

The Future of Sentence-to-Commitment Designation Management

With an aggressive timeline for implementing the *eDesignate* enterprise solution, it is important to note that cooperation at the federal level is enhanced with close partnering with each federal court district. The Districts of Arizona, Southern California, New Mexico, Southern Texas and Maryland have already embraced the electronic process and other districts will soon come on line.

The Office of Federal Detention Trustee looks for systemic detention processes with the intention to make improvements and correct inefficiencies wherever possible. Identifying cost efficiencies, such as streamlining and automating the designation process, is at the core of OFDT's mission.

As we move toward a national solution with *eDesignate*, OFDT will work with Agency headquarters while welcoming each Judicial District Court into the program. To get the latest information on the program to include the implementation timeline, visit the OFDT website at:

www.usdoj.gov/ofdt/technology

The President Urges Agencies to Work Together

"Our success depends on agencies working as a team across traditional boundaries to better serve the American people, focusing on citizens rather than individual agency needs ... I thank agencies who have actively engaged in cross-agency teamwork, using E-Government to create more cost-effective and efficient ways to serve citizens, and I urge others to follow their lead." -- President Bush



Introducing eDesignate

A New Program to Automate Designation and Streamline the Sentence-to-Commitment Process



For more information on OFDT's programs, please visit our website at:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ofdt>

Office of the Federal Detention Trustee
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC



The Need to Shorten the Process

With an average daily population of 55,000 detainees across 94 federal judicial districts and an annual federal detention budget exceeding one billion dollars, the goal of improving time and cost savings is paramount.

If the administrative designation process from the U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) could be automated, the offset time savings could help control - if not reduce - detention costs. Immediate benefits to the federal agencies include:

- ▶ Streamlining District workload
- ▶ Greater efficiency, saving time and money
- ▶ Improving process and reporting for management
- ▶ Moving convicts faster to incarceration

Automating the designation process enables us to meet the challenges presented by the rapid rise in federal criminal cases over the past few years, as we strive to ensure the continued effectiveness of the judicial process.

The Emerging Enterprise Solution: "eDesignate"

To facilitate faster processing and reduce workload, the *eDesignate* system replaces paper-based mail with an electronic alternative. Working together, the agencies' field operators and OFDT developed a solution to transfer designation cases via a secure, centralized web server, across varied operating systems and agencies.

The *eDesignate* system collects:

- ▶ the Judgment and Commitment order
- ▶ Pre-Sentencing Investigation report
- ▶ the Statement of Reasons
- ▶ the USMS 129 and detainers, and
- ▶ other designation data as required

The electronic solution presents these documents in one complete designation package to BOP, at a single point in time. The system also provides feedback mechanisms across agencies for faster case resolution.

The *eDesignate* system can pass necessary data back to the respective agencies to allow for more effective scheduling of prisoners' ground and air transportation to designated facilities.

Proof of Concept: The District of Arizona

OFDT partnered with the District of Arizona in early 2005 for the initial "proof of concept" site to address the District's extremely high detention rate from border arrests. This pilot tested the new automated designation system in real-world conditions.

Data from the pilot sites in Phoenix, Tucson, and Yuma indicate a substantial time savings in the designation process.

Results:

- ▶ Within the first seven months, over 4,600 designations processed
- ▶ Average time span for prisoner sentence-to-commitment reduced by approximately 35%
- ▶ Users welcomed the innovation

In August 2005, the Arizona Sentence-to-Commitment Pilot Project was honored with the **Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Information Technology**.

The citation recognizes:

"...a true cross agency cooperative spirit where sharing of information is now routine and the positive aspects of inter-agency cooperation and effectiveness is now evident."