



# POA&M Verification & Validation (V&V) Training



Jamie Nicholson  
Policy, Guidance, & Planning Division, IM-31  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of the Associate CIO for Cyber Security



# Ground Rules

- *Please ask questions at any time.*
- *Ideas/suggestions? Please utilize 'feet' sticky notes for parking lot issues.*
- *Presentation addresses OCIO V&V process. Program-specific requirements are not covered.*
- *TAF specifics will not be discussed.*



# Objectives

- *Discuss benefits of performing verification and validation procedures.*
- *Provide direction on how to effectively verify and validate POA&M information.*
- *Review examples that demonstrate color coding as a method for identifying change, issues, or questions.*
- *Provide open forum for discussion.*





# Regulatory Drivers

- FISMA, *Title III, Information Security*
- OMB M-02-01, *Guidance for Preparing and Submitting Security Plans of Action and Milestones*
- DOE O 205.1A, *Department of Energy Cyber Security Management*
- DOE M 205.1-5, *Cyber Security Process Requirements Manual*
- Senior DOE Management PCSPs



# Lessons Learned

- *POA&M information submitted in the past has not been consistent.*
- *Why is this an issue?*
  - *Incorrect information distorts true picture of asset protection within the Department.*
  - *Difficult or impossible to do value-added analysis of information.*



# The Dawning of V&V

- *OCIO recognized the need for better communication to program/staff office POCs.*
  - *Developed improved templates*
  - *Offered data call conference calls to discuss expectations*
  - *Provided individual training*
- *Began aggressive effort to perform line-by-line review of all POA&M information.*
- *As a result, consistent deficiencies were documented and identified.*



# Benefit to DOE

- *Consistent information for aggregation.*
- *Clear and sound picture of Department's security posture.*
- *Ensure deficiencies are resolved in timely manner.*
- *Improved communication.*



# Partnership

- OCIO is a *partner* in the POA&M V&V process.
  - We view our office as a resource to assist with issues or questions.
  - We are open to suggestions. You are welcome to contact the OCIO directly if you have suggestions or questions.







# Rules of the Road

## Color Coding Requirements

- Additions and strikeouts for current reporting quarter must be document in *RED* font.
- Verified and completed POA&Ms must be highlighted in *BLUE* if marked for deletion during the current reporting quarter.
- Transfer of POA&M entry to program-level from system-level (or vice versa) must be documented in *GREEN* on both templates.



# Rules of the Road

1. Identify missing, incorrect or incomplete information. The OCIO highlights this information in **YELLOW**.
  - If an entire column is missing, the column is highlighted.
  - If an entire row is missing, the row is highlighted.

Weakness Status	Milestone Number	Milestone Description	Milestone Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YY YY	Milestone Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YY YY
Ongoing		Identify remaining remote connections that have not implemented 2-factor authentication.	6/30/2008	6/20/2008
		Purchase required number of RSA tokens.	10/31/2008	



# Rules of the Road

2. Identify overdue information. The OCIO highlights this information in **PINK**.

Milestone Number	Milestone Description	Milestone Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Milestone Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Changes to Milestone or Current Status	Milestone Status	Name and Title of Person Verifying Milestone Completion	Milestone Date of Verification MM/DD/YYYY
1	Review/update CP	12/15/08	12/01/2008		Completed	D. Wheelock, CSPM	12/01/2008
2	Test CP	1/15/09			Ongoing		
3	Document Results	3/1/09			Ongoing		
4	Finalize Report	3/15/09			Ongoing		



# Rules of the Road

3. Identify items that require further research. The OCIO highlights this information in **PURPLE**.

Weakness Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Weakness Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Weakness Status	Milestone Number	Milestone Description	Milestone Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Milestone Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY
1/15/2009	1/15/2009	Completed	1	Update annual cyber security training.	12/1/2008	11/15/2008
			2	Distribute training to General users.	12/30/2008	12/20/2008
			3	Complete annual training requirement.	1/15/2009	1/31/2009



# Rules of the Road

4. Identify POA&Ms that need to be moved to either the program or system level spreadsheet. This information must be highlighted in **GREEN**.

