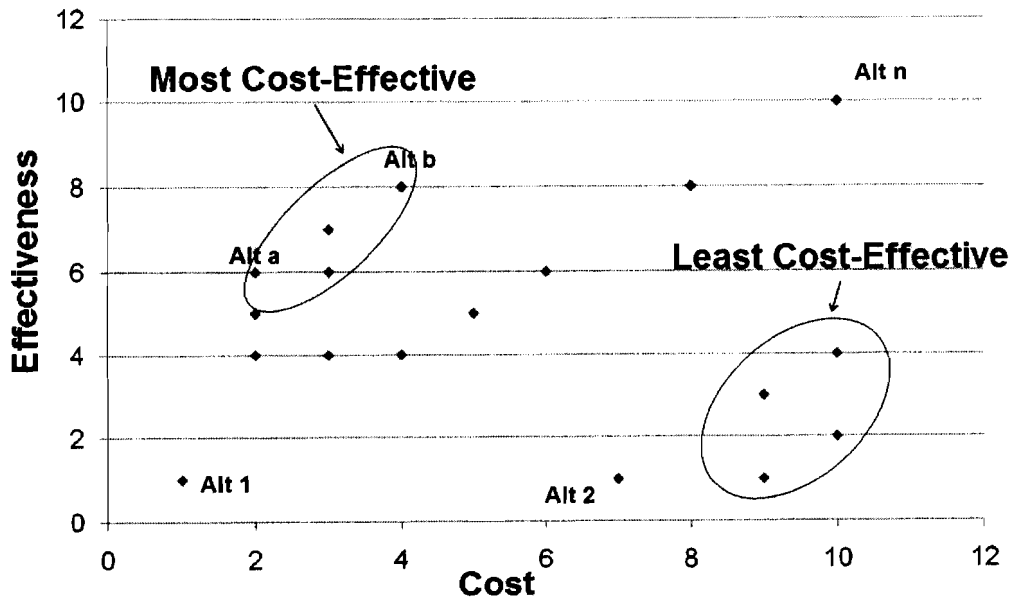
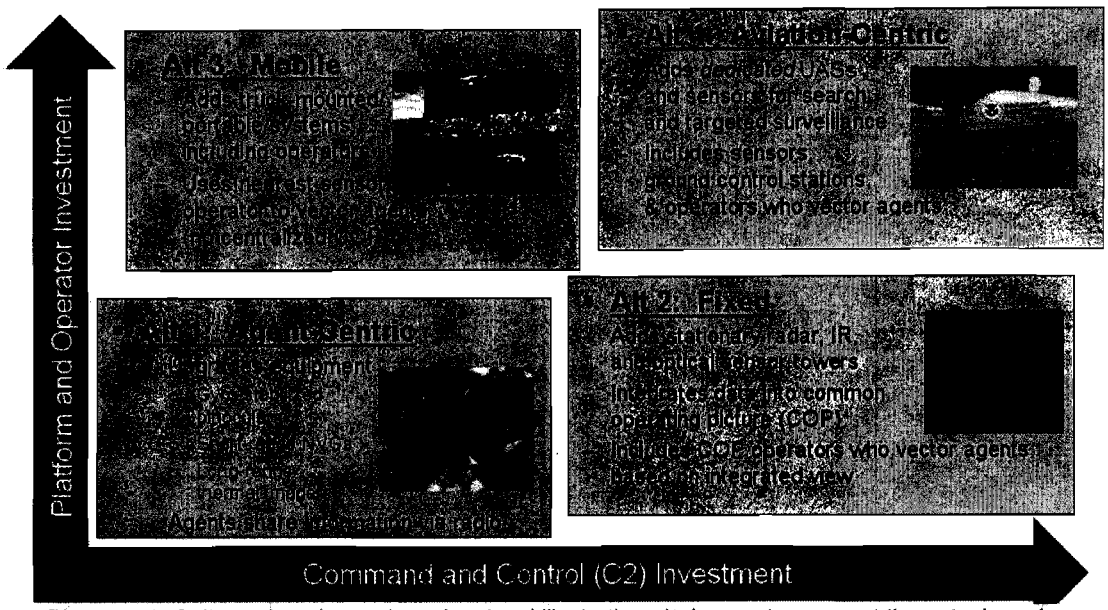


Figure 1: Example Depiction of AoA Results

Each red diamond on the chart represents a discrete technology alternative ("alt"). Therefore, the chart depicts the relative "scoring" of each alternative based on both effectiveness and cost. In figure 1, the set of options highlighted in the oval at the top left corner are the most cost-effective options. They have a high effectiveness score at a low cost. Conversely, the options highlighted in the oval at the bottom right corner are least cost effective.

