

ITDS e-Newsletter



Summer 2006

A Message from the Chairman

On behalf of the ITDS Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce the U.S. State Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) as the newest member of the Participating Government Agency (PGA) community. In addition, the Board of Directors recently welcomed two new members: Karen Stuck of the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and Larry Bell of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

This issue features an article on the PGA workshops held in July and August. Focused on *Drop M2: e-Manifest Air, Release*, the article provides an example of how ITDS is facilitating collaboration among PGAs. Page 2 spotlights Sheila Einsweiler of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS). Sheila has been an official member of ITDS since October of 2004; I appreciate her efforts on the program thus far and look forward to her future contributions.

Tim Skud – Chairman, ITDS Board of Directors

Workshops Build Common Ground Among PGAs

Throughout July and August, the ACE Support Team (AST) hosted 7 workshops for those Participating Government Agencies (PGAs) slated for Cargo Control and Release (CCR) *Drop M2: e-Manifest Air, Release*. Held at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) headquarters in Washington, D.C., the workshops gave PGA Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) the opportunity to discuss their business processes relevant to Drop M2.

"It was great to have an opportunity to get our respective requirements on the table," said Bob Tuverson, Policy Analyst with the Import/Export staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Tuverson, who attended a majority of the workshops, felt that they gave PGAs with similar requirements the opportunity to collaborate. "It became apparent [during the workshops] that there are



PGA representatives at the USDA Building in Washington, D.C.

some real similarities among PGAs that need to be coordinated, and ACE is the catalyst that will get that done."

The structured approach to the workshops greatly contributed to their success. Each focused on one of seven themes. "We were able, based on preliminary research, to identify 'hot button' issues that we felt would be of interest to the PGAs," said Ed Johnson, a member of the ACE Support Team (AST). "Those issues then became the basis for the affinity

groups." PGAs with potentially shared interests were brought together into the following affinity groups: Data from Importers, Cargo Control, Cargo Tracking, Disbarred Parties Lists, Hazardous Material (HAZMAT), Transactional Licenses, Permits, and Certificates (LPCs), and Data Consumption and Statistics. A total of 18 PGAs were represented during the course of the workshops.

Workshop results will be used in the development of high level requirements as Drop M2 approaches Program Initiation Review and Authorization (PIRA) in late September, 2006.

Cargo Control and Release *Drop M2: e-Manifest Air, Release* will provide enhanced release processing and trade interface for PGAs, along with enhanced manifest processing for shipments arriving via air. It will build on much of the *Drop M1: e-Manifest: Sea and Rail* functionality currently under development.

PGA Spotlight: Sheila Einsweiler
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
Law Enforcement



During her career, Sheila Einsweiler has inspected everything from exotic lizard scales to mother-of-pearl buttons. Starting her tenure with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) as a Wildlife Inspector at the Los Angeles airport, this genius of the genus has seen every kingdom (and phylum, for that matter) in the world without even stepping on a plane.

Today, as Senior Wildlife Inspector for the US FWS Office of Law Enforcement, Sheila supports 122 Wildlife Inspectors currently spread out over 36 U.S. ports of entry. These inspectors have the challenging task of protecting wildlife resources by ensuring that wildlife trade is in compliance with domestic and international laws. "We have the dual role of interdicting illegal trade [of wildlife] and facilitating legal trade," Sheila said. To accomplish this, US FWS works closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and other agencies such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) will provide several benefits to US FWS such as the ability to see manifest data real-time, the ability to communicate with other agencies via a user-friendly interface, and the automation of manual administrative processes. "There are a lot of shipments that we have to administratively deal with...but we deem them to be of very low risk. We would like to automate that so we can focus on higher risk shipments."

Sheila has played an integral role in ITDS since her agency officially joined the program in October of 2004. She cites CBP's willingness to collaborate with PGAs as a foundation of the program's success thus far: "When we have issues, there's somebody that's listening." In addition, Sheila feels the program is helping PGAs

better understand each other's missions in order to build common ground with regard to ACE development.

With a bachelor's and master's degree in biology, Sheila is an avid animal lover. Consequently, she admits that inspecting only bits and pieces of animals used for products wasn't always her preference. "Our inspectors have some unique abilities to identify wildlife from small parts; not really a useful trade for anything other than this job, other than we can go into the shoe store and tell you exactly what all the shoes are made of."

Program Updates

Upcoming Meetings

September 14th: Legal & Policy Group

September 14th, October 19th: ITDS Board of Directors

September 26th, October 24th: Program Support Group



ESAR and CCR Highlights

Entry Summary, Accounts and Revenue:

The Participating Government Agency (PGA) Critical Design Review (CDR) Overview of Results was presented at the Program Support Group meeting on August 29, 2006. Topics included the CDR objectives and success criteria and A1 key business requirements by PGA. In addition, the A1 field Readiness Update at the PSG provided an overview of upcoming System Integration Testing (SIT) and Role Mapping next steps for A1 PGAs.

Cargo Control and Release:

The Participating Government agency (PGA) Critical Design Review (CDR) for *Drop M1: e-Manifest Rail and Sea* was presented at the Program Support Group meeting on August 29, 2006. The presentation reviewed PGA M1 highlights and requirements and addressed how previously accepted designs will be implemented into M1.