Milestone Number	Milestone Description	Milestone Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Milestone Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Changes To Milestone or Current Status	Milestone Status	Name and Title of Person Verifying Milestone Completion
1	Update annual cyber security training.	4/1/2009		Has been determined that finding was incorrectly assigned program-level POA&M. Deficient training is system-specific; site is not deficient on annual training requirement.	Ongoing	
2	Distribute training to General users.	5/1/2009			Ongoing	
3	Complete annual training requirement.	6/30/2009			Ongoing	



# Rules of the Road

5. Identify items that should be marked for deletion. This information must be highlighted in **BLUE**.

Weakness Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Weakness Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Weakness Status	Milestone Number	Milestone Description	Milestone Scheduled Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY	Milestone Actual Completion Date MM/DD/YYYY
1/31/2008	1/31/2008	Completed	1	Update annual cyber security training.	11/1/2007	10/15/2007
			2	Distribute training to General users.	12/1/2007	12/1/2007
			3	Complete annual training requirement.	1/31/2008	1/31/2008



# Rules of the Road

## 6. Documents to be used during V&V

- *System-level POA&M Report*
- *Program – level POA&M Report*
- *Information Security Report (ISR) – formerly known as Metrics*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

1. Verify that all cells that require data are completed properly.
  - 1) *If no CIO Number, indicates new entry and text is **RED** for entire row.*
  - 2) *For completed milestones ensure that name, title, and date have been entered.*
  - 3) *Verify that all weakness and milestones have a scheduled completion date.*
  - 4) *Verify that dates are in **MM/DD/YYYY** format.*
  - 5) *Validate that the 'Weakness Status' is properly completed; if closed, all milestones must be verified closed and the 'Milestone Status' indicates 'Complete.'*
  - 6) *Verify that 'Resources Required' is dollar amount; TBD or \$0 is not acceptable.*





# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

## 2. Verify correctness of milestone completion dates.

- 1) *Verify that 'Milestone Dates of Verification' are on or before the 'Milestone Actual Completion Dates' associated with a weakness.*
- 2) *Verify that milestones with a status of 'Pending Verification' do not have a 'Milestone Actual Completion Date.'*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

## 3. Verify correctness of weakness completion dates.

- 1) *Verify that 'Weakness Actual Completion Date' and/or the 'Milestone Actual Completion Dates' are NOT beyond (later than) the last day of the current reporting period.*
- 2) *Verify that all 'Milestone Actual Completion Dates' are the same date or earlier than the 'Weakness Actual Completion Date.'*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

## 4. **For system-level POA&Ms only**, reconcile data for systems being reported as having an IATO.

- 1) *Verify that systems listed in the Information Security Report (ISR) as having an IATO are also listed in the system-level POA&M with a designated 'Weakness' Category' of Certification, Accreditation, and Security Assessments.*

Program Office/Site	System Name Having an IATO	System Impact Level	Exhibit 53 Unique Project Identifier (UPI)

- 2) *If not, notify the originating program office or site. Note: In this case, the OCIO would highlight this ISR entry in PURPLE indicating further research needed.*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

**5. For system-level POA&Ms only**, reconcile data reported in the Information Security Report (ISR) as ‘Non C&A Report’ with data reported in the system-level POA&M.

- 1) *Verify that systems listed in the ISR on the ‘Non C&A Report’ are also listed in the system-level POA&M with a designated ‘Weakness’ Category’ of Certification, Accreditation, and Security Assessments.*

Program Office/Site	System Name Not C&A'd	System Impact Level	Exhibit 53 Unique Project Identifier (UPI)

- 2) *If not, notify the originating program office or site. Note: The OCIO would highlight this ISR in PURPLE indicating further research needed.*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

## 6. For both system-level and program-level POA&Ms:

- a) Identify the number of ongoing weaknesses at the end of the reporting period that are:
  - 1) *1 to 89 days overdue from the 'Weakness Scheduled Completion Date'*
  - 2) *90 to 120 days overdue from the 'Weakness Scheduled Completion Date'*
  - 3) *Over 120 days overdue from the 'Weakness Scheduled Completion Date'*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

## 6. For both system-level and program-level POA&Ms:

b) Tabulate and document the following:

- 1) *Total number of weaknesses.*
- 2) *Total number of new weaknesses.*
- 3) *Total number of ongoing weaknesses.*
- 4) *Total number of ongoing overdue weaknesses using data collected in 6a.*

*Note: Program offices have access to the OCIO-developed worksheet used for tracking information in 6a and 6b.*



# V&V Tasks/Priority #1

**7. For system-level POA&Ms only**, verify the *number of systems* with overdue weaknesses in the Information Security Report (ISR) at the end of the reporting period against overdue information identified in step 6a as follows:

- 1) *1 to 89 days overdue from the 'Weakness Scheduled Completion Date'*
- 2) *90 to 120 days overdue from the 'Weakness Scheduled Completion Date'*
- 3) *Over 120 days overdue from the 'Weakness Scheduled Completion Date'*



# Ultimate Goal - Success

- *Consistent, accurate information is our ultimate goal.*
- *Accurate depiction of program management; enhances situational awareness.*
- *Showcases areas of success and areas needing improvement.*





# Questions ?

