Justice Management Division

Addendum to the Privacy Impact Assessment
for the
Justice Security Tracking and Adjudication Record System (JSTARS)

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1.0   Background

The Justice Security Tracking and Adjudication Record System (JSTARS) is a secure, web-based application accessible over the Department of Justice (DOJ) network, which automates the tracking of personnel security investigation activities for the Department of Justice. JSTARS is used by personnel security staff to process personnel security information and transactions on employees and contractors.

Personnel security tasks accomplished within JSTARS include: processing of Pre-employment investigation waiver and reciprocity requests, adjudication of initial background investigations and reinvestigations, processing National Security Information clearances, Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) access requests, and clearance certifications. JSTARS is currently used by all components of the Department except for the FBI, which will be included in early 2012.

This addendum to the JSTARS Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) addresses changes to the system as a result of integrating the Litigation Security Group (LSG) activities into JSTARS. Existing data currently collected by LSG will be migrated to and maintained in JSTARS.

Question 1:   What is the Litigation Security Group (LSG)?

LSG is comprised of Security and Emergency Planning Staff (SEPS) security specialists who are detailed to the Federal courts to serve as classified information security officers. They are responsible for implementing security procedures to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of classified information in Federal court cases. This includes initiating and adjudicating background investigations on non-government counsel and judicial staff members in Federal court cases involving classified information. The LSG specialists will use JSTARS as the tool to adjudicate these investigations, grant security clearances (including SCI), as well as process reciprocity and clearance certification requests. The consolidation of LSG with JSTARS allows for a common, cost effective system to manage a standard business process for initiating and adjudicating background investigations and security clearances.

Question 2: What changes will be made to the data being stored by JSTARS?

The integration of LSG into JSTARS will result in the migration of existing data collected by LSG to be merged into JSTARS. As LSG tracks information on Federal court cases, certain data fields relating to the cases will be added to the JSTARS database, such as: the case name, docket number, the court in which the case is being tried, and the start and end dates of the case or litigation.

With the addition of the LSG, JSTARS will maintain background investigation information on a new category of individuals involved in classified court cases who are not Department employees, contractors, volunteers or consultants. This will include non-DOJ Federal employees, such as law clerks and other judicial staff employees, as well as non-government private individuals, like defense attorneys and their staffs. Data fields will also be added to include information about the case the person is associated with and the position or title of the individual, such as attorney, witness, translator, or court reporter. These new data fields will be collected for these individuals in addition to data elements already tracked in JSTARS. The existing data elements in JSTARS include Personally Idenitifiable Information (PII) such as the full name, SSN, place of birth, and citizenship. Refer to the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for a full description of the existing data tracked in JSTARS, as well as the safeguards in place to mitigate the risk of PII exposure.

2.0 Privacy Impact

JSTARS currently maintains background investigation information, including PII, on DOJ employees, contractors, volunteers and consultants. The integration of LSG into JSTARS will result in adding a new category of individuals in JSTARS. The information kept in JSTARS on these individuals, including the new data fields described above, will be safeguarded by the same procedures outlined in the existing PIA. JSTARS will replace the current FoxPro database system used by LSG to store PII, providing a more secure and stable environment.

Therefore, the integration of LSG into JSTARS has no adverse privacy impact.