



**Testimony
of
Michael P. Murray
Vice President – Census Programs, Harris Corporation**

**Joint Hearing
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee
Wednesday, June 11, 2008
2154 Rayburn HOB
10:00 a.m.**

Chairman Waxman and members of this distinguished Committee, my name is Michael Murray and I am the vice president of Census Programs for Harris Corporation. Thank you for this opportunity to update you on Harris Corporation's role in supporting the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau in the modernization and automation of the 2010 Decennial Census.

In April, we reported to this committee on the status of the Field Data Collection Automation (FDCA) project, for which Harris is providing contract support. At that time, we were working with the Census Bureau to address the next steps in this critical project. I would like to provide an update on our progress in supporting the most technologically advanced census in our country's history.

Together, we are making solid progress towards the implementation of a fully integrated system for the 2010 Decennial Census. The Harris team is confident that, based upon progress to date, both the Mobile Computing Environment and the Office Computing Environment will be ready to support a successful Decennial Address Canvassing operation. The Dress Rehearsal Address Canvassing conducted in April 2007 was an invaluable educational and testing experience. Some items worked very well—for example, the handheld computers used in the Dress Rehearsal canvassing operation were intuitive, secure, and easily used by most people with little to no technology experience. Map spots were collected for over 500,000 addresses. The Harris team demonstrated the ability to successfully provide secure “over-the-air” software upgrades during operations to correct problems and maintain operational effectiveness, which will be of enormous

value during the Decennial Address Canvassing effort. We are building upon these successes as we move forward.

The Dress Rehearsal also provided insight and feedback into areas where improvements were needed, which, in fact, was the very reason for conducting the dress rehearsal. Since the Dress Rehearsal, Harris has worked closely with the Census Bureau to incorporate these needed improvements. Many of the issues that were documented during Dress Rehearsal were implemented in the March 2008 Non-Response Follow-Up Operational Test baseline. These changes have already been through extensive testing and have been demonstrated to Census.

Some of the key accomplishments that have been completed to date for Decennial Address Canvassing are:

- Completion of system requirements
- Completion of software requirements
- Completion of use cases
- Completion of Handheld Computer/Office Computing Environment screen and report mock-ups
- Interface Control Documents completed and submitted for Census approval
- System/Software Requirements Reviews (SRR) conducted
- Detailed Design Review conducted

These milestones are only the most recent in what has been an unparalleled record of achievement in the effort to modernize the Census for the 21st century, and there are more to come. For example, by December of this year—just six short months from now—we must ensure that 150 Early Local Census Offices (ELCOs) are in place and fully integrated into the nationwide Census network in support of the Decennial Address Canvassing effort. This is a milestone that will require tremendous cooperation and focus, and will mark a significant achievement toward the 2010 Decennial Census goals.

In recent weeks, there has been some question about differences in cost numbers provided for this project. I would like to address these differences and explain how they arose. In January, Harris was asked to provide a “rough order of magnitude” (ROM) projection of the total budget impact of the FDCA project, based upon what had been completed and what remained to be completed. Harris developed this ROM over a two-week period. In April, the Census Bureau tasked a separate contractor, the MITRE Corporation, with developing an Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) model in response to the subcommittee’s recommendation. There was a significant difference between the ROM delivered by Harris and the model prepared by MITRE. However, the numbers projected separately by Harris and MITRE cannot rightfully be compared, because they were based upon fundamentally different assumptions. To address this matter, Harris is jointly working with the Census Bureau to develop a detailed proposal, consistent with the requirements, which will include the revised program costs. The updated program costs, along with complete transparency throughout the process, will be provided to the Census Bureau in mid-July.

I would also like to note several positive changes that have taken place in the relationship between the Department of Commerce, the Census Bureau, and Harris Corporation over the last two months that are making a difference in the long-term success of this project. I am pleased to report that a renewed commitment to enhanced communication and collaboration on both sides is paying dividends, and the resolution of open items is occurring more rapidly. We are now holding weekly meetings of senior level team members to address emerging problems, and to identify potential problem areas to be addressed before they develop into larger issues. At this time, Harris has embedded teams of contractors working with Census Bureau personnel to ensure upfront, real-time communication and to minimize potential misunderstandings. The Census Bureau has done the same. We remain committed to ongoing efforts to improve communication with the Census Bureau at every level, as well as with other contractors, to ensure that the modernization of the 2010 Census unfolds with the highest level of efficiency and effectiveness.

Finally, I would like to remind both the committee and our colleagues that we have a shared goal, and that is, to ensure the 2010 Decennial Census is the most accurate, the most complete, and the most secure in our nation's history. We are grateful to Secretary Gutierrez, Director Murdock, and the men and women of the Census Bureau for their commitment to fostering cooperation and collaboration that will ensure the successful execution of this project. The 2010 Census is a massive undertaking, and the FDCA contract is only a small, but extremely critical component of this historic effort. Time is of the essence, and we must keep our focus on the important benchmarks and near-term milestones, that we will need to meet in the coming months to reach that shared goal.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.