



Closing Remarks Given by Dr. Myra Gray
IPM Conference
Thursday April 30, 2009
FINAL

IPM CONFERENCE: THE WARFIGHTER AND BEYOND

[Title slide]

CLOSING REMARKS (25 minutes)

We have come to the end of our time here in Miami. Once again, these last few days have been filled with visionary keynotes, informative sessions, sidebar meetings and plenty of thought-provoking conversations.

This was the 5th annual Identity Protection and Management Conference that has been held. The Biometrics Task Force is pleased to have been a partner in all five of these events as well as in the preceding events that specialized solely on CAC and PKI. As the BTF has grown and developed over nearly a decade now, so has this event – not only to keep up with the changing

landscape of identity management and assurance, but to get out in front of the challenges we face.

The theme of the conference this year was “Identity Protection and Management: The Warfighter and Beyond.”

We know that identity management utilizing biometric technology is working for the Warfighter. In fact, as noted in the video I played for you during my opening remarks, it’s working so well in Iraq to track and detain known and suspected terrorists, that we’re making sure those lessons learned are shared in Afghanistan -- and with no time to spare given the encroachment of the Taliban.

Everyday thousands (3-8k) of records are collected and sent to our Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) to either compare against existing records or to store. The technology is improving such that now a match on a record can be made in under two minutes from a theater submission to respond to the Warfighter.

Because this technology is working for the Warfighter, we continue to take the worst of the worst out of circulation. Let me share with you a couple of our most recent success stories that we're proud to share:

[Atlanta Airport Slide]

On 16 March the BTF received ten-print images for an individual trying to enter the United States through the Atlanta International Airport. The individual's biometrics were searched against DHS IDENT resulting in a potential watch list match. Our certified latent print examiners formatted the prints for submission to the DoD ABIS confirming a Tier 5 "Deny Base Access" watch list hit. Sharing biometric data with interagency and multinational partners is vital in securing the homeland.

[Slide of latent print retrieval]

On 20 Mar, a soldier discovered what was determined to be a hoax IED device on Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Anti-

American graffiti painted on the wall included the outline of an AK-47 and a hand in the form of a fist, a possible symbol of Hamas. On 28 Mar, BTF examiners identified two latent prints developed from the scene to two different individuals. The latent matches gave direction in an investigation with limited investigative leads and may facilitate the identification of persons involved in the hoax.

[Slide w/ photo images]

And on 31 March, facial images received from the intelligence community obtained from still and full motion video resulted in several positive identifications. Most of the matches came from previous biometric enrollments placing the suspects either in positions of trust in Iraq or for new identification badges. These matches enable the user community to target, track, and prosecute known or potential adversaries and demonstrate the power of multi-model technology.

[Old Fashioned photo]

So what about “The Beyond?”

It is precisely opportunities like this conference that provide the basis for continued development of “The Beyond.” Probably the biggest take away from these few days here in Miami center around:

- Collaboration
- Communication and
- Flexibility

I’m sure I’m not the only one in the room who believes that we can develop the greatest solutions to our common identity problems through collaboration. Information exchange can only enhance our ability to create and implement solutions that work for all of us.

In fact, identity management should serve to complement individual missions, rather than be the mission itself. This is what we have empowered those in command to do at their respective facilities and we must follow our own advice.

How many of you attending this week had at least one sidebar conversation with someone representing an

organization or technology you wanted to know more about? Everyone, right? And from that humble beginning is how the seed is planted for future collaboration.

But none of this collaboration happens without communication. I find it absolutely fascinating that as we become more and more technologically savvy, the traditional face-to-face communication that we have used since the beginning of time, becomes even more important. We may certainly be smack in the middle of the era of lap tops, Blackberrys[®], iPods, text messaging and social networking, but human relationships are still built upon trust. And trust is developed over time – through face to face interaction, conversation, and working together – not just knowing an email address or “Facebook-ing” someone.

If nothing else, I hope you all take away from this conference that communication takes many forms and will continue to evolve. That doesn't mean that adding new forms of communication to our daily routines renders useless an old one. Email has not replaced the need to

meet face-to-face for an exchange of ideas. Nor do cell phones mean that you don't need to hug your kids before they go off to school in the morning. We are simply fortunate that we now have more ways to work, to share information and to create a bond.

We also must not assume that because something is new, it is better. There is still a place for a hand written note adorned with an Elvis postage stamp, just as there is a place for a text message that looks to you nothing more than a misspelled word.

Lastly, I trust that you will all leave here accepting the fact that we must remain flexible. Technology changes rapidly, we know that. As a result, our identity management needs change quickly too. Likewise, other factors impact our plans. Perhaps you have an upcoming vacation to Mexico scheduled? Let's hope you're flexible on your destination.

But being flexible doesn't mean that we fly by the seat of our pants. We must establish standards and common ways of doing business. Agreed upon standards and

realistic expectations create both a competitive environment and inspire us to address our every day challenges as well as plan for the future. Being flexible makes us *good* at what we do.

[The End slide]

In conclusion, the Biometrics Task Force is pleased to be part of such an educational and inspiring event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, Mary Dixon, Morris Hymes and Becky Allen and their staffs for all the hard work and dedication they put into organizing this event and making it run very smoothly. I'd like to thank those who spoke at the request of the BTF – Alan Shaffer, Gary Gordon, Nick Megna, BG Hoyer, Dr. Mario Savides, Carter Morris and Johnna Hoban. I'd also like to thank my staff from the BTF for their contributions to the conference planning and organizing as well as serving as speakers, attendees and staffing the exhibit booth. It takes a lot of people to put on an event this size – and do it well. My thanks go out to each and every one of them and we look forward to seeing you all at the 2010 IPM Conference.