

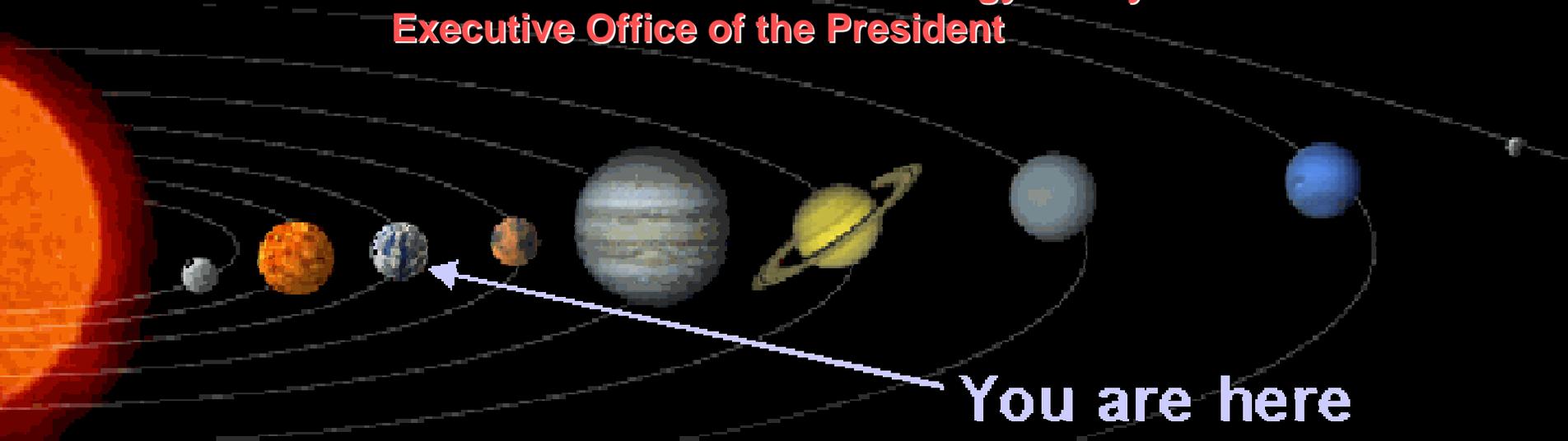
# “Visa Policies and Science in the Post 9/11 World”

Annual Meeting of User Facility

Administrators

October 27, 2003

**James A. Griffin, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Social, Behavioral and Education Sciences**  
**Office of Science and Technology Policy**  
**Executive Office of the President**





# The Role of the Federal Government in Science & Technology

- Improve Nation's ability to:
  - Innovate
  - Enable Discoveries
  - Sponsor development of critical and enabling technologies
  - Maximize return on investments through cooperation across Federal agencies
- Enhance the Economy
- Improve Health & Well-being
- Ensure an Educated Society
- Ensure National and Homeland Security



The President

Office of  
Management  
and Budget

Office of  
Science and  
Technology  
Policy

Other Boards,  
Councils, etc.



# Role of White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP)



- Advise the President
  - Provides S&T analysis and judgement with respect to major policies, plans, programs, & budgets
- Lead the interagency effort to develop sound S&T policies and budgets and develop strong partnerships
  - Set forth (along with OMB) the R&D priorities to guide the agencies when developing their budget
  - National Science & Technology Council (NSTC)
  - Presidential Council of Advisors on Science & Technology (PCAST)

