

only be used for verification purposes on the day of the meeting.

Persons with disabilities who require special assistance should indicate this in their admittance request and are encouraged to indicate anticipated special needs as early as possible.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate all members of the public, seating is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons who are unable to attend or speak at the meeting may submit comments, identified by docket number DHS-2005-0018, by one of the following methods:

- EPA Federal Partner EDOCKET Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/feddocket>. Follow instructions for submitting comments on the Web site.

The Department of Homeland Security has joined the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) online public docket and comment system on its Partner Electronic Docket System (Partner EDOCKET). The Department of Homeland Security and its agencies (excluding the United States Coast Guard and Transportation Security Administration) will use the EPA Federal Partner EDOCKET system. The USCG and TSA [legacy Department of Transportation (DOT) agencies] will continue to use the DOT Docket Management System until full migration to the electronic rulemaking federal docket management system in 2005.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: [PrivacyCommittee@dhs.gov](mailto:PrivacyCommittee@dhs.gov). Include docket number in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: (202) 772-5036.
- Mail: Rebecca J. Richards, Executive Director, Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528.

All comments received will be posted without change to [www.epa.gov/feddocket](http://www.epa.gov/feddocket), including any personal information provided.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.epa.gov/feddocket>. You may also access the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

#### Basis for Closure

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, 86 Stat. 770, the Secretary has determined that portions of this Privacy Advisory Committee meeting, which are referenced above as "administrative briefings," are excluded from the Open

Meetings requirement pursuant to the authority contained in 41 CFR 102-3.160(b).

Dated: March 16, 2005.

**Michael Chertoff,**  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Office of the Secretary

[DHS-2004-0015]

### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Directorate for Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of Privacy Act systems of records.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a component agency within the Directorate for Border and Transportation Security of the Department of Homeland Security is giving notice that it proposes to add a new system of records to the Department's inventory of record systems. The system of records is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 21, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket Number DHS-2004-0015, by one of the following methods:

- EPA Federal Partner EDOCKET Web Site: <http://www.epa.gov/feddocket>. Follow instructions for submitting comments on the web site.
- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: (202) 772-5036 (This is not a toll-free number).

- Mail: Nuala O'Connor Kelly, Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528; Susan Geary, SEVIS Program Manager, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 800 K Street, NW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20536.

- Hand Delivery/Courier: Nuala O'Connor Kelly, Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this notice. All

comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.epa.gov/feddocket>, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the "Public Participation" heading of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to <http://www.epa.gov/feddocket>. You may also access the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nuala O'Connor Kelly, Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528; Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Program Manager, 800 K Street, NW., Suite 1000, Washington DC 20536 by telephone (202) 305-2346 or by facsimile (202) 353-3723.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 641 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, Public Law 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009, as amended, and other statutes, Congress has mandated that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Departments of State (DoS) and Education, develop a national system to collect and maintain pertinent information on nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors, and the schools and exchange visitor program sponsors that host these individuals in the United States. In accordance with that mandate, the predecessor to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a component agency within the Directorate for Border and Transportation Security of DHS, developed the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS is an Internet-based system that allows DHS to collect, maintain and use biographical information relating to students and exchange visitors and the approved schools and designated exchange visitor program sponsors that host nonimmigrant (F&M) students and (J) exchange visitors.

In order to maintain these records, ICE proposes to establish a system of records under the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, DHS/ICE-001. The Privacy Act embodies fair information principles in a statutory framework governing the means by which the United States Government collects, maintains, uses and disseminates personally identifiable information. The Privacy Act requires each agency to publish in the **Federal**

**Register** a description denoting the type and character of each system of records that the agency maintains, and the routine uses that are contained in each system in order to make agency recordkeeping practices transparent, to notify individuals regarding the uses to which personally identifiable information is put, and to assist the individual to more easily find such files within the Agency.

DHS/ICE is here publishing the description of a new system of records governing the information collected and maintained in SEVIS.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(r), a report of this new system of records has been provided to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and to the Congress.

