

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Louie Gohmert, Chairman

Hearing Memorandum

March 14, 2016

To: All, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Members

From: Majority Committee Staff, Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, x5-7107

Hearing: Oversight hearing on “*Implementation of the Department of the Interior’s Law Enforcement Records System*”

The Committee on Natural Resources will hold an oversight hearing to hear testimony on “*Implementation of the Department of the Interior’s Law Enforcement Records System,*” on **Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.** The hearing will focus on the Department of the Interior’s progress in deploying the Incident Management, Analysis, and Reporting System (IMARS), a law enforcement database system.

Policy Overview

- For at least the past decade, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has been in the process of adopting and implementing a Department-wide law enforcement database system called the Incident Management, Analysis, and Reporting System (IMARS).
- After spending approximately \$15 million on the program, IMARS has still not been deployed across the entire Department.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuses to implement IMARS, and has withheld funding from the program.
- DOI must ensure the security of sensitive information maintained in the database.

Witnesses Invited

Mr. Harry Humbert

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services

U.S. Department of the Interior

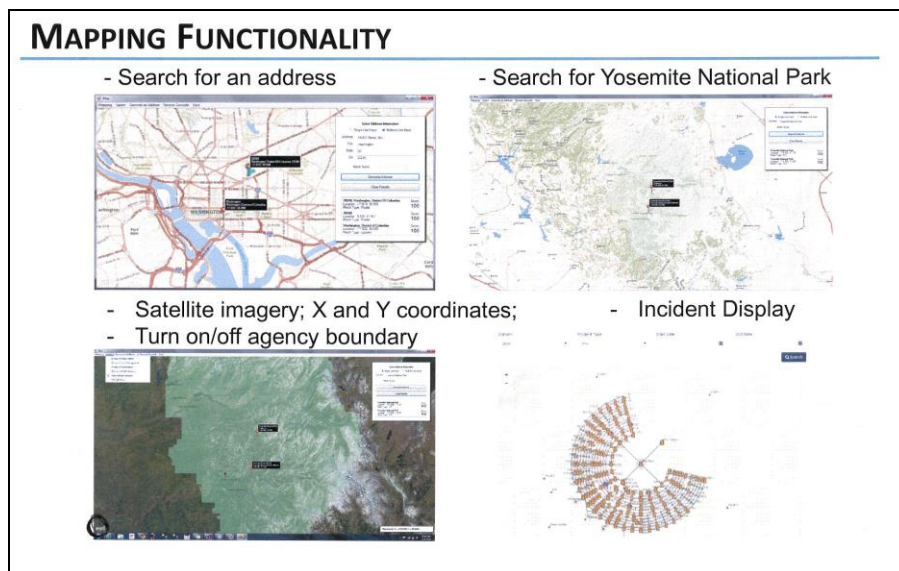
Washington, D.C.

Background/Supporting Information/Issues

For over a decade, the U.S. Department of the Interior (“DOI”) has been in the process of adopting and implementing a law enforcement database system throughout the Department and its bureaus. According to DOI, this database system known as IMARS, is intended to replace “several inefficient and outdated legacy law enforcement and asset tracking systems.”¹ It also “would enable all DOI law enforcement agencies to use a common, Department-wide reporting and records management system that can provide secure, accurate, reliable and timely law enforcement information necessary to more effectively carry out Interior's public safety, homeland security, and resource protection missions.”²

The impetus to implement a Department-wide law enforcement database began in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, which clarified the need for increased information sharing among law enforcement partners. To that end, IMARS is intended to satisfy federal crime reporting laws and facilitate coordination with non-DOI law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

IMARS offers an array of functions for DOI law enforcement officers. For example, it allows for use of force reporting, weapons qualification tracking, offline incident reporting, various mapping options, and more. Prior to implementing IMARS, some DOI bureaus still relied on paper records.



¹ U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-GOVERNMENT ACT 1 (2005).

² Press Release, U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Awards Lockheed Martin Pilot Contract for Automated Law Enforcement Reporting System (Oct. 16, 2006).

However, DOI's rollout of IMARS has dragged on for more than ten years and has come at a cost of millions of dollars. In 2006, the Department awarded Lockheed Martin a \$4.4 million contract "for a pilot project to develop an integrated information technology system to improve Interior's law enforcement, emergency management, and security operations."³

In 2009, DOI's Office of Inspector General ("OIG") determined that DOI was making "inadequate progress" toward developing a "consistent Department-wide centralized records system."⁴ At the time, the OIG also noted that "there were delays in the IMARS contract solicitation process" and that "repeated delays and excessive cost have caused some bureaus to lose confidence in the IMARS program and question whether it will ever be operational."⁵

In 2010, DOI awarded a \$9.9 million contract to Niche Technology Inc. to implement IMARS.⁶ The latest information available indicates that DOI has spent \$4.5 million on the system just this calendar year – and it has still not been deployed across the entire department.

The length of time DOI has taken to completely deploy a fully-functional version of IMARS is troubling, particularly in light of the program's significant cost. Since 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has refused to adopt IMARS – preferring to retain its own legacy system – and has withheld funds intended for the program.⁷ In its latest FY 2017 Budget Justification, DOI acknowledges that just 14% of electronically reportable incidents out of several hundred that have been validated have been entered into IMARS last year.⁸

Recent cyber-attacks on federal government computer networks and systems underscore the need for DOI to ensure that IMARS is not only an effective tool for tracking law enforcement information but also is secure given the sensitive nature of the database.

³ *Id.*

⁴ OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, 3RD PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECRETARY'S DIRECTIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM 19 (2009).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Press Release, U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Selects Niche Records Management System to Support Department's Law Enforcement and Security Operations (May 25, 2010).

⁷ OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, IMARS INFORMATION PAPER (2014).

⁸ https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/FY2017_OS_Budget_Justification.pdf, p. 25.