



News Release

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DoD BMO Introduces New Biometrics Enterprise Solution to Biometrics Consortium Conference Attendees

Challenges of identifying and implementing effective tactical biometrics also addressed

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 26, 2002 – At the Biometrics Consortium Conference this week in Arlington, Virginia, Maj. Gen. Steven Boutelle introduced attendees to the DoD Biometrics Management Office's (BMO) emerging Biometrics Enterprise Solution. Boutelle, the Director of Information Operations, Space and Networks (IONS) for the Army Chief Information Officer, outlined how this solution will be designed to give DoD the ability to perform secure, fast, accurate, authoritative personal identity verification, identification and authentication based upon one or more of an individual's biometric characteristics. This unique solution will help DoD perform trusted sharing of a person's biometric credentials between authorized entities.



Biometrics Enterprise Solution At-A-Glance

The Biometrics Enterprise approach is the brainchild of BMO Director Dr. Linda Dean. This approach will support DoD-wide identification and authentication requirements, and will integrate into DoD's current business processes. To meet this goal, Dean initiated the development of four working groups to address the four key areas of the solution: collection, storage, access and retrieval, and use. Each group is made up of key stakeholders including BMO staff, Army, Navy, Air Force and DoD agencies.

As the DoD executive agent for biometrics, the U.S. Army is establishing a Biometrics Senior Coordinating Group (BSCG), made up of select DoD stakeholders (principal staff assistants, Military Departments and Agency representatives), in order to maintain effective, equal management of the development of the Biometrics Enterprise Solution. The BSCG will report to the DoD Chief Information Officer, and be chaired by Mr. David Borland, Army Deputy Chief Information Officer. The group is scheduled to hold its first meeting on October 8, 2002.

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New Biometrics Enterprise Solution

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In Boutelle's briefing, he challenged the biometrics industry to play a role in assisting in the implementation of the solution. He suggested that industry vendors conduct technology demonstrators that validate the solution's concepts, comply with BioAPI standards, develop middleware that facilitates multiple system integration, provide critical system integration of all the components comprising the enterprise, and establish product response times that are seamless and transparent to the user.

Tactical Biometrics

During his briefing at the Biometrics Consortium Conference, Boutelle also addressed the challenges DoD is facing in identifying effective tactical biometrics for use by the warfighter. He stated that biometric technologies could offer benefits to the warfighter. However, several issues have to be solved before they are implemented in a tactical environment. The issues include making sure that biometric sensors are prepared to withstand battlefield conditions; understanding that the warfighter has to be able to use a biometric device in uncontrolled weather conditions while possibly wearing Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear; taking into account that the user's biometric may become damaged or covered with mud, sweat or blood; and considering how discriminating the device is regarding identification of a live biometric versus one that is not.



More information about the BMO's initiatives and programs can be found on their website at www.c3i.osd.mil/biometrics.

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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.