



News Release

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BMO Director Speaks at Defense Science Board

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15, 2004 – John D. Woodward, Jr., the Director of the Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office, today addressed the Defense Science Board Task Force Session on Identification Technologies of the Future in Washington, D.C. Co-sponsored by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) and Director, Defense Research and Engineering, this Task Force is chartered to assess current technologies and operational concepts to identify and track individuals and materials. In his speech, Mr. Woodward focused on how current biometric technology can be used to support U.S. efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

Mr. Woodward introduced the concept of “Identity Dominance” – the ability for U.S. authorities to link a detainee or similar national security threat to that person’s previously used identities and that person’s past activities, particularly as they relate to terrorism and criminality. Mr. Woodward explained that to the extent we rely solely on what someone tells us his or her name is or what “official” documents he or she provides, we will never get dependable, reliable answers to these questions. We won’t know the answers now, and we won’t know the answers in the future.

To better support Global War on Terrorism efforts, the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO) issued a memorandum on February 2 mandating the use of an internationally accepted format for electronic transmission and storage of fingerprint data from military detainees and potential national security threats to enhance the ability of the United States to identify known and suspected terrorists. The DoD CIO



BIOMETRICS

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explained that, “This new interoperability will provide U.S. forces with a powerful offensive capability.”

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The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) is the central entity within DoD responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating the development, adoption, and institutionalization of biometric technologies for Combatant Commands, Services, and Agencies, to support the warfighter and enhance Joint Service interoperability. The BMO reports to the Army Chief Information Officer who acts on behalf of the DoD Executive Agent for Biometrics, the Secretary of the Army. The recently formed Identity Management Senior Coordinating Group provides senior-level, DoD-wide strategic guidance to the BMO, given its mission to oversee efforts in the areas of Biometrics, Public Key Infrastructure, and Smart Cards.