#### **DHS/ICE 001**

##### **SYSTEM NAME:**

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

##### **SYSTEM LOCATION:**

SEVIS is an electronic system. The hardware for the system is physically housed in a government-secured facility located in Rockville, Maryland and at a contingency site. The system is accessible via Internet or Intranet by DHS offices at Headquarters, Regional and District offices, Service Centers, sub-offices, Ports-of-Entry and foreign offices. The system is also accessible via Internet by designated school officials and responsible officers of exchange visitor programs that input information on students and exchange visitors into the system. Additionally, the system is accessed directly by DHS approved elements of Department of State (DoS) and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

##### **CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:**

SEVIS contains information on nonimmigrants who have applied for and been granted F-1, M-1 and J-1 visas to enter the United States as students or exchange visitors and their dependents who have been granted F-2, M-2, and J-2 visas.<sup>1</sup> Some of the

individuals whose information is contained in SEVIS may become United States citizens or legal permanent residents. SEVIS also contains records relating to the certified schools, designated sponsors, as well as individual hosts of students and exchange visitors in the United States.

##### **CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**

SEVIS contains biographical information relating to students and exchange visitors including name, date and place of birth, country of citizenship, current address where the student/exchange visitor and his or her dependents physically reside, current academic status, date of commencement of studies, degree program and field of study, whether the student has been certified for practical training, and the beginning and end dates of certification, termination date and reason, number of credits (if known) completed each semester, and information from the Certificate of Eligibility, Forms I-20 or DS-2019. SEVIS also maintains records on the DHS certified schools and DoS designated sponsors in the United States that host F, M and J nonimmigrants, which includes certified school/ designated sponsor name, status, address, course of study or program costs, Designated School Official/ Responsible Officer contact information, and programs and/or courses of study. Certified schools are those public/ private educational institutions that have been approved by DHS to accept nonimmigrant F and M visa category students. Designated sponsors are those government and non-government organizations/agencies/institutions that have been designated by DoS to administer one or more J visa category nonimmigrant exchange visitor programs.

##### **AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:**

Public Law 107-173, Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002; Public Law, 107-56, USA PATRIOT Act; Public Law 104-208, Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996; the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended; 8 CFR part 214 and 22 CFR part 514.

##### **PURPOSE (S) OF THE SYSTEM:**

SEVIS is a system of records tracking F, M and J nonimmigrants and their dependents during their stay in the United States. It enables the Secretary of Homeland Security to monitor the

pursuing a full course of study in a vocational school or other recognized nonacademic institution in the United States that has been certified to enroll foreign students.

progress and status of lawfully admitted F, M, and J visa category nonimmigrants residing in the United States, and to analyze all the information gathered for purposes of homeland security, law enforcement, immigration control and other mission-related functions.

##### **ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:**

In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, all or a portion of the records or information contained in this system may be disclosed outside DHS as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows:

A. To appropriate Federal, State, local, foreign, international or tribal government agencies or organizations that are lawfully engaged in collecting law enforcement intelligence information (whether civil or criminal) and/or charged with investigating, prosecuting, enforcing or implementing civil and/or criminal laws, related rules, regulations or orders, to enable these entities to carry out their law enforcement responsibilities.

B. To an attorney or representative who is acting on behalf of an individual covered by this system of records for use in any proceeding before the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

C. To a Congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from that Congressional office made at the request of the individual to whom the record pertains.

D. To the National Archives and Records Administration or other federal government agencies pursuant to records management inspections being conducted under the authority of 44 U.S.C. Sections 2904 and 2906.

E. To the Department of Justice or other federal agency conducting litigation or in proceedings before any court, adjudicative or administrative body, when: (a) DHS, or (b) any employee of DHS in his/her official capacity, or (c) any employee of DHS in his/her individual capacity where DOJ or DHS has agreed to represent the employee, or (d) the United States or any agency thereof, is a party to the litigation or has an interest in such litigation.

F. To contractors, grantees, experts, consultants, volunteers, and others performing or working on a contract, service, grant, cooperative agreement, or other assignment for the Federal government, when necessary to accomplish an agency function related to this system of records.

<sup>1</sup> F nonimmigrants are foreign students pursuing a full course of study in a college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, private elementary school, other academic institution, or language training program in the United States that has been approved to enroll foreign students. J nonimmigrants are foreign nationals who have been selected by a sponsor designated by the DoS to participate in an exchange visitor program in the United States. M nonimmigrants are foreign students who are

G. To a former employee of the Department for purposes of: responding to an official inquiry by a federal, state, or local government entity or professional licensing authority, in accordance with applicable Department regulations; or facilitating communications with a former employee that may be necessary for personnel-related or other official purposes where the Department requires information and/or consultation assistance from the former employee regarding a matter within that person's former area of responsibility.

