

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Enterprise Vision

The security of information and physical assets is vital to the national security of the United States. Biometrics – methods of human identification using physical or behavioral characteristics – can enhance national security and provide a higher level of identity assurance by augmenting security systems with something you possess (e.g., a token) or know (e.g., a password) with something you are (e.g., a fingerprint).

By the end of this decade, biometrics will be used to the extent practicable in both classified and unclassified environments to improve identity verification for logical and physical access control. Accordingly, the DoD may require its military and civilian personnel, contractors, and other persons as necessary to provide biometrics (e.g., fingerprints, iris scan, and other reasonable mission-relevant biometrics). In some instances, providing a biometric may be a condition of employment.

To support this vision, the DoD Biometrics Management Office (BMO) will ensure that a scalable biometrics enterprise infrastructure is in place, and that the appropriate standards, interoperability tools, testing frameworks, and approved product validations are available to assist the DoD Components in using this technology. Each DoD Component will determine how to use and implement biometrics within an enterprise infrastructure that will be available and flexible for those unique requirements.

The provisions of this memorandum will be incorporated into a biometrics technologies directive and implementing instruction. The point of contact for this memorandum is Dr. Linda Dean, Linda.s.dean@us.army.mil, 703-602-5441.