

Memorandum

TO:

International Operations Staff

FROM:

Joanna Ruppel

Chief, International Operations

DATE:

March 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Updated Background Identity and Security Check Requirements for

Refugee/Asylee Following-to Join Processing

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)

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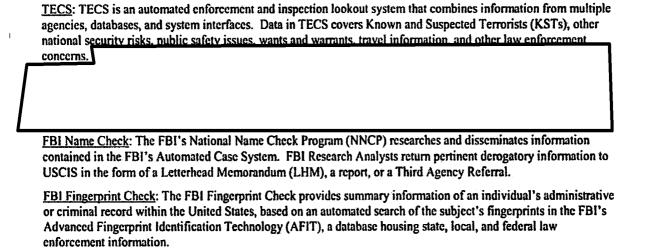
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APPENDIX 2 - SECURITY CHECK SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

Systems Overview



<u>US-VISIT / IDENT</u>: The United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, a program under the National Protection & Programs Directorate (NPPD) of DHS, manages the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) database. IDENT includes biometric information related to the travel history of non-USCs, and biometric watchlist (KST) information. This system is used to confirm identity, determine previous interactions with immigration officials (e.g., asylum office applications) and detect imposters.

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<u>DoD / ABIS</u>: The Department of Defense's Automated Biometrics Identification System is a biometric database containing information collected by DoD personnel stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and includes both derogatory datasets (such as detainees) and non-derogatory datasets (such as those requiring base access). DoD / ABIS holdings continue to expand.

<u>NCTC</u>: This is a check of the National Counterterrorism Center's information requested for certain refugee populations. NCTC serves as the USG's central and shared knowledge bank on known and suspected terrorists and international terror groups.

<u>CLASS</u>: The Consular Lookout and Support System is a DOS name-check database that contains records provided by numerous agencies and includes information on persons with visa refusals, immigration violations, criminal histories, and terrorism concerns, as well as intelligence information and child support enforcement data. In addition to containing information from DOS sources, sources for information in CLASS includes NCTC/TSC (terrorist watch lists), DHS (IBIS), Interpol, DEA, HHS and FBI (extracts of the NCIC Wanted Person, Immigration Violator, Foreign Fugitive Files, VGTOF, and the Interstate Identification Index).

<u>SAO</u>: The Security Advisory Opinion process is a higher level name check conducted on certain categories of refugee and visa applicants and identifies those with a criminal history or those who may pose a national security concern.

BBSS: The Benefits Biometric Support System (BBSS) supports the electronic transmission of data between the FBI's AFIT, automated AFIT search response processing, national database data insertion, and long-term storage of all biographical and response data, including rap sheets and civil applicant responses.