

THE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATING TOOL (PART)

In 2002, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) developed a systematic assessment of government programs through the use of the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process. The PART process assesses the effectiveness of programs and helps inform management actions, budget requests, and legislative proposals directed at achieving results. The PART evaluates programs in four areas: purpose, strategic planning, program management, and results and accountability.

The Department is using the results of these assessments in continuing efforts to improve programs and processes and to refine our long-term measurable performance goals. Throughout FY 2005, the Department utilized information from PART assessments to guide budget, legislative, and administrative decisions, and achieve greater results from our programs. For instance, updates on all Departmental actions stemming from PART Follow-up actions were incorporated into the Department's Quarterly Status Reporting system. This system provides the Department's leadership and each of its bureau components a mechanism to engage in dialogue regarding progress and status of PART Follow-up actions. These actions demonstrate the Department's clear commitment to making programmatic improvements and holding managers accountable for the findings and outcomes of these critical assessments.

In FY 2005, the Department received three "effective" ratings and earned an average PART score of 68 percent. Additionally, ratings of "results not demonstrated" are declining - from 77.7 percent in FY 2002 to 14.8 percent in FY 2005. The Department continues to make improvements to programs that had previously received such scores and is working with leadership and program managers to limit that rating in the future.

The PART assessments have also led to the development of efficiency measures that track how programs make best use of resources - time, effort, and money – and capture improvements in program outcomes for a given level of resource use. To date, the Department has developed 38 efficiency measures spanning across each of the Department's strategic goals. In FY 2005, the Department provided OMB with a status report on all of its measures and noted some of the challenges in developing meaningful efficiency measures in the federal law enforcement area. The Department will continue to improve, develop, and report effective and meaningful efficiency measures in the future.

During FY 2005, the Department completed the fourth cycle of PART. To date, PART reviews have been completed on 27 of the Department's programs, 5 of which have been reassessed, representing more than half of our annual budget authority. Twelve assessments (includes 3 reassessments) are currently planned for FY 2006, for a total of 36 programs rated by the PART.

Fiscal Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (planned)
Number of Assessments (Reassessments)	9 (0)	6 (4)	3 (1)	9 (0)	9 (3)
Average PART Score	45	63	70	68	To be determined
Results Not Demonstrated Percentage (goal <10%)	77.7%	26.6%	16.6%	14.8%	To be determined