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New Automated Biometric Identification System Improves Capability to Identify Terrorists

Clarksburg, WV February 17, 2009 – The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Task Force (BTF) and the U.S. Army Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) announce the replacement of the current Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) with an enterprise-level multimodal biometric database, Next Generation Automated Biometric Identification System (NG-ABIS), capable of storing and matching biometric data to enable targeting, tracking, and prosecution of known or potential adversaries.

Biometrics are measurable, physiological, and/or behavioral characteristics that are distinct and can be used to verify the identity of an individual. Biometrics can tie an individual to past acts and aliases or can be used to permit access to facilities and data. At enrollment, the person offers a live biometrics sample, such as a fingerprint, that is scanned electronically, processed, and stored. The images are then searched and used to confirm the person's identity at a future time. When the individual presents his/her biometric sample again, the computer searches for a match against the stored template.

NG-ABIS will be the central, authoritative, multi-modal biometric data repository. The system operates and enhances associated search and retrieval services and interfaces with existing DoD and interagency biometrics systems. The repository interfaces with collection systems, intelligence systems and other deployed biometric repositories across the federal government.

NG-ABIS's greater functionality will expand the ways the data can be used and will serve as the strategic level authoritative data source for DoD biometrics. New

software algorithms and additional modalities will provide improved response times and better matching results.

Faster response times and more accurate matches translate into better identification utilizing fewer biometric examiners and providing quicker feedback to the query. The issuance of NG-ABIS has increased the scalability of the system both in terms of the number of transactions processed and the number of storable biometric submissions. The design also allows easier integration of new biometric matching capability modalities as the technology matures. Northrop Grumman led a development team that created and tested NG-ABIS prior to implementation.

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About the Biometrics Task Force

The Biometrics Task Force leads Department of Defense activities to program, integrate, and synchronize biometric technologies and capabilities and to operate and maintain DoD's authoritative biometric database to support the National Security Strategy. Housed primarily in Arlington, VA, and Clarksburg, WV, the BTF operates through the Executive Agent authority given to the U.S. Army and delegated to the G-3/5/7. The BTF executes day-to-day biometric functions and leads coordination for strategic movement forward for all parts of the DoD in cooperation with the Director, Defense Biometrics and Project Manager Biometrics.

About PEO EIS

PEO EIS executes about 40 percent of the Army's IT budget and plays a major role in the Army's technological transformation. The organization develops and fields a wide range of products and services that support the Army and the Defense Department, including business and combat service support systems, as well as communication and computer infrastructure. This portfolio of large-scale IT projects and programs is designed to enable common business processes and deliver next-generation capabilities.