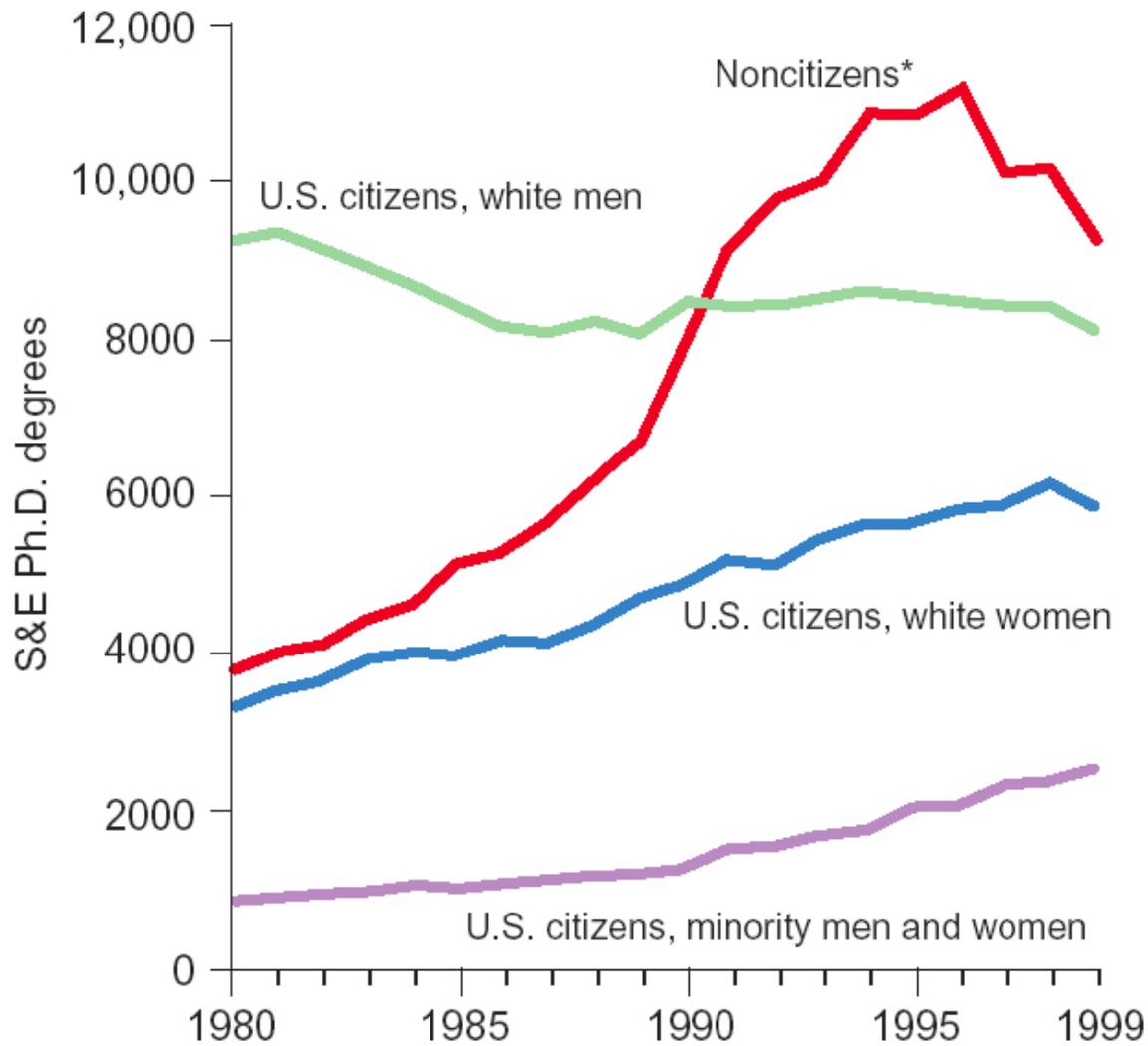


# Visa Policy Issues

- Changes to the visa system post 9/11, including the implementation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
- Continuing policy challenges
- See remarks by Dr. Marburger at the AAAS S&T Policy Colloquium on April 10, 2003:
  - [www.OSTP.GOV](http://www.OSTP.GOV) under the “What’s New” heading



## Changing Faces



\* Includes permanent residents.

# International Science Visa Issues



## Tightening Security on International Scholars

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive-2, Section 3 calls for measures to end the abuse of student visas and prohibit certain international students from training related to weapons of mass destruction.
- USA Patriot Act mandated an electronic system to monitor student and school compliance with immigration laws and regulations – SEVIS.



# International Science Visa Issues

- In last four years, the annual number of nonimmigrant visa applications has varied between 8 and 10 million, of which about 75% are granted.
  - Of those admitted, approximately 20% are in the F, M, and J categories in which students and exchange visitors fall----about one million individuals.
- Number of international students attending U.S. Colleges and Universities increased for the last academic year.
- Small decrease in the number of visiting scholars.



