

October 4, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Laurence Brewer
U.S. Chief Records Officer
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20408

Mr. Brewer,

This letter is to report unauthorized destruction of Border Surveillance Systems Records (BSS). The Records and Information Management (RIM) Office recently received a report from U.S. Border Patrol that BSS records are currently managed according to the description outlined in the [DHS/CBP Privacy Impact Assessment 22 entitled Border Surveillance Systems](#), dated August 29, 2014. According to the PIA BSS records are “stored on the device[s] for varying amounts of time, typically between seven and 30 days before being overwritten (p. 11).” Moreover, the time period in the [DHS/CBP-23 Border Patrol Enforcement Records \(BPER\) Systems of Records Notice \(SORN\)](#) is silent on the retention of routine surveillance and other business activities described in the PIA. In summary, Border Patrol is using Section 5.1 of the 2014 PIA to manage records instead of an approved records schedule.

As a result of the unauthorized PIA retention policy adoption, CBP RIM proposed DAA-0568-2018-0002, Border Surveillance Systems (BSS) Records Schedule to NARA, which is under review.

If you have additional questions please feel free to contact me at 571-468-4058 or dawn.watts@cbp.dhs.gov.

Regards,

Dawn Watts
Chief Records Officer
Customs and Border Protection

Attachments