



News Release

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DoD initiates tactical biometrics effort for warfighters

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 5, 2002 – The DoD Biometrics Management Office (BMO) and the Communications Electronics Command (CECOM) have teamed up to conduct a ground-breaking test effort involving the integration of fingerprint technology into the Army’s tactical Network Operations Center Vehicle (NOC-V).

The NOC-V provides network management for classified and unclassified data and voice networks used by warfighters in the field. It is designed to give them vast network management in a small package in order to reduce airlift and manpower requirements for deployed Brigade Combat teams. It is developed by the Network Operations (NetOps) Branch of CECOM’s Research Development and Engineering Center.

The goal is to improve information security and generate synergy with other tactical biometric efforts led by the BMO for DoD. The BMO’s test-and-evaluation facility, the Biometrics Fusion Center, will collaborate with CECOM to conduct integration-performance testing and harsh-environmental testing of the fingerprint authentication system within the tactical NOC-V.

“This test effort is a significant step towards enhancing information-security procedures for brigade combat teams in the field,” said BMO Director Dr. Linda Dean. “It will also benefit DoD as this effort will encourage feedback from warfighters regarding the use of biometrics in a tactical environment.”

The effort is scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2002.

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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 commanders, Services and Agencies, to enhance Joint Service interoperability and warfighter operational effectiveness.

