




**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

JAN 12 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Directors
Field Office Directors

FROM: John P. Torres
Acting Director 

SUBJECT: Reiteration of Data Entry Policy for the Deportable Alien
Control System (DACS)

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Detention and Removal Operations (ICE/DRO) Technology Solutions Working Group was created by the Director of DRO to improve the capabilities of existing ICE/DRO information technology resources and to examine various ways to use information technology to improve operational performance. As part of this effort, the ICE/DRO Technology Solutions Working Group has been examining various technical solutions to achieving useful, reliable, and continuous reporting of critical information identified and captured throughout the apprehension, detention, and removal process.

One major focus for this DRO working group is to enable real-time dynamic reporting on statistics and metrics for events from apprehension through the detention and removal process for aggregate and individual aliens. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must be able to identify case outcomes associated with specific apprehensions. At present, not all apprehension data is entered into a common platform that can fully link apprehensions with case outcomes, thereby preventing accurate reporting of statistics.

The DRO working group is developing a proposed solution that creates a single integrated data source for providing information and metrics relating case outcomes to apprehensions. Integrated data will enable managers, at both the field and Headquarters level, to continually monitor and improve performance in the detention and removal process. The proposed solution will also improve the capability to meet the aforementioned reporting requirements. In the interim, means to improve reporting capabilities from the Deportable Alien Control System (DACS) are being developed to address these issues and relieve the field from utilizing homegrown applications and manual reporting methods.

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Historically, DRO has been unable to provide reliable metrics from DACS due to incomplete and insufficiently detailed DACS data. Current DHS demands for data make timely and complete DACS data entry critical, and a key element in the success of the proposed Information Technology (IT) solutions. Reiterating current policy, DACS continues to be the single required official data source for DRO. All DRO personnel are mandated to completely enter all data fields in DACS, to ensure that data is available to both field and headquarters personnel.

As an example, the "DATE-TD-REQ" and "DATE-TD-REC" in the "CASS" screen are not currently mandatory fields. However, the Department's Secure Border Initiative requires a fuller understanding of each part of the detention cycle. Capturing this information will assist the Department, and more specifically DRO, in assessing and thereby reducing the average detention cycle time for the OTM (Other Than Mexican) population. This will enable DRO to more efficiently utilize its resources.

Both the executive and legislative branches will increasingly rely upon DACS information in the coming months. Timely and accurate entry of all information into DACS will be considered a very high priority. A mechanism to monitor DACS field usage, data integrity and completeness is being created to assist in managing and correcting data entry issues.

If you have any questions about the contents of this memorandum, please contact b6,b7c b6,b7c Acting Chief, IT and Program Analysis Branch at 202-732-b6, b7c or HQDRO staff officer b6,b7c at 202-732-b6,b7c