

News Release

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Biometrics Fusion Center to Help Lead U.S. Government Efforts for Biometrics

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 3, 2003 – The Department of Defense Fusion Center announced today that it has accepted a request from the National Science and Technology Council Biometrics Research and Development Interagency Working Group to lead a subgroup on “Biometric Systems and Human Interface.” Other Federal agencies that will support this group include the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, National Institute for Standards and Technology, Transportation Security Agency and the State Department.

The National Science and Technology Council Biometrics Research and Development Interagency is associated with the Office of Science and Policy in the Executive Office of the President.

“The Defense Department’s leadership role in this important endeavor underscores our commitment to inter-agency cooperation for biometrics. We also hope to leverage the technical expertise of the Biometrics Fusion Center, the Biometrics Management Office’s test and evaluation center,” said David Borland, chair of the Department of Defense Biometrics Senior Coordinating Group.

The Biometric Systems and Human Interface group – to be led by Biometrics Management Office Director John D. Woodward and Biometrics Fusion Center Director

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MAJ Steve Ferrell - will assess, among other things, standards to ensure interoperability and ergonomic human factors relating to peoples' use of specific biometric technologies. The Biometrics Management Office and Biometrics Fusion Center will also participate with the other subgroups supporting this initiative; "Modalities (Face, Finger, Iris, Novel/Other)"; "Fusion, Test Infrastructure and Evaluation" and "Social, Legal and Privacy Issues."

MAJ Ferrell explained, "This opportunity will enable our Biometrics Fusion Center staff to work more closely with other U.S. government biometrics experts. We are looking forward to it."

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The Deputy Secretary of Defense formally appointed the Army as the Department of Defense's Executive Agent for developing and implementing biometrics technology. The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office is the central entity within the DoD responsible for leading, consolidating and coordinating the development, adoption and institutionalization of biometric technologies for combatant commands, Services and Agencies, to enhance Joint Service interoperability and warfighter operational effectiveness. The Biometrics Fusion Center is the test and evaluation unit of the Biometrics Management Office.