U.S. Customs and Border Protection

CBP Test of Departure Information Systems

Background

Between June and September 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will test its data systems to support new facial comparison technology at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. During this time, all travelers will provide a facial image before boarding the plane on one daily flight from the United States to Japan. The test will be conducted in partnership with Delta Airlines.

Description

During the trial, CBP will collect facial biometrics from departing travelers after the gate agent scans their boarding pass. The process will take less than three seconds before travelers proceed to the passenger loading bridge to board their flight. The test will evaluate CBP's ability to successfully compare the image of a traveler taken during departure against an image the traveler previously provided, without impacting airport operations.

Travelers over the age of 14 and under 79 will be required to participate in the test. However, once a traveler is identified as a U.S. citizen, their images will be deleted. The digital photographs of travelers will be stored in secure CBP data systems for post-departure analysis. All data will be deleted after the evaluation of the test. CBP remains committed to protecting the privacy of all travelers.

Operational goals

The objective of the test is to evaluate the effectiveness of various operational scenarios and technical capabilities that balance enforcement, immigration, and facilitation.

Specifically, this test will:

- Provide an assessment of the technical and operational performance of test systems in an airport environment; and

- Identify potential integration infrastructure and operational challenges between existing airport and airline operations associated with biometric exit collection

Benefits:

Implementing international departure technology in an airport environment has the potential to:

- Identify the best performing scenarios and cost for a biometric air exit process;

- Provide input to a comprehensive business case analysis for a biometric air exit acquisition program; and

- Ascertain the regulation, legislation, and policy considerations to formulate a successful biometric exit program.

The test builds upon previous CBP field trials of biometric collection technology. CBP has tested the technology to collect finger scans, facial images, and iris images from departing travelers. Now CBP will see if existing data systems can use biometric technology to manage the departure of international travelers. ■

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