

## Current Activities

The BMO and BFC support various biometric initiatives. These include:

### Supporting the Global War on Terrorism

- Ensuring DoD's 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.
- Working with DoD organizations to use biometrics more effectively to protect U.S. forces.

### Developing Biometric Standards

- Leading DoD's efforts, in coordination with other government agencies and international standards bodies, to establish appropriate standards, interoperability tools, and testing frameworks for biometric technologies.
- Developing security criteria to ensure biometric products meet established federal information assurance guidelines.

## How Can I Learn More?

The staffs at the Department of Defense BMO and BFC are proud to serve the national security community. For more information about biometrics, please visit our web page at: [www.biometrics.dod.mil](http://www.biometrics.dod.mil)

Please note that this site includes a special subscriber section for U.S. government representatives. If you require assistance with a specific question, please contact the DoD Biometrics Help Desk at (304) 326-3032, or via email at [helpdesk@dodbfc.army.mil](mailto:helpdesk@dodbfc.army.mil).

In addition, you may directly contact the Directors of the Biometrics Management Office and Biometrics Fusion Center.

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# BIOMETRICS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIOMETRICS



*"We have a responsibility to keep our people, information, and equipment as secure as possible. Biometrics help us do that by ensuring that the right people, and only the right people, have access to the resources they need to maintain superiority on the battlefield and in the war on terrorism."*

LTG Steven W. Boutelle  
U.S. Army Chief Information Officer / G-6  
DoD Executive Agent for Biometrics  
March 2004



[www.biometrics.dod.mil](http://www.biometrics.dod.mil)  
- September 2004

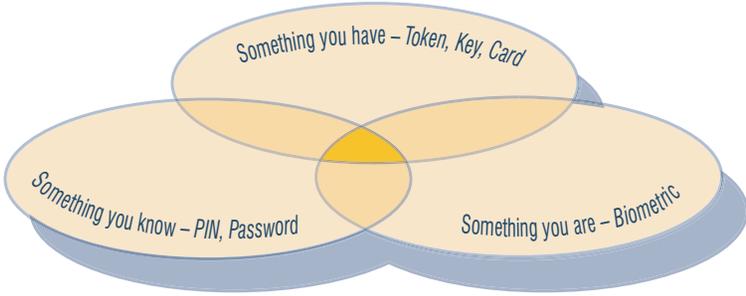
# What are Biometrics?

Biometrics are measurable physical characteristics or personal behavioral traits used to recognize the identity or verify the claimed identity of an individual. A biometric system is an automated tool for measuring and evaluating these characteristics or traits for the purpose of human recognition. Examples include:



# What Benefits do Biometrics Offer?

Security requires the ability to distinguish between friend and foe. To do that we must authenticate identity. In general, there are three approaches to authentication. As illustrated in the diagram below, they are:

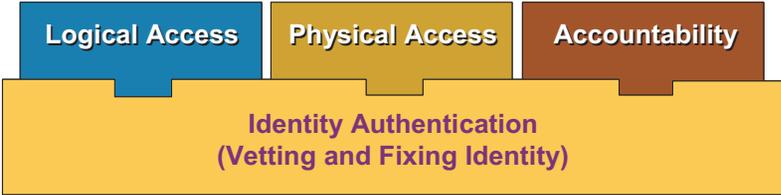


Combinations of these approaches further heighten security.

Rather than basing access solely on something you have or know, the DoD is working to provide an additional secure means of access control—biometrics. You cannot forget your biometric. You cannot lose your biometric. You cannot give your biometric to another person. DoD leadership is embracing the paradigm shift required to provide better identity assurance throughout the Department.

# How are Biometrics Used?

At the foundation level, biometrics help build identity authentication, or the vetting and fixing of identity. At the application level, biometric systems can be used to protect information, systems or networks (logical access); to protect installations, facilities, and spaces (physical access); or to record or audit an individual's transactions to ensure security or prevent fraud (accountability). Biometric technologies can also contribute to fighting the Global War on Terrorism.



# What are the BMO and BFC?

The task of leading, coordinating, and consolidating the integration of biometric technologies across the DoD falls to the DoD Biometrics Management Office (BMO), located in Arlington, Virginia, and the DoD Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC), located in West Virginia. 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 Protection & Management Senior Coordinating Group provides senior-level, DoD-wide strategic guidance to the BMO, given its mission to oversee DoD's efforts in the areas of Biometrics, Public Key Infrastructure, and Smart Cards.

- BMO Responsibilities**
- Oversight
  - Planning-Budgeting
  - Policy Development
  - Acquisition Process
  - Requirements Gathering
  - Standards Development
  - Public Outreach
  - Liaison with DoD and US Government Organizations

- BFC Responsibilities**
- Test and Evaluation
  - Biometric Knowledge Base
  - Product List Development
  - Repository Management, as required
  - Industry-Academia Interface
  - Common Access Card (CAC) Support
  - Technical Expertise