

Fairness in Law Enforcement Milestones
Related to DEA Data Collection Efforts

June 09, 1999

President William J. Clinton issues a memorandum to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior titled "Fairness in Law Enforcement: Collection of Data". Direction was given to develop a proposal for a field data collection strategy, implement that strategy, and report on the first year's worth of data collection.

September 15, 1999

Laura Nagel proposes in a memorandum to the Bureau of Justice Statistics six Operation Jetway sites for data collection in compliance with President Clinton's June 9th directive. Concerns regarding the collection of baseline data are also outlined in this memorandum.

January 01, 2000

Collection of Field Encounter forms begins at the six selected Jetway sites.

June 01, 2000

Per a May 17, 2000 memorandum from Acting Deputy Administrator Julio Mercado, the collection of Field Encounter forms is expanded to all airports where Operation Jetway is active. The reason for expansion was concern regarding the very low (< 10%) "hit rate" (proportion of encounters resulting in a seizure or an arrest) seen in the first few months of data collection.

January 17, 2001

Attorney General Janet Reno issues an Interim Report to the President. A final report is promised no later than May 31st, 2001 but is apparently neither produced nor delivered.

July 01, 2001

Acting Deputy Administrator William Simpkins issues a cable reaffirming that DEA will continue collecting data from the Field Encounter forms. This cable was in response to inquiries from the field regarding what some thought was a "one year pilot study".

August 28, 2002

Discussions with senior staff at the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicate that they have had no direction or inquiry regarding the Fairness in Law Enforcement issue for over a year. They are unaware as to whether INS is still collecting data for this project, and a call has been placed to INS to inquire as to the status of their efforts. In regards to the baseline measurement issue, BJS will issue a Technical Report in a couple of months that describes the efforts of a contractor to explore methodologies to collect such data. Once this report is published, BJS has no plans to further pursue the issue.