FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   2005-04
February 8, 2005

President's 2006 Information Technology Budget Supports National Priorities And Focuses On Results

Washington, D.C. – The President's 2006 Budget includes $65 billion for Information Technology (IT) directed toward programs supporting national priorities such as securing the homeland, winning the War on Terror, and expanding health information technology.

"Information Technology plays a critical role in protecting the homeland and advancing the cause of freedom. This budget is specifically aligned to produce results supporting these efforts," said Karen Evans, the Administrator of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget.

Almost $5 billion – or 90 percent – of the increase from the President's FY 2006 Budget request is directed toward programs that support these goals at the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, and Veterans Affairs.

The systems represented by FY 2006 spending support Administration efforts to secure our Nation and fight the War on Terror. For example, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will increase IT spending by approximately 35 percent to better secure the homeland. Most of this increase will directly support initiatives to strengthen prevention programs, expand electronic baggage screening capabilities, and combine credentialing. The funds will also be directed toward improving security at our Nation's borders. As part of these initiatives, DHS will accelerate deployment of US-VISIT.

The budget also supports the Administration's commitment to delivering high performing, results-oriented services by designating Line of Business Service Centers for improved financial and human resources management. This program is just one of the many emerging E-Government solutions providing improved performance and taxpayer savings.

"The focus of E-government is to provide better services to the public and to use technology to improve the lives of citizens," Evans said.

The President's Budget may be viewed at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget.

For additional information, please contact OMB Communications at 202-395-7254.

# # #