

BIOMETRICS TASK FORCE

Remarks Given by Dr. Myra Gray
TCM Conference
May 12, 2009
Final

MAKING BIOMETRICS AN ENDURING CAPABILITY

Keynote Address (30 minutes)

[Title slide]

Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the 2009 ANNUAL BIOMETRICS & FORENSICS SUMMIT here in beautiful San Diego. The theme of the conference is “Biometrics and Forensics in a Time of Uncertainty.” And uncertainty is clearly all we are hearing about day in and day out -- primarily due to the state of the economy.

[Slide 1 – Stock Chart]

But while there may be uncertainty in the world today over job trends or stock market movements there is one thing that is for certain and that we can rely on...Biometrics is working.

It is working for the Department of Defense in theater of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and it is working every day for non-combat uses such as facility access and identification verification.

So let me just tell you a bit about how biometrics is working and why it is here to stay...

[Slide 2 - Play full video 4:15]

[Slide 3 – ABIS – Fingerprint on computer]

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. Those records are coming from Iraq, Afghanistan and other far corners of the world to enroll detainees or track suspected terrorists. The technology is improving such that now a match on a record can be made in under two minutes from theater submission to response to the warfighter. In fact, things are going so well in this arena we continue to take the worst of the worst out of

circulation. Let me tell you about a couple of success stories that we're proud to share:

[Slide 4 – Atlanta Airport]

Success story #1 – 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 5 – mug shots]

Success story #2 – On 31 March facial images received from the intelligence community obtained from still and full motion video resulted in seven 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.

[Slide 6 – fingerprint – in field]

Success Story #3 – 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 7 – hand sensor and gate]

But along with these success stories from those fighting on the front lines or in harm's way, the DoD continues to make strides in using biometrics in non-combat areas for:

- Facility access:
 - ✓ Monitoring pedestrian and vehicular traffic at bases, ports and military installations

[Slide 8 – thumbprint in car]

- Physical access
 - ✓ Controlling secure areas and limiting cleared personnel

[Slide 9 – index finger on ATM]

- Information Verification
 - ✓ Providing identity confirmation to allow access to medical or employment history or speed financial transactions

[Slide 10 – Christopher Morgan]

You may remember the World War II veteran, Christopher Morgan, who you just saw in the video talking about how impressed he was by the hand geometry gate at Eglin Air Force Base. Chris is 85 years old. He was a pilot in the Army Air Corps flying missions from Burma to India.

Like many veterans, he's retired now and living in the Florida panhandle. When he needs medical care, he's fortunate to have a brand new Veterans Administration

medical clinic right on the outskirts of Eglin. And he's also fortunate that Eglin has a full service hospital right on base.

[Slide 11 – Moving cart image]

But getting from the VA clinic to the hospital was no easy task. That is until a partnership between the Biometrics Task Force, the Air Force and the Veterans Administration was formed that created a biometrically-enabled gate between the two facilities. Now, when patients like Chris come to the VA medical clinic and need additional tests, volunteers who are enrolled in the hand geometry system there can put him in a golf cart and speed him through the gate and over to the base hospital. He doesn't have to drive from one place to the other – or worse yet, try to find a ride and then pass through the stringent security at the main gates of Eglin.

[Slide 12 – blood pressure cuff]

In this single case, biometrics are allowing an easy way for people who need it the most – the frail and elderly – to

have better access to the healthcare they need with much less hassle.

[Slide 13 – iris scan]

You probably also saw in the video that iris scan technology is currently in use at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. In this case, currently employees are being enrolled in the system so that they can more quickly and efficiently pass through secure access points within the Army Materiel Command building there.

These examples are just a few of those sponsored by the BTF designed to expand the use of biometrics across many functions.

[Slides 14 – 19]

But in order to make biometrics ubiquitous for both the Department of Defense and our society in general, more non-combat uses such as this are developing and expanding every day. These day-to-day uses of biometrics are paving the way to make *“biometrics an enduring capability.”*

So as we embark on the next few days here filled with updates and information on the latest in biometric and forensic policy, technology and implementation strategies, the Biometrics Task Force – with the permission of *DreamWorks* and *Paramount Pictures* – is pleased to show you how biometrics is making its way into the mainstream through the magic of Hollywood. The following clip shows some of the non-combat uses of biometrics such as physical access and identity verification. If nothing else, this clip confirms that biometrics has arrived and is here to stay.

[Slide 20 - Monsters vs. Aliens clip]

So let's hear what you've got on your mind...

Q & A

###