The Department used this process to evaluate technology options in four specific areas along the Arizona border that were representative of other areas on the Southwest border and will complete individual assessments of additional sectors in the months ahead.



Placement of alternatives is purely notional and illustrative. It does not represent the actual scoring of the various alternatives in any given scenario

Figure 2: Structure of the AoA for Arizona Technology

As shown in Figure 2, we analyzed four types of technology options. Alternative 1, Agent-Centric, included small, usually handheld systems that assist individual agents in observing activity. Alternative 2, Fixed, focused on fixed sensor towers with radars and cameras integrated together through a common operating picture (COP), the class of technology systems like the existing SBI*net* Block 1. Alternative 3, Mobile, focused on the class of technology systems like the existing Mobile Surveillance Systems (MSS) or Mobile Video Surveillance System (MVSS), which include cameras and radars and provide information from those sensors directly to the operator of the individual mobile system. Alternative 4, Aviation-Centric, focused on systems like the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), which are remotely piloted drones with sensors. The results of the AoA also provided insight regarding possible combinations of these various options based on the relative strengths and weaknesses of each.

The AoA selected four Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs). Based on the Border Patrol's assessment of relative importance, two of those counted for 85 percent of the overall effectiveness score: "Monitoring and Persistent Surveillance" and "Enable Timely and Effective Response." "Monitoring and Persistent Surveillance" measured how well a technology option

provides coverage (situational awareness) of all activities within a defined area. "Enable Timely and Persistent Surveillance" measured how well the particular technology enhanced each individual agent's ability to focus on and respond to activity within the area. The other two MOEs, which focused on the ability of various options to support other considerations (like, for example, agent safety) and the ability to adapt to migrating threats, were evaluated but only counted for a total of 15 percent of the score, based on the priorities of the Border Patrol.

The results of the AoA showed that the selection of technology for a given area of the border is highly dependent on the nature of that area. There does not appear to be a "one-size-fits-all" solution—contrary to the original SBI*net* concept of a single, wide-ranging fixed tower-based solution across the entire border. In fact, the AoA suggested that the optimal options involved a mix of technology tailored to each area of the border and based on the operational judgment of the Border Patrol Agents in that area.

TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT PLAN FOR ARIZONA

After completion of the formal AoA, the Border Patrol used the results to develop a detailed technology deployment plan for each sector in Arizona based on current and anticipated operational activity. Accordingly, the new plan is fully aligned with both the quantitative analysis of science and engineering experts and the real-world operational assessment of the Border Patrol.

The new border security technology plan will utilize existing, proven technology tailored to the distinct terrain and population density of each border region. This new plan will include a mixture of surveillance technologies, including commercially available MSSs, thermal imaging devices, and tower-based Remote Surveillance Systems complemented by (b) (7)(E) technologies. Where appropriate, this technology plan will also include elements of the former SBI*net* program that are already underway or complete and have proven successful, such as stationary radar and infrared and optical sensor towers.

The Department believes that the new plan provides better coverage, more effective balance between cost and capability tailored to each area of the border, faster deployment of technology, and better linkage between operations and technology. Specifically, the Department believes that, relative to SBI*net*, the new technology plan is:

- **More operationally appropriate:** The new plan is explicitly based on operational Border Patrol needs.

- **Lower risk:** The new plan leverages the lessons learned and technology investment from SBInet and utilizes currently available technology systems that have already proven to be effective such as Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) and Mobile Surveillance Systems (MSSs).

- **More effective:** The new plan covers gaps in technology that would not have been accommodated by SBInet. (See, for example, the RVSS case described below.)

- **More timely:** The new plan's use of currently available technology systems means these systems can be ordered, delivered and put to use on the front lines more quickly.

- **More cost-effective:** The new plan will cost less, on balance, than the original SBInet plan would have.

- **Analytically defensible:** The new plan is supported by a science-based, quantitative Analysis of Alternatives (AoA).

