



News Release

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BFC Hosts Test and Evaluation Biometric Working Group

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15, 2004 – The Department of Defense Biometrics Fusion Center today announced the formation of a Test and Evaluation Biometric Working Group (T&E BWG). The T&E BWG is designed to leverage resources throughout the Department of Defense to establish best practices for biometric testing and evaluation. The Group, which is comprised of various Department of Defense agency personnel and liaisons from each of the Armed Services, will hold its first monthly meeting from April 15-16 in Bridgeport, West Virginia.

“The Biometrics Fusion Center is proud to support national security and Global War on Terrorism efforts,” said Sam Cava, director of the Biometrics Fusion Center. “We’re working hard to provide the DoD warfighter community with reliable, responsive, and timely information on biometric technologies. To do this, we must work with all of the relevant stakeholders to develop state-of-the-art testing methodologies.”

The main goals of the T&E BWG are to coordinate test and evaluation activities, align processes and procedures, and share results and lessons learned across the Department of Defense. The Group will also solicit Department of Defense customer needs for biometric test and evaluation. Initial charter members include representatives from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), U.S. Army Evaluation Center, Joint Interoperability Test Command, Information System Engineering Command, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency among others.



“The T&E BWG will help the Biometrics Fusion Center continue its path towards becoming the biometrics Center of Excellence for the Department of Defense,” said Cava.

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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 Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC) is the test and evaluation unit of the BMO. 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.