

From: Marc Strassman  
Date: Monday, February 09, 2004 12:21 PM  
To: Burr, Sandra, Maj., OASD-PA  
Subject: SERVE questions

Dear Ms. Burr,

Here are the questions I'd like to get on-the-record answers to, and if possible, ask on the air to a person authorized to answer them:

1. How much of the \$22 million appropriated for SERVE has been spent and/or committed?
2. How much will DoD save by canceling the program?
3. Where does that saved money go?
4. Why did you decide now to cancel the program?
5. Everything in the "Minority Report" was known, and published, in the California Internet Voting Task Force of 2000 and numerous other articles on Internet voting.. Why was the program started at all?
6. Will the advent of the Trusted Computing Platform make Internet voting possible/
7. Will there be a residual SERVE program to continue research into Internet voting? Who will run it? What will it cost? Will it address the global issues of the insecure Internet and insecure computers that, according to the "Minority Report," make secure Internet voting impossible?
8. Will any of the saved money or other new money go into improving the system by which absentee paper ballots are delivered and collected from the troops?
9. Why wasn't the cancellation of the program announced on January 30<sup>th</sup> when you wrote the memo, rather than being withheld until someone asked about it? After all, I spoke to Glenn Flood on February 3, 2004 and he told me that SERVE would receive a "highly-recognizable certification." This was three days after the program was cancelled. I was inquiring about the program. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, an anonymous spokeswoman told me that the Pentagon was waiting for inquires. I inquired. Why was I misled? Was it deliberate or inadvertent? Given the existence of advanced technology such as the Internet, why isn't it deployed and used by the Pentagon to allow press officers to know of high-level decisions immediately after they take place? Why does it have to take five days for this decision to get from Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz to OSD spokesperson Flood?
10. Why was I told that access to Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz' memo canceling SERVE was restricted, yet I read excerpts from it today at:

<http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,89950,00.html>

Regards,

Marc Strassman

Reporter

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