Based on the 2010 Southwest Border Supplemental appropriation, throughout fiscal year 2011 and continuing into 2012, the Department expects to add more than 500 additional Border Patrol Agents, 30 Customs and Border Protection Officers, 160 Immigration and Customs Enforcement Investigators, 1 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) (bringing the total in Arizona to (b) (7)(E)), and repair / replace 6 miles of physical fence. These enhancements, coupled with the new technology deployment, are expected to significantly reduce the flow of illegal and narcotic traffic in Arizona and provide full situational awareness of the Arizona border. The FY 2011 technology investment, alone, will provide an additional (b) (7)(E) of surveillance capability within Arizona. By 2014, when combined with all of the resources DHS has provided, the complete Arizona technology plan will provide situational awareness for the entire Arizona border. Situational awareness means the Border Patrol will have complete and timely knowledge of activity between the ports of entry.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PLAN

At Secretary Napolitano's direction earlier this year, DHS froze funding for SBI*net* beyond what is required to complete the ongoing deployments of TUS-1 and Ajo-1 and diverted $50 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding from SBI*net* to other technologies. That $50 million is being used to acquire:

- Ten new backscatter radars for Border Patrol checkpoints (already delivered);
- 104 vehicle pursuit cameras for ports of entry (already delivered).
- Thermal imaging devices and aerial observation cameras (delivery scheduled to begin next March); and
- 30 Mobile Surveillance Systems (delivery scheduled to begin April 2011).

Going forward, DHS will redirect funding originally intended for SBI*net* – including the SBInet funds in the pending FY 2011 DHS appropriations bill – beginning with the new border security technology plan in Arizona and extending across the Southwest border in the out-years. The following chart summarizes, by focus area, the differences between what SBI*net* originally included and the border security technology deployments under the new plan – demonstrating that the new plan will achieve both increased coverage and increased flexibility over the original SBI*net* plan.

Original SBInet Deployment Plan for Arizona

Focus Area 1 (Tucson, Nogales, and Sonoita)	*Focus Area 2 (Ajo and Casa Grande)*	*Focus Area 3 (Douglas, Naco, and Wilcox)*	*Focus Area 4 (Yuma Sector)*
26 integrated sensor towers, including 9 already in TUS-1	**23 integrated sensor towers, including 6 already in AJO-1**	**16 integrated sensor towers**	**26 integrated sensor towers**

Proposed Arizona Technology Deployment Plan

Focus Area 1	*Focus Area 2*	*Focus Area 3*	*Focus Area 4*
24 integrated fixed towers, includes 9 already in TUS-1	**23 integrated fixed towers, includes 6 already in AJO-1**	**8 integrated fixed towers**	**12 integrated fixed towers**
6 new RVSS	**4 new RVSS**	**2 new RVSS**	**6 new RVSS**
9 replacement RVSS		**13 replacement RVSS**	**19 replacement RVSS**
15 RVSS cameras			
22 thermal imaging devices	**13 thermal imaging devices**	**11 thermal imaging devices**	**10 thermal imaging devices**
2 APSS	**4 APSS**	**5 APSS**	**1 APSS**
65 imaging sensors		**75 imaging sensors**	
200 UGS	**200 UGS**	**125 UGS**	**20 UGS**
2 MSS		**9 MSS**	**1 MSS**
	2 MVSS	**2 MVSS**	

Figure 3: Comparison of Original SBI*net* Deployment to New Technology Plan[4]

Figure 3 shows that the new plan contains significantly fewer "integrated fixed tower" systems than the original SBI*net* plan did. Instead, it adds a significant number of lower cost systems where the performance of those systems is adequate to meet requirements. In the original SBI*net* plan, older RVSS systems were anticipated to become obsolete with no plan for replacement or funding to address this shortcoming. As seen in Figure 3, the new plan includes replacement RVSSs, and specifically addresses this shortcoming of the old plan.

The anticipated cost to procure and deploy the new technology across Arizona is estimated at $750 million, beginning in FY 2011 and extending into FY 2014 – which represents a lower cost and faster deployment schedule than SBI*net* Block 1. By contrast, the most recent detailed cost estimate, from late 2008, of the required funds to procure and deploy SBI*net* Block 1 across Arizona projected a total cost of $800 million and completion in FY 2014. In addition, the cost estimates for SBI*net* Block 1 deployment across Arizona did not include needed provisions for upgrading RVSS and deploying additional MSS. In addition, the cost estimates for SBI*net* Block 1 deployment across Arizona did not include needed provisions for upgrading RVSS and deploying additional MSS, which would have increased the total estimate well above the $800 million. In short, the new technology deployment plan appears more cost-effective than the original SBI*net* plan.

