



Keynote Remarks Given by Dr. Myra Gray  
2010 DoD Biometrics Collaboration Forum  
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FINAL

***ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES***  
**DoD BIOMETRICS COLLABORATION FORUM**

**Keynote Address (15 minutes) [Title slide #1]**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to Charlotte and the first DoD Biometrics Collaboration Forum. We are so happy that you have taken time away from your offices to join us.

The next 2 ½ days here in Charlotte are not intended to be your usual conference where you're simply in the receiving mode. I hope the time we spend here will be *interactive, engaging* and *productive*.

The objectives of this forum are to:

- Discuss the status of biometrics endeavors across DoD
- Collaborate to identify the highest priority issues in the various elements of biometrics initiatives
- Integrate members of the DoD biometrics community and our interagency partners to solve these issues
- Look toward the future of biometrics

**[Slide #1 Afghan map]**

**WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEK.**

It's not often that so many of us involved in biometrics across the federal government can come together, face-to-face and talk about important issues in such a relaxed atmosphere. But don't let this kind of "*working*" environment lull you into a slow pace.

What we will be doing here this week is not only important, but it is urgent, because attacks of terror happen every day around the world.

- They happen in far away Iraqi battle zones.
- They happen in crowded cities and bustling markets.
- They happen in international waters...on US soil...and in well-traveled airspace – the latest of which we saw on Christmas Day.

And because we are at war with the Taliban in Afghanistan, this work is central to that mission.

## **[Slide #2 Afghan Street]**

So while we're on the subject, let's talk a bit more about Afghanistan. From a biometrics perspective, it's fertile ground. While we *have* planted seeds

there, we must continue to provide the nourishment needed to have the biometric operations grow and mature. Like Iraq, Afghanistan is a challenging country with diverse tribes, challenging terrain, minimal infrastructure and limited services – actually, the perfect description of a place where terrorists can hide in the nooks and crannies virtually unnoticed.

But with biometrics, we have a proven way to identify good from bad and friend from foe. We have a way of rousing terrorists from hiding places and denying their anonymity. We can also use biometrics in Afghanistan for humanitarian reasons.

If we've learned nothing from the recent earthquake in Haiti, it's that a system of identifying individuals in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner can truly be a matter of life and death. Knowing who is who and who needs help is crucial.

### **[Slide #3 Iris Scan]**

Likewise, allowing access to facilities, data, and sensitive information can be done more quickly using biometrics.

The good news is that biometrics and the progress we at the Department of Defense and across the federal government have made in the past several years utilizing this technology and sharing the resulting data IS working. We have successfully connected disparate and seemingly insignificant bits of information and data into facts and reference points. We work with our interagency partners on a daily basis to connect and share our individual yet synergistic efforts.

### **[Slide #4 Afghan office]**

And through this interagency work, the need to adopt and promulgate a holistic architecture is readily apparent. Just like the foundation of a well-built home, the building blocks we use to create and expand our data repository must be solid and consistent. Likewise, just as the construction industry adheres to strict standards and performance expectations for materials and systems, so too does the ease-of-use and interoperability for all of us depend on creating and implementing universal standards.

So let me just remind you one more time why we're here this week. To do so, I'm going to share with you a success story of what biometrics is doing and why it's so important to build up that capability in Afghanistan.

**[Slide #5 Swar Khan]**

In May of '09, a record came into our ABIS system for a man named Mr. Swar Khan. As you know, we get thousands of records every year, a vast majority of which don't spark much interest. But every once and a while the whistles blow and the bells ring when we look at a file or see an interesting match. Such was the case with Mr. Khan. As it turns out, Mr. Khan has a "rap sheet" a mile long, which in biometric terms translates into many entries in the ABIS database dating back to 2003. Mr. Kahn has such a long criminal history, that he has his own entry in Wikipedia. No kidding. No matter how you feel about Wikipedia as a reliable source of information, it's there. Do you have your own personal entry on Wikipedia?

In regards to Mr. Khan, the online encyclopedia states, "***Swar Khan*** is a citizen of Afghanistan, held in extrajudicial detention in the United States's Guantanamo Bay detention camps, in Cuba. His

*Guantanamo Internee Security Number is 933. American intelligence analysts estimate Swar Khan was born in 1970, in Khost, Afghanistan. Swar Khan was a security official for the Hamid Karzai government prior to his capture. His boss told reporters that his capture was due to false denunciations from a jealous rival, whose sons worked as interpreters for the Americans, and that he had tried to tell the Americans he should be set free -- without success."*

Good for us, because among the allegations noted for Mr. Khan are the following:

1. He is a member of the Taliban.
2. He is a former intelligence officer for the Taliban.
3. Mr. Khan participated in military operations against the United States and its coalition partners.
4. He had approximately six truckloads of weapons and ammunition including mortars and artillery stored in his house.

5. He was selling weapons and ammunition that were allegedly used against coalition forces.
6. The detainee swore written allegiance to the Union of Mujahadin under Commander Malem Jan Sobari, who is a Taliban guerrilla warfare leader in certain areas of Afghanistan.

Our ABIS records on Mr. Khan showed that he was first captured in January 2003 and quickly shipped off to Guantanamo Bay. He spent several years there and was released from GTMO in October 2006. Fortunately, the May 2009 match to Mr. Khan should keep him off the streets. As a result of that match, he was detained by US Forces-Afghanistan at Regional Command East.

So as you collaborate, network, talk, learn, share, develop solutions to problems and “roll up your sleeves” over the next few days, remember the “why” and hopefully that will help you find the “how.”

We will look forward to hearing about your specific progress and recommendations on Thursday morning.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Tom Dee for some additional remarks. Tom...

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