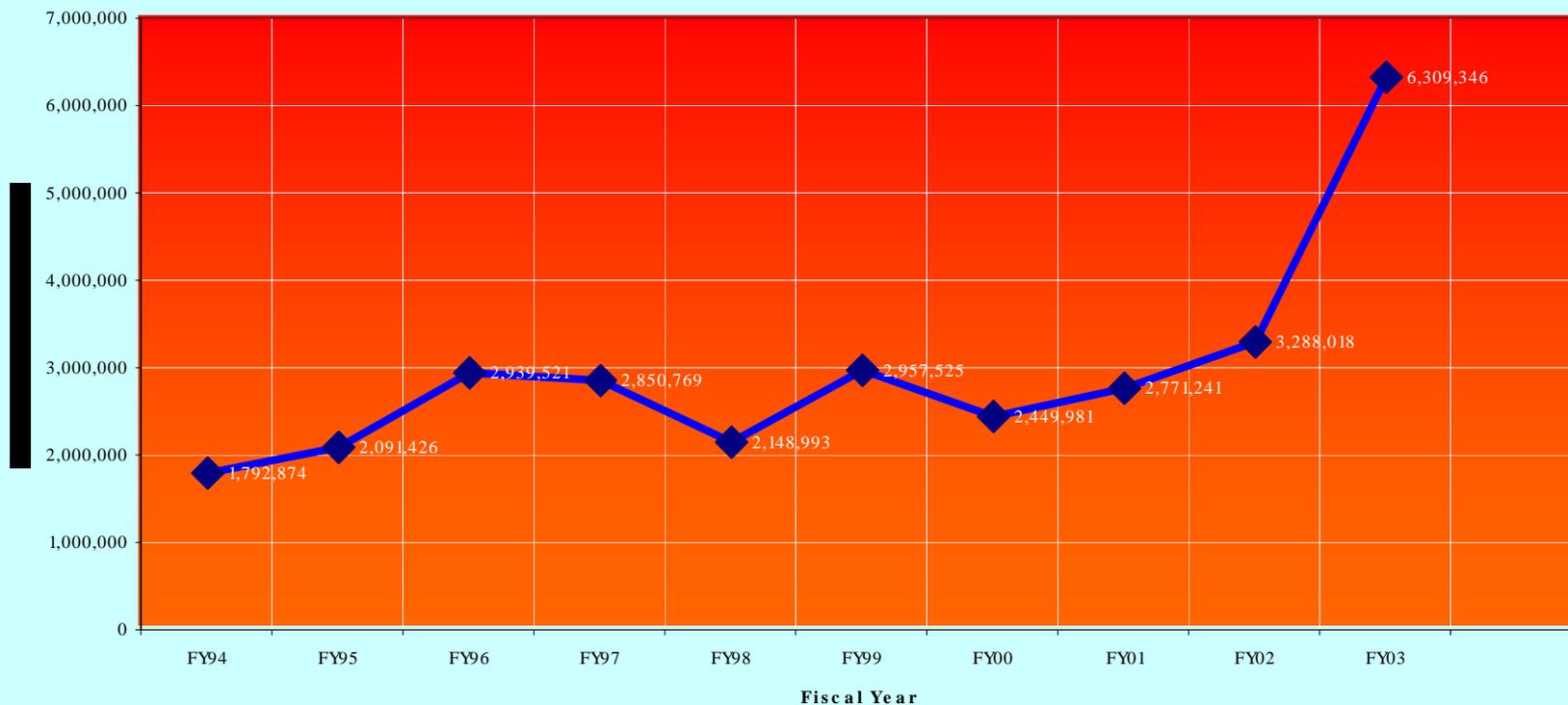
# International Science Visa Issues

- The visa process remains essentially the same today as it was prior to 9/11. THE ISSUE IS LENGTH OF TIME TO OBTAIN A VISA
  - Export Control (Nonproliferation) screening: Mantis Cables in S&T increased from 2000 in CY01 to 14,000 in CY02 due in part to revised TAL
  - Terrorist screening: Condor screening program begun after 9/11
  - The volume overwhelmed the system last summer, steps have been taken to avoid delays this year.