[4] RVSS: Remote Video Surveillance System; MSS: Mobile Surveillance System; MVSS: Mobile Video Surveillance System; APSS: Agent-Portable Surveillance System; UGS: Unattended Ground Sensor

If the President's budget request for fiscal year 2011 Border Security, Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology (BSFIT) is fully funded at $185 million for new technology, CBP will be able to purchase all of the elements of the new technology plan except for the integrated fixed towers in 2011. The remaining budget required to complete the plan with the deployment of integrated fixed towers will be allocated from future year BSFIT budgets.

By the end of calendar year 2011, we will have (b) (7)(E) delivered from the former SBI*net* program including a total of (b) (7)(E) 4 (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E)

The new technology plan will provide additional capability, providing more continuous and extensive surveillance of the Arizona border. As we deploy the new technology, the Department will evaluate personnel needs and begin to transition to a more mobile response capability as warranted. The Department recognizes that, as we tighten the security of one area, our adversaries will attempt to find new routes in other areas. A more mobiles and flexible response capability will allow us to move with the changes in illegal activity patterns.

ACQUISITION STRATEGY AND THE CURRENT BOEING CONTRACT

As discussed above, the Department has concluded that the original concept for SBI*net* is no longer appropriate. The SBI*net* system is not the right system for all areas of the border and it is not cost-effective. However, some elements of the SBI*net* development have provided useful capability. The experience gained with the initial SBI*net* Block 1 deployments to TUS-1 and AJO-1 has shown that integrated fixed towers, connected through a common operating picture, can enhance the effectiveness of our agents and support border security. Therefore, although the Department will discontinue the SBI*net* program as it currently exists, the Department will utilize the lessons learned during development and the elements of the system that have shown their worth and utility.

Currently, SBI*net* is developed and deployed under a very broad and flexible contract with the Boeing Corporation. The contract was awarded in 2006 with a 3-year base period, and includes provision for a sequence of three, one-year options. The Department exercised the first option year in 2009. The second option decision was due in September 2010 but the Department has deferred the option exercise pending the SBI*net* assessment results. Instead, the Department and Boeing have implemented incremental contract extensions until the assessment is complete.

Besides the completion of Block 1 TUS-1 and AJO-1, the current Boeing contract includes several other activities, including operation and maintenance of the TUS-1 and AJO-1 systems, maintenance of the Mobile Surveillance Systems, completion of RVSS towers along the Northern Border, construction of fence in Arizona, and storage of steel for future fence construction and repair. The contract does not include any follow on *SBInet* deployments.

In short, the Boeing contract includes a number of activities that will continue, regardless of the future of SBI*net*. For that reason, the Department intends to exercise the option to extend the contract for another year to support these non-SBI*net* activities.

To be clear, however, the Department does not intend to use the existing contract for procurement of any of the technology systems included in the new Southwest border technology plan. The Department intends to conduct full and open competition for all of the elements in the new plan, including the integrated fixed towers.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will conduct the same type of AoA along the rest of the Southwest Border over the next several months, beginning with the Border Patrol sectors in San Diego, El Paso (which includes all of New Mexico), and Rio Grande Valley. The AoA for those sectors, in conjunction with the Border Patrol operational assessment, is expected to be complete by December 2010.

Following these three high-priority sectors, the Department will complete the same process for the remaining five sectors along the Southwest Border by March 2011.

CONCLUSION

The independent, quantitative, science-based assessment of the SBI*net* program has demonstrated that SBI*net* is not the most efficient, effective and economical way to meet our nation's border security needs. The assessment has made clear that SBI*net* cannot provide a single technological solution to border security, as it was originally intended to, though it has generated some significant advancements in technology that can improve our agents' ability to detect, identify, deter and respond to threats along the border.

Based on the assessment and the front line agents' evaluation, Secretary Napolitano has directed CBP to end SBI*net* and instead utilize existing, proven technology solutions tailored to the distinct terrain and population density of each border regions.

Secretary Napolitano's decision recognizes that we must effectively deploy a wide range of proven technology along the Southwest border – rather than a single, experimental technology program – to meet our nation's pressing border technology needs and complement this Administration's unprecedented investment in manpower, infrastructure and resources to secure the Southwest border.

The plan is consistent with the President's fiscal year 2011 budget request and with the Department's longer term budget plan.