H. To an agency, organization, or individual for the purposes of performing authorized audit or oversight operations.

**POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**

**STORAGE:**

The information in the system is maintained in an automated database in electronic format. A record, or any part thereof, may be printed and stored in the applicant's alien file (A-file.)<sup>2</sup>

**RETRIEVABILITY:**

DHS indexes and will retrieve SEVIS records by a number of data elements relating to the students and exchange visitors contained in the system including the name, unique SEVIS identification number assigned to the subject, and date of birth. Records on DHS certified schools and DoS designated sponsors can be retrieved by similar data elements relating to the respective institution or organization.

**SAFEGUARDS:**

Information in this system is safeguarded in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. All records are protected from unauthorized access through appropriate administrative, physical, and technical safeguards. These safeguards include restricting access to authorized personnel who have a need-to-know, using locks, and password protection identification features. The system is also protected through a multi-layer security approach. The protective strategies are physical, technical, administrative and environmental in nature and provide access control to sensitive data, physical access control to DHS facilities, confidentiality of communications, authentication of sending parties, and personnel screening to ensure that all personnel with access to data are screened through

background investigations commensurate with the level of access required to perform their duties. SEVIS was specifically designed to be accessed by non-government users (certified schools and designated sponsors) so they could create the records and populate the database. Specific safeguards have been put in place to ensure the integrity of the school certification, sponsor designation, and ID/password issuance/access processes.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) approved a retention schedule for SEVIS records, N1-563-04-1, on February 11, 2004. Under this retention schedule, four types of data files are retained for SEVIS: (1) Batch data temporary files (containing student records) are retained for a period not to exceed one year. These files are held temporarily on a server within the DoJ data center; (2) student/ exchange visitor data files residing in SEVIS are backed-up daily and retained/archived for 75 years; (3) certified school and designated sponsor data files residing in SEVIS proper are backed-up daily and retained/archived for 75 years; and (4) beta test files are retained for 60 days on-line. For historical purposes, and because specific immigration law enforcement or benefit case file research can span decades, DHS/ICE maintains SEVIS records in accordance with the above disposition schedule for their entire 75-year retention period. If the data becomes too large it will be copied onto electronic media and stored at the DOJ Data Center in Rockville, MD or Dallas, TX. At the end of the retention period, files are electronically expunged from file servers and Compact Disks (CDs) through degaussing, a method of erasing magnetic media and the removal of remnants of previously recorded signals.

**SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:**

SEVIS Program Manager, Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), 800 K Street, NW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20536.

**NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:**

To determine whether this system contains records relating to you, write to the System Manager identified above.

**RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:**

Requests for access must be in writing and should be addressed to the System Manager above, the ICE FOIA office, or DHS Privacy Office. Requests should conform to the requirements of 6 CFR part 5, Subpart B, which provides the rules for requesting access to Privacy

Act records maintained by DHS. The envelope and letter should be clearly marked "Privacy Act Access Request." The request should include a general description of the records sought and must include the requester's full name, current address, and date and place of birth. The request must be signed and either notarized or submitted under penalty of perjury. Some information may be exempt from access provisions as described in the section entitled "Systems Exempted from Certain Provisions of the Act." An individual who is the subject of a record in this system may access those records that are not exempt from disclosure. A determination whether a record may be accessed will be made at the time a request is received.

**CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:**

Same as "Notification Procedures" and "Record Access Procedures," above.

**RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:**

Information in this system is obtained from DHS certified schools and DOS designated exchange visitor program sponsors, which provide information on their nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors. The certified schools and designated sponsors collect the required information from individual applicants and enter that data into SEVIS. Additional information is collected on nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors when they enter or exit the United States. This information is provided to SEVIS via system interfaces. Throughout the individual's stay in the United States, Designated School Officials (DSOs) and Responsible Officials (ROs) at the certified schools and designated sponsors are required to update SEVIS with current information on the F, M, and J nonimmigrants.

**EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:**

Certain portions or all of these records may be exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2).

Dated: March 15, 2005.

**Nuala O'Connor Kelly,**  
*Chief Privacy Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-5585 Filed 3-21-05; 8:45 am]

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<sup>2</sup> The system notice for the A-file is JUSTICE/INS-001A, last published in the **Federal Register** on September 7, 2001 (66 FR 46812).