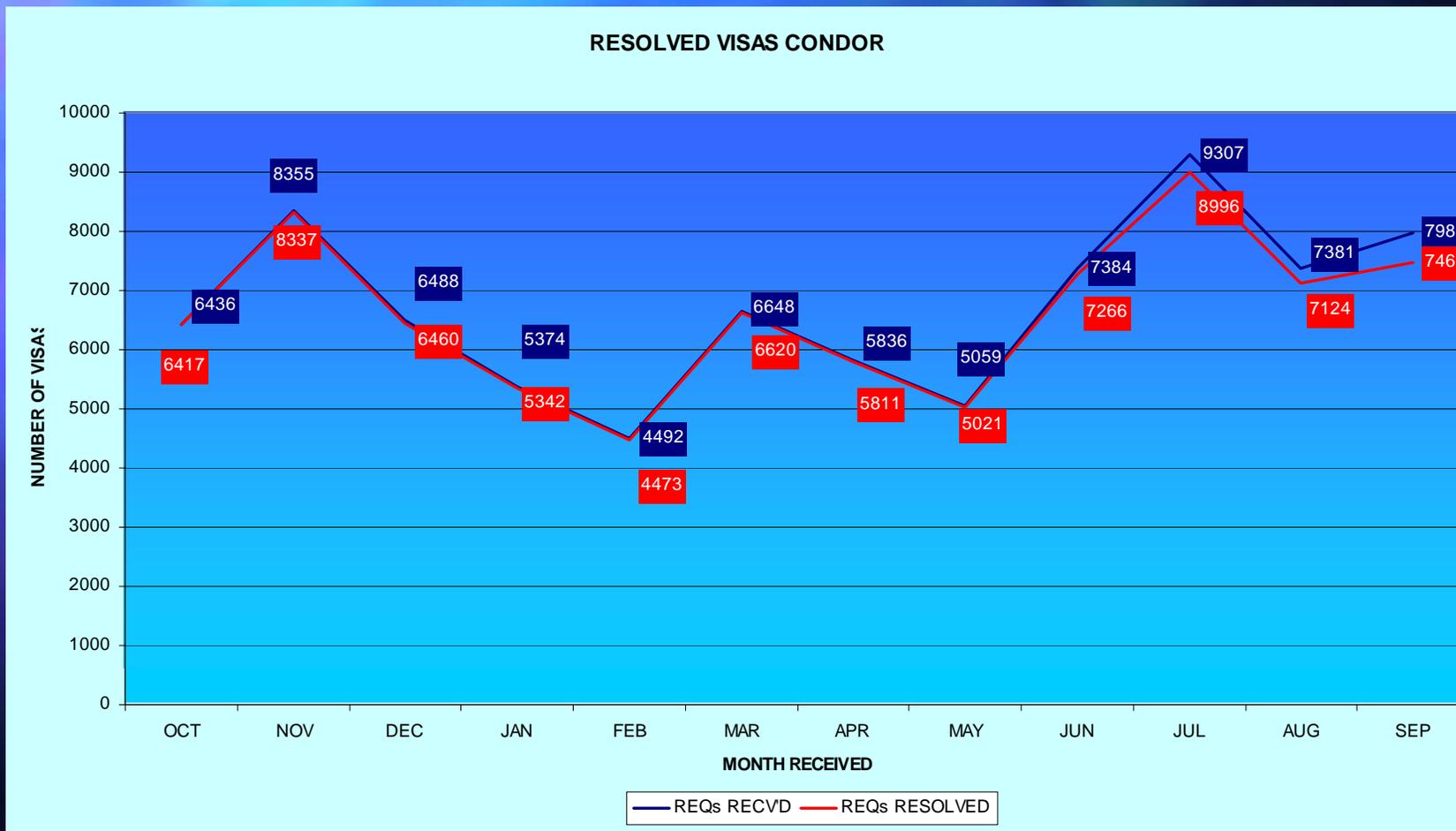
# Growth of FBI Name Checks

Total Name Checks (1994-2003)



