IT Program Assessment
ICE – Criminal Alien Identification Initiatives (CAII)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a program health review of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Criminal Alien Identification Initiatives (CAII) program. This assessment represents the CAII's status through March 2012.

Description and Background:

CAII provides information technology tools that facilitate the identification of criminal aliens for removal from the U.S. This is in support of DHS Mission Area #2: Preventing Terrorism and Enhancing Security, and ICE Strategic Plan Objective 1.2: Removal of Individuals Posing a Security Threat.

The Program has three initiatives:

1. The Alien Criminal Response Information Management System (ACRIMe) Modernization effort which automates manual processes and increases access to immigration and criminal data contained in multiple U.S. Government systems.

2. The Automated Threat Prioritization (ATP) effort which provides the Risk Classification Assessment (RCA) system configurable business rules, criminal history records, criminal offense levels, and a threat–to-community score based on automated analysis of data provided in DHS and other Federal agencies' systems. As an enterprise service, ATP can provide this functionality to any calling application.

3. The Status Determination Support (SDS) effort which introduces automated information sharing between ACRIMe and other U.S. Government systems, providing users a single interface to the systems. It provides Law Enforcement Support Center System (LESC) technician's the ability to create and manage warrants in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

ICE CAII accomplishments in the prior year were finishing the development and deployment of ACRIMe Modernization 2.0 and 2.1, completing certification and accreditation (C&A) , receiving ATO for ACRIMe, and completing requirements gathering and design for ATP Release 1.0.

Established Goals for the upcoming year are to develop, test, and implement fixes for ACRIMe; develop, test, and implement ACRIMe and ATP integration; develop, test, and implement NCIC warrants application and service; develop, test and implement ATP version 2.0 and 3.0; and provide standard O&M support for ACRIMe, ATP, and Legacy ACRIMe.

Risks and Issues:

Challenges remain concerning locating and maintaining in-place towers and associated surveillance technologies. The risks identified by the program are:

- If the C&A requirements of RCA are likely to be changed, there could be schedule delays or additional costs incurred to ATP, since ATP is a subsystem to RCA.

- If the procurement schedules for new contract vehicles are delayed, ACRIMe development efforts will be further delayed.

- If system architecture does not approve a tailored approach to the system life cycle management, then future releases will be delayed.

- If the ACRIMe Agile methodology, which has not been fully defined or codified, is not codified throughout ICE, with appropriate resources adequately engaged, then future Agile releases for ACRIMe and other projects will be negatively affected with a wide range of change management issues along with cost, schedule, and technology impacts.

Mitigation Strategies:

CAII has mitigation strategies in place to address the four risks identified above. The program will:

- Work with Information Systems Security Office to identify and address changes/vulnerabilities as quickly as possible.

- Work with Office of Acquisitions to ensure there is no schedule slippage due to delays of contract award.

- Communicate constantly with the System Architecture division.

- Hold discussions across OCIO leadership to educate and develop a codified Agile methodology

Assessment:

ICE CAII has made major accomplishments with the deployment of ACRIMe Modernization 2.0 and 2.1 and completed requirements/design for ATP Release 1.0. There are several risks that could potentially delay the schedule of the Program's efforts such as ACRIMe's Agile methodology not being fully defined or codified and the C&A requirements of RCA likeliness of being changed. These schedule delays increases cost which impacts the program's funding greatly. ICE CAII has identified mitigation strategies for the potential risks, which are being reviewed in their governance meetings. At this time, the CIO assesses the ICE CAII program as **Medium Risk**.

Score: 3