DHS: key programs in fiscal 2006

Congressional appropriators pegged DHS programs at the following levels for 2006, in many cases attaching conditions to the programs:

Customs and Border
Protection automation

\$456 million

Details: The funding bill assigns \$320 million of this sum for the Automated Commercial Environment project, CBP's ambitious program to upgrade customs processing.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement automation

\$40.2 million

Details: Congress and the administration have wrestled with a structural budget shortfall at ICE caused by the fact that the agency provides major IT services to other department components; Congress repeatedly has bailed out the agency.

Office of Screening and Coordination

\$4.0 million

Details: Congress prohibited the administration from transferring the U.S. Visit, Secure Flight or other programs to this office, which secretary Michael Chertoff had planned as a central clearinghouse for pinpointing risky travelers and cargo.

CIO Office

\$297.2 million

Details: In this funding, the appropriators specified \$18 million for the faltering Emerge2 program, \$10 million for terrorist watch list integration, \$86 million for wireless programs, \$18 million for infrastructure upgrades and \$33 million

for the Homeland Secure Data Network; they cancelled funding for the Metadata Center of Excellence.

America's Shield Initiative

\$31.2 million

Details: The conferees rejected a request to boost America's Shield Initiative funding by \$19.8 million. They noted that DHS is re-evaluating the program and asked to be kept fully informed about the project overhaul.

Deepwater, The Coast Guard's long-term modernization program

\$933.1 million

Details: The conferees restored \$433 million the House had cut from Deepwater; they called for improved planning and analysis of the \$24 billion, 25-year project.

Rescue 21, The Coast Guard's

'Maritime 911' program

\$41 million

Details: The conferees reduced Rescue 2I spending from the \$9I million proposed by the House and \$8I million proposed by the Senate because of unobligated balances and extensive program delays.

Cybersecurity

\$93.3 million

Details: The conferees directed that \$30 million of this sum be allocated to cybersecurity exercises and outreach.

Citizen and Immigration Services Technology Modernization

\$35 million

Details: The conferees demanded a detailed plan for the agency's project to overhaul its technology.

-Wilson P. Dizard III