

From: Burr, Sandra, Maj., OASD-PA
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2004 2:01 PM
To: 'etopia@sbcglobal.net'
Subject: QUERY RESPONSE: Strassman, SERVE

-----Original Message-----

From: Burr, Sandra, Maj., OASD-PA
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 9:03 AM
To: 'Marc Strassman'
Cc: Burr, Sandra, Maj., OASD-PA
Subject: QUERY RESPONSE: Strassman, SERVE

Answers provided below. We do not have anyone available for an interview.

-----Original Message-----

From: Marc Strassman [mailto:etopia@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2004 3:42 PM
To: sandra.burr@osd.mil
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?

The project cost figures from FY02 to date are \$22 million.

2. How much will DoD save by canceling the program?

We have not cancelled the program.

The Department decided not to use the SERVE system for registration and voting during the 2004 elections. The SERVE project will continue with testing, certification and evaluation activities to assess the feasibility of the use of the Internet for absentee registration and voting in future elections.

3. Where does that saved money go?

There is no saved money.

4. Why did you decide now to cancel the program?

We have not cancelled 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?

SERVE is DoD's response to Congress to evaluate whether the application of Internet technology can reduce the failure rate of the by-mail absentee

process.

6. Will the advent of the Trusted Computing Platform make Internet voting possible/

This is not a question for DoD to answer.

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?

Upon completion of ongoing testing and certification, the SERVE system will be evaluated for feasibility for future application.

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?

The Department will continue to work closely with the states, and within the federal government, to improve the process we use today. DoD provides substantial support to those voters, and constantly seeks ways to increase their knowledge and ease the registration and voting process for them.

9. Why wasn't the cancellation of the program announced on January 30th 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 6th, 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?

This was explained already.

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/0,10801,89950,0.html>

This was explained already.

Regards,

Marc Strassman

Reporter

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