

BIOMETRICS TASK FORCE

Remarks Given by Ms. Lisa Swan
Biometrics and Forensics Summit
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FINAL

BIOMETRICS AND FORENSICS ON THE EDGE; RESETTING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

[Title slide #1]

- On Behalf of Dr. Gray, Director, Biometrics Task Force and the HQDA G-3/57, thank you very much for having me here today to talk to you about *BIOMETRICS AND FORENSICS ON THE EDGE; RESETTING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS*.
- I very much appreciate all of you who have stuck around until this last day. How ironic that it is *actually* April Fools' Day – when in fact, you're probably the least foolish of all because you hung in there to hear as much as you could about this important subject.
- As the theme of this conference states, biometrics and forensics are on the edge...or more precisely, poised on the edge of doing great things.

[Intersection slide #2]

- At the Biometrics Task Force, we tend to view it more of being at an intersection...or an important crossroads from which we are going to move forward together.
- And while those working in biometrics and those working in forensics may have different approaches, our similar goals and commonalities far outweigh the differences.

- So what are our roles and responsibilities?

[DoDD slide #3]

- Currently, there is a Department of Defense Directive signed in Feb. 2008 governing the use and development of biometrics. As you are probably aware, a similar document, is in the works for forensics in DoD. No doubt, many of you contributed to it and most if not all of us will be affected by it.
- Getting a document like this approved takes time....doesn't everything in Federal Service? – but in our experience it has been well worth it. Solving today's and tomorrow's forensics challenges much like navigating a cloverleaf – will require clear understating of lanes. Each of us has a part to play and we need to know the rules of the road.
- Moving now back to the area of biometrics.....Biometrics are currently being used in Iraq and Afghanistan to enroll detainees and suspected terrorists. Finding these individuals and successfully restricting their movement is critical to ensuring safe passage of lawful citizens and coalition forces.
- But in addition to biometrics being used by those fighting on the front lines or in harm's way, biometrics is being used to improve and streamline DoD business functions and processes.
- There are so many applications across DoD that could benefit from the efficiencies and accuracy of biometrics, it's hard to imagine them all. So let me tell you about a few common applications:
- Facility access: The comings and goings of people, vehicles and goods at military installations and DoD facilities is 24 by 7.

Today we need to know in seconds who is entering an office or building and if they should be.

- Physical access: As we heard discuss this week, today we use an array of badges, pins, codes, Smart Cards, magnetic strips – not to mention physical deterrents such as locks, fences, barriers, alarms and the like – to screen who should have access to what and when.
- Information Verification: No matter what you do or where you go, you constantly need to know your name, address, zip code, phone number, social security number, relevant account number, password, pin number, credit card expiration date, security code, mother's maiden name, city where you were born...just to confirm you are WHO you say you are.

[Current DoD In-Theater Applications slide #4]

- we collect and store thousands of records around the world every day. Much of this is through routine screening such as checkpoints or other enrollment stations.
- Often that is because people need access to something – a base for work; military equipment for a mission; or perhaps the latest in technology.

[Current Environment slide #5]

- we now have over 3.3 million total records stored in DoD's Automated Biometric Identification System, or ABIS, which represents over 2.2 million total identities. Of those, there have been approximately 1.3 million matches so far.
- ABIS is the central, authoritative, multi-modal biometric data repository for DoD biometric files. It provides search and retrieval services and interfaces with collection systems,

intelligence systems and other deployed biometric repositories across the federal government.

[1st Ident slide #6]

- Using the ABIS system, we had our 1st positive identification in July 2004.
- We are constantly improving ABIS's functionality in order to expand the ways the data can be used. New software algorithms and additional modalities are improving response times and providing better matching results.
- The technology is improving such that now a Priority 1 match on a record can be made in under two minutes from a theater submission to response to the warfighter. Response times vary, depending on user, application, number of files, etc; The average overall response time is 3.37 minutes.
- And it's working. Take a look at this example.

[Hit of the week slide #7]

- This person (initially a "he") was enrolled 04 Jul 2007 at MNF-I Falcon as Host Nation Hire OCONUS
- On 12 Dec 2007 (still listed as a "he") there was a 2nd MNF-I enrollment as a L3/Titan linguist
- Then on 30 May 2009, now listed as a "she," there was a 3rd MNF-I Badge Request at Victory Base
- 13 Oct 2009: SOCOM CJSTOF-AP enrollment. No reason given. Name listed – Martin. Enrolled with 2007 BAT picture.

And I'm sure there will be more surprises as we continue to expand out capabilities....

[Latent Match slide #8]

Enter the forensics world.....

- We also make matches from latent fingerprints and other *found* evidence. Our first latent match occurred in November 2004.
- As you may have heard yesterday in LtCol Pratt's briefing on biometrics and forensics in the DoD, forensics refers to *"globally adopted disciplines of science that have the goal of finding evidence to be used in court-of-law arguments."*
- So we may have identified a bad guy and even detained him (and that would be the best case), but how do we connect him directly and unquestionably to a crime or act of terror? Most criminals and terrorist don't hang around to get caught. But they do leave evidence. And that's where forensics comes in.

[Latent Evidence slide #9]

- As LtCol Pratt said, *"Forensic are the multi-disciplinary scientific processes, capabilities and technologies used to establish facts that uniquely identify, associate, and link people, places, things, intentions, activities, organizations and events to each other specifically in support of battlefield activities."*
- So our challenge now is to integrate our efforts.

[Integration Slide #10]

- And we're doing that.
- We're working more closely internally and with our inter-agency partners, to include Department of Justice/FBI, Department of Homeland Security and Department of State
- We are identifying efficiencies and filling in the gaps.
- We are marrying our policies and processes.
- And we are maximizing our resources buy leveraging the community.

[Moving Forward Slide #11]

- So while Biometrics and Forensics may be “on the edge,” we see this as a journey, with periodic stops for refueling. A journey that biometrics and forensics will be taking together.

Thank you and I'll be happy to answer some questions.

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