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Date: Wed, 21 Jan 2004 15:02:14 -0500
To: mail@nhpa.org
From: NASA Headquarters Professional Association <mail@nhpa.org>
Subject: Security Update

Dear Scientist or Engineer at NASA HQ:

Many of you have seen the new machines in the HQ lobbies. The NHPA learned about them when you did in the Heads Up from 9/23/03:

NEW HQ SECURITY SYSTEM

As part of the One NASA badge initiative, Code X is installing a new system along with turnstiles and card readers in the east and west lobbies. Installation will occur between September 2003 and January 2004. Your patience and cooperation are requested during this effort. Richard Young, Code XJH, 358-1107.

Since then, we have been asking questions to learn just what information will be recorded on the new Security Card as employees enter and exit the building, and how this information will be used. What we have learned so far is that the employee card will contain only an employee id. All information collected as the employee enters and exits the building will be stored on a HQ server.

We have been assured that the information will not be released to a manager for the purpose of tracking attendance. We will also receive a written guarantee that the information will not be used for Time and Attendance or other administrative purposes.

During emergency evacuations, the HQ Security System will be shut down.

Most recently we learned that the implementation is on hold until later this summer, pending the outcome of the Smart Card testing which has just been announced. A short summary was prepared by the Federal Computer Week Staff on January 20, 2004:

NASA tests smart cards

NASA plans to test smart cards to control employee access to facilities and systems. If the cards prove to be successful, the agency could issue the computer chip-enabled access cards to more than 100,000 employees by the end of fiscal 2005.

Maximus Inc., Reston, Va., is working with NASA to develop the system under a \$93 million contract awarded through the General Services Administration's Smart Access Common ID Contract.

NASA will first test the cards in May at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., followed by a second, larger field test. Full deployment hinges on the outcome of the tests and approval from the Office of Management and Budget, according to NASA.

The full NASA announcement follows:

Michael Braukus
Headquarters, Washington *January 20, 2004*
(Phone: 202/358-1979)

Mary Alice Johnson
General Services Administration, Washington
(Phone: 202/501-2699)

RELEASE: 04-027

GSA ISSUES TASK ORDER FOR "ONE NASA" ACCESS CARD

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) recently awarded a \$93 million task order to Maximus, Inc, Reston, Va., to assist NASA in developing a state-of-the-art smart card for agency employees and contractors to access facilities and information systems.

NASA is spearheading this government pilot program, which has been in the planning stages for 2 years with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and a working group of the federal government Interagency Advisory Board. GSA awarded the task order on Jan. 8, 2004, through its Smart Access Common ID Contract managed by the Federal Technology Service's (FTS) Center for Smart Card Solutions.

The "One NASA" smart card will enhance physical security for NASA facilities by authenticating an individual's identity and provide a higher level of identity assurance for the agency's information technology systems.

"NASA plans to run a small field trial in May at its Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. If that is successful, the trial will be expanded to 2,000 employees," said NASA's David Saleeba, Assistant Administrator for Security Management and Safeguards. "If the field trials are successful, and we receive the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, we plan to deploy over 100,000 smart cards before the end of the 2005 fiscal year," he said.

GSA's FTS is providing NASA with cradle-to-grave services on this task order including card management, enrollment, and logical and physical access capabilities," said FTS Commissioner Sandra Bates. "We look forward to working with NASA on this smart card deployment."

With the "One NASA" smart card, employees and contractors need only to swipe it across a reader to access a NASA center or facility. Similarly, using the same card to access their personal computers will increase computer security. Cardholders need only to insert their card into a desktop reader at their workstations.

We will place this information on our web site at <http://www.nhpa.org/Events.html>

NASA Headquarters Professional Association
NASA HQ Union, IFPTE Local 9, AFL/CIO
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