



News Release

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Scott Sadlon, BRTRC/DoD BMO
Phone: (703) 253-0944
E-Mail: ssadlon@brtrc.com

Patrick Swan, CIO/G-6
Phone: (703) 693-3069
E-mail: Patrick.Swan@us.army.mil

DoD Biometrics Management Office Completes Biometrics Test Bed at POAC

Iris Scan System Fully-Operational; Over 350 Currently Enrolled

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 12, 2003 – The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) today announced it had reached the final phase of its biometric access project at the Pentagon Athletic Center (POAC). As part of an on-going evaluation of biometrics devices for physical and logical access control, the POAC project began in June 2002 with a phased approach. Initially, the iris scanning device was used in conjunction with pre-existing ID-Cards. With this last phase, the 350+ members participating in the project no longer need to carry their ID Cards to access the center. They can now enter by using the Iridian IrisAccess 2200 devices that are located both at the outside guard shack and at the turnstile entrance to the POAC. Members can still use their ID Cards if they choose to do so.

“Biometric access provides POAC members added convenience and security compared with traditional ID-card systems, thereby instilling confidence that only authorized users can gain access to the facility,” said Dr. Linda Dean, director of the BMO. “This project is a major step towards achieving the BMO’s vision of a DoD-wide Enterprise Solution, which when fully implemented, will allow authorized personnel to access DoD facilities and information networks around the globe without the use of PINs and passwords.”

The POAC served as a test bed to provide exposure to, and instill confidence in, biometrics technology to the senior staff members within the Pentagon. It was chosen because of its proximity to the Pentagon, and because its members are already accustomed to security checkpoints. A ceremony was held last week, hosted by Maj. Gen. John Scott, at the POAC commending the work of agencies involved in the biometric installation project.

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.

