

**ACBI Conference 2010**  
**National Conference Center, Lansdowne, VA**  
**March 24 - 26, 2010**

The following represents notes taken at the Conference by Pete Staats and Glen Stuke. The Board offers our appreciation for their efforts.

**Wednesday March 24, 2010**

**Members' Meeting**

5:30 PM

This meeting was held to update members on the happenings within the organization since the last Conference (2008). In October there will be an election for the following Board positions:

President: Ed Kassof stated he will not run for another term

Treasurer: Rick Castricone will seek another term

Directors: Bob Kuropcat and Alan Stoddart will seek another term

President Kassof urged everyone to get involved.

The members were made aware that the Yahoo Group Mail Server is the primary tool to keep in touch with, network between and update the membership quickly and efficiently. Surprisingly, a number of members (not necessarily only new ones) stated they did not know about the Yahoo group or how to access it. The Board is considering obtaining some type of training material to assist the membership in utilizing this tool.

**Thursday March 25, 2010**

**Key Note Address: Gina Otto, Deputy Director DNI**

Approx. 4 years ago there was a backlog of 500,000 BIs. Since that time the focus has been on speed and quality .

From 2008 to present, reforms of the security investigative standards have been underway. This has been an ongoing reform best described as an evolutionary process. Real reform has been seen due to cooperation between Congress and the various agencies. In 2006 average investigations were taking 165 days to complete a clearance. As of 2010 all are meeting 60 day completion goal.

SF86, 85 & 85P revision process was submitted at the end of 2008, due to civil litigation and a new Administration in D.C. delayed the process. In 9/2009 another revision

attempt was submitted and on 11 March 2010 final approval of the forms was received. New SF forms are expected to be in use by the end of 2010 as well as an update of eQip. Part of the reform process was a revision of the “standard release”, which provides for ongoing investigation and that the use of the release applies to Research & Studies.

Reciprocity of clearances between agencies has been a hard issue to enforce and not all agencies are sharing information. The issue is recognized as a difficult ongoing problem. An Ombudsman position is being developed within DNI and will act as a central point of contact to help resolve these issues.

Email information is captured on SF86 but Investigators are not allowed to make email contact unless on a secure email server was discussed. The issue is that you may be sending an email out on a secure email server but there is no guarantee that the receiver is getting the email on a secure server so what is the difference? Ms. Otto noted she would be taking that issue back for further discussion.

Clearances had been grouped into three tiers, low risk, risk and high risk for simplification. This has been changed to reflect four tiers with tier 1 being lowest risk and tier 3 and 4 covering secret, top secret and SCI clearances.

Two technology pilot programs were started this month.

OPM & DoD Automated Continuous Evaluation System (ACES) Pilot.

Purpose: To evaluate Effectiveness & Efficiency of OPM & DoD ACES to inform final Automated Record suite of Checks (ARC) for each tier of investigations, levels 1, 2 & 3 covering up to secret.

NRO & DoD ACES Pilot: Purpose: Demonstrate & evaluate automated end to end electronic submission, investigation and adjudication process for cost, quality & timeliness and to inform an Intelligence Community (IC) solution for levels 3 & 4 covering secret & TS.

Future role of the Investigator: Reform may increase the available workload for investigators. The work we do may change but not decrease. Due to changes in the nature of investigations, there may be additional training going beyond just reviewing the SF86 with additional questions. (no further details provided)

### *Agency Panel Discussion*

**CBP** does not do direct contracts at this time but is exploring this possibility. They expect to have a decision in the next 4-6 months. Currently CBP work is at an all time low. They only have contracts with KeyPoint, CSC, Omni, MSM, USIS, and ADC, Ltd. Their 2010 budget has been cut and their 2011 budget looks worse. However, at present and over the next few years, a large number of re-investigations will be coming due and the work load should increase. Discussion about the BIPI revealed the questionnaire was revised to follow closely with the SF86.

**GAO** contract is in-direct with investigators through Omminsec.

**OPM** contract is through KeyPoint and USIS. There is an approximate 2:1 ratio of federal investigators vs sub-contract BI's.

**USAID** has direct contracts and are currently soliciting investigators on Monster.com

**Dept. of State** has direct contracts with approximately 1000 investigators in 14 regions both domestically and internationally. They accept resumes only electronically through their regional coordinators.

**FBI** has direct contracts and only work within the USA currently with approximately 1268 contracts. There is a need in Alaska, Wyoming and Puerto Rico.

**DIA** has a contract with ADC, Ltd. and performs about 2,400 BI/year

### **Contractor Panel Discussion**

There was a good exchange between Contractors and Investigators regarding pay and mileage issues. Our Treasurer, Rick Castricone, did a presentation, in tabular format, that compared rates of pay with mileage driven. The comparisons clearly depicted the problems with reimbursing us with any system other than direct billing for windshield time.

Contractors noted they have to cut their overhead costs to make a profit. Investigators made it known that they too have overhead costs that need to be addressed. Specifically, telephone service, fax machines, copier, internet access, computers as well as providing and maintaining a means of transportation. Contractors were reminded of exactly what they are getting from Investigators and what the Investigators are providing.

### **Life after BI's: Steve Cox, Sr. US DoS/DSS**

Steve reported there are contract opportunities beyond doing BI work such as "Train the Trainer" opportunities overseas. He will work with ACBI and have these opportunities posted on the ACBI website. (Job listings have been posted on the ACBI web site).

### **Friday March 26, 2010**

#### **Phillip Droop, U.S. OPM, Program Manager, Integrity Assurance**

Discussion in regard to falsifications by Investigators ranging from ghost writing to fabricating testimony. The first investigator was successfully charged and convicted

December 2007. To date there have been 9 convictions. There are several more pending. Cost of re-investigation for falsification cases is being placed on the defendant. Some of the costs have ranged from \$14,000 to \$101,000.

**Thomas Forman, OPM Dep. Assoc. Director, Administrative Services**

Discussion in regard to field work, pointing out some areas where common mistakes have been seen. Noted the focus over the past two years has been to resolve as many investigations as possible in the quickest time. The new focus, now that the backlog has been cleared, is on quality and integrity as part of the Joint Reform Initiative.

**Home/Mobile Computer Security**

David Gould discussed reasons why you need to secure your personal computers as well as ways to go about it. David suggested that we should all check our systems using the following utility (free from Microsoft):

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/security/cc184924.aspx>

**Next Conference?**

The Board is hopeful we will again convene for our next conference in 2012; location to be announced. It takes a lot of coordination and team work to pull these off. Are you willing to join the team? Get involved!