



News Release

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Department of Defense and the National Biometric Security Project Foster Greater Cooperation for Biometrics

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 27, 2004 – The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office (BMO) today announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Biometric Security Project (NBSP) for exchanging information and knowledge to mutually support their complementary missions in biometrics. The NBSP, an independent not-for-profit corporation supports government and private sector efforts to protect the security of the civil infrastructure from terrorist threats through the application of proven biometric technologies.

The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office is responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating the development, adoption, and use of biometric technologies for the Department of Defense to support the warfighter and enhance Joint Service interoperability.

"This agreement allows the Department of Defense to work more closely with the National Biometric Security Project to leverage our joint expertise in biometrics-an approach that is essential to support the Global War on Terrorism," said John D. Woodward, Jr., Director of the Biometrics Management Office.

"While we serve different constituencies, this agreement will assure that parallel and complementary missions will be addressed by collaborative work efforts thereby reducing unnecessary duplication and expense. In our ultimate goals, our missions coincide", commented John E. Siedlarz, Chairman and CEO of NBSP.



Under the agreement, the Biometrics Management Office, (including its technical arm, the Biometrics Fusion Center in Clarksburg, West Virginia), and NBSP will exchange information and data, and coordinate joint efforts for the advancement and effective use of biometrics technologies. According to Woodward, "This agreement will establish a solid foundation for collaborative work activities between our two organizations, to include developing biometric standards, supporting studies on technology use, and evaluating biometric technologies and devices."

Sam Cava, Director of the Biometrics Fusion Center, added, "The fact that the Department of Defense Biometrics Fusion Center and the NBSP's technical facilities are both conveniently located in north central West Virginia will greatly facilitate collaborative efforts at the technical level."

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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.