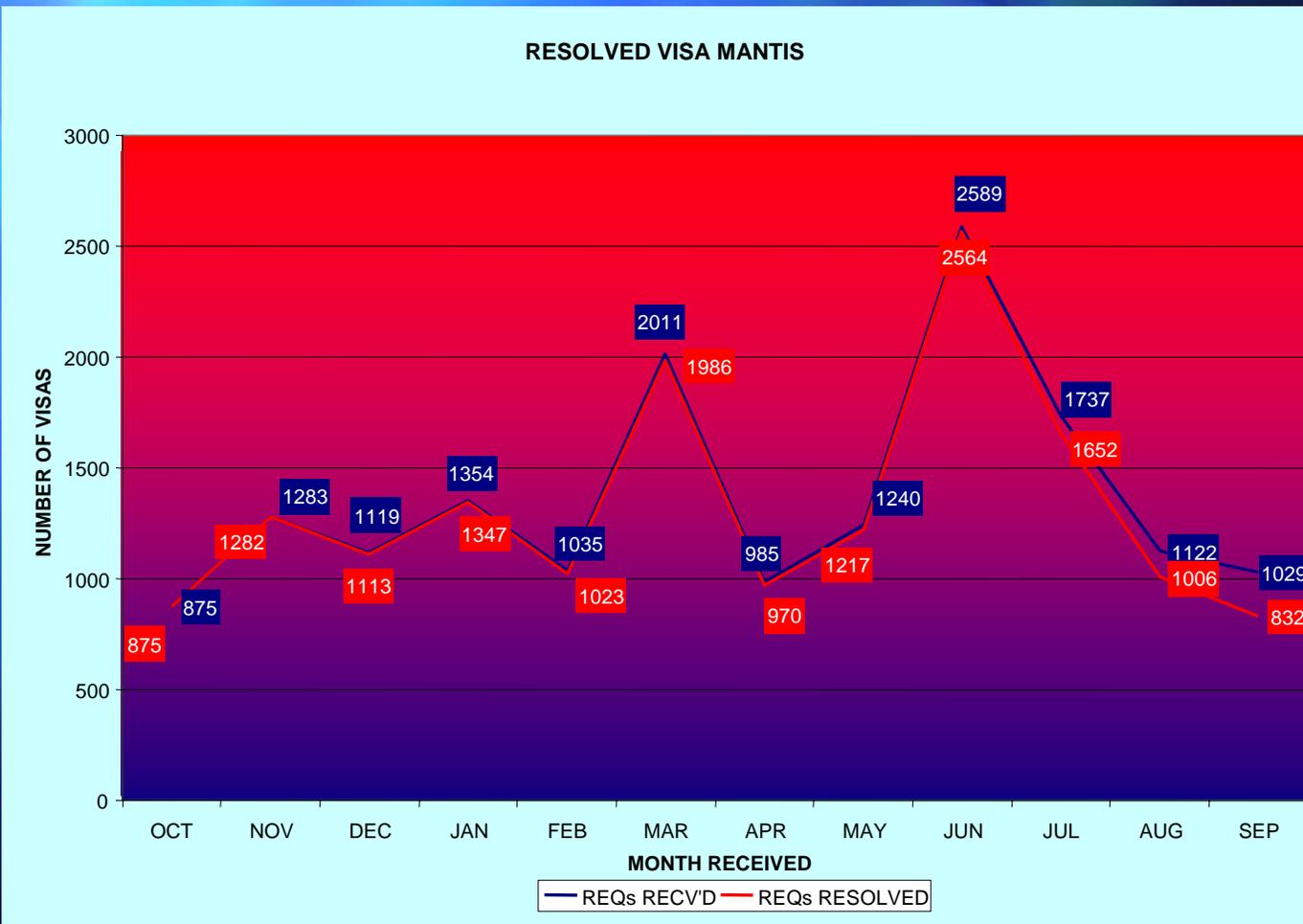


# Visa Condor Clearances





# Visa Mantis Clearances





# International Science Visa Issues

- In-Person Interview Requirement
  - State Department issued directions to prioritize students and research scholars scientists first.
  - With new biometric requirements everyone will have to appear in person by October 26, 2004
- Re-Entry Problem
  - International scientists avoid leaving the country to avoid delays in re-entering
  - Change made so that Mantis clearance valid for 12 months as long as person is returning to the same research listed in the original request



# International Science Visa Issues

- China/Russia 3 month Travel Visa Restriction
  - Cold war era policies require reciprocity in duration of travel visa issued
  - After three months scientists must renew their travel visa and/or return home before they can re-enter
- Visa Waiver Program biometric identifier requirement
  - Enhanced Border Security Act requires 27 Visa Waiver countries to have biometric identifiers in their passports by October 26, 2004.
  - Will have digital photo and possibly fingerprints



# International Science Visa Issues

- Confusion regarding appropriate use of “B” and “J” visa categories
  - Sometimes not clear if “business” or “exchange”
  - Preferred use of “J” category because of SEVIS
- Voice of science in visa security screening
  - IPASS concept still under consideration
  - MOU signed by State and DHS
  - DHS will conduct a “top-to-bottom” review of the visa process, OSTP will work with HSC



# International Science Visa Issues

What to do if an invited international student or visiting scholar's visa application has taken over 90 days:

- Provide information to the National Academies of Science:

International Visitors Office  
The National Academies  
500 Fifth Street, NW, W541  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Phone: 202-334-2602  
Fax: 202-334-2231  
Email: [visas@nas.edu](mailto:visas@nas.edu)

# Final Words



“Our scientific strength derives from our openness, and the free exchange of ideas and people across borders. And we aim to preserve these values despite the forces of terrorism that would undermine them.”

John H. Marburger, III  
Director, OSTP  
Dedication of the Nobel  
Monument in NYC  
October 14, 2003



**YOU ARE HERE**