

# Biometric Performance: The DHS Perspective

**Arun Vemury, Program Manager  
HSARPA/Human Factors Division**

Science and Technology Directorate  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**March 2010**

[arun.vemury@dhs.gov](mailto:arun.vemury@dhs.gov)



**Homeland  
Security**

# Human Factors

Behavioral Sciences Division



Know our enemies, understand ourselves: put the human in the equation



## Motivation & Intent

Enhance the capability of the Department to analyze and counter terrorist motivation, intent, and behavior.

## Suspicious Behavior Detection

Improve screening by providing a science-based capability to identify unknown threats indicated by deceptive and suspicious behavior.

## Personal Identification Systems (Biometrics)

Improve screening by providing a science-based capability to identify known threats through accurate, timely, and easy-to-use biometric identification and credentialing validation tools.

## Community Preparedness & Resilience

Enhance preparedness and mitigate impacts of catastrophic events by delivering capabilities that incorporate social, psychological and economic aspects of community resilience.

## Human Technology Integration

Enhance safety, effectiveness, and usability of technology by systemically incorporating user and public input.



**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology



# Human Factors

Behavioral Sciences Division

## Drivers for the DHS Biometrics S&T Program

*Prevent terrorists from operating effectively against U.S.*

- Know who they are and what they are planning to do
- Impede their ability to recruit, train, obtain finances, acquire weapons (CBRNE), communicate and travel
- Disrupt their activities – surveillance, staging, rehearsal, attack – at all levels of the homeland security enterprise
- Remove dangerous people

*Developing capabilities to consistently and positively identify those seeking entry into the U.S. is vital to this effort*



**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology

# Human Factors

Behavioral Sciences Division

## Drivers for the DHS Biometrics S&T Program

*Prevent illegal entry of people, weapons or contraband into U.S.*

- Deter those who would enter the country illegally or import contraband
- Encourage legal immigration and lawful, secure commerce
- Impede ability to cross border except at designated ports of entry
- Prevent admission of dangerous people while facilitating legitimate travel

*Developing capabilities to consistently and positively identify those seeking entry into the U.S. is vital to this effort*



**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology



# Human Factors

Behavioral Sciences Division

## Drivers for the DHS Biometrics S&T Program

*Protect continuity of systems fundamental to societal stability and security*

- Impede the ability to disrupt or weaponize critical infrastructure
- Implement a cascading Federal/State/community/individual system of resilience through preparedness and integrated emergency management
- Ensure resiliency of functions critical to public health and safety, government and essential services

*Developing capabilities to consistently and positively identify those seeking entry into the U.S. is vital to this effort*

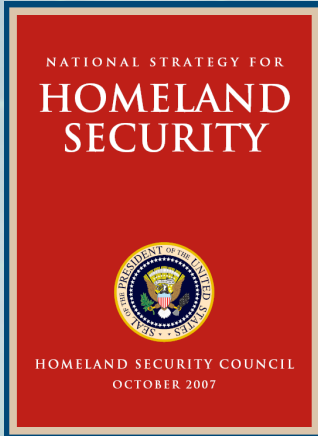


**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology

# Human Factors

Behavioral Sciences Division

## Drivers for the DHS Biometrics S&T Program

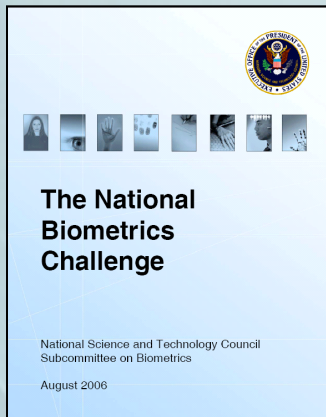
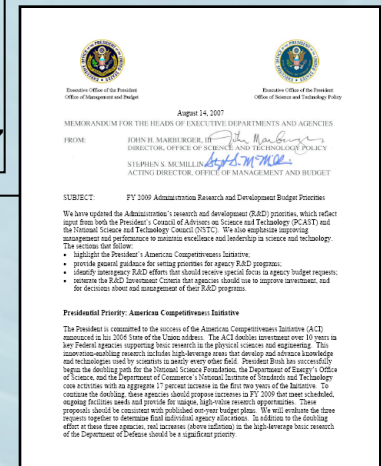


***“In the face of resourceful terrorists, however, we must continue to expand the US-VISIT program’s biometric enrollment from two fingerprints to ten fingerprints, as well as leverage science and technology to enable more advanced multi-modal biometric recognition capabilities in the future that use fingerprint, face, or iris data.”***

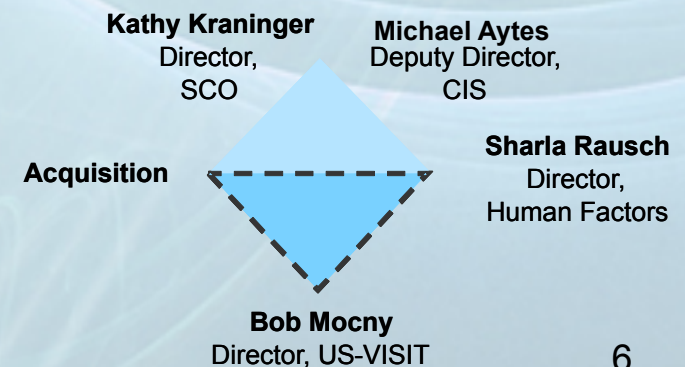
***- National Strategy for Homeland Security, Homeland Security Council, October 2007***

***“...agencies are to place emphasis on the priorities outlined in The National Biometrics Challenge and the resulting agenda developed by the NSTC Subcommittee on Biometrics and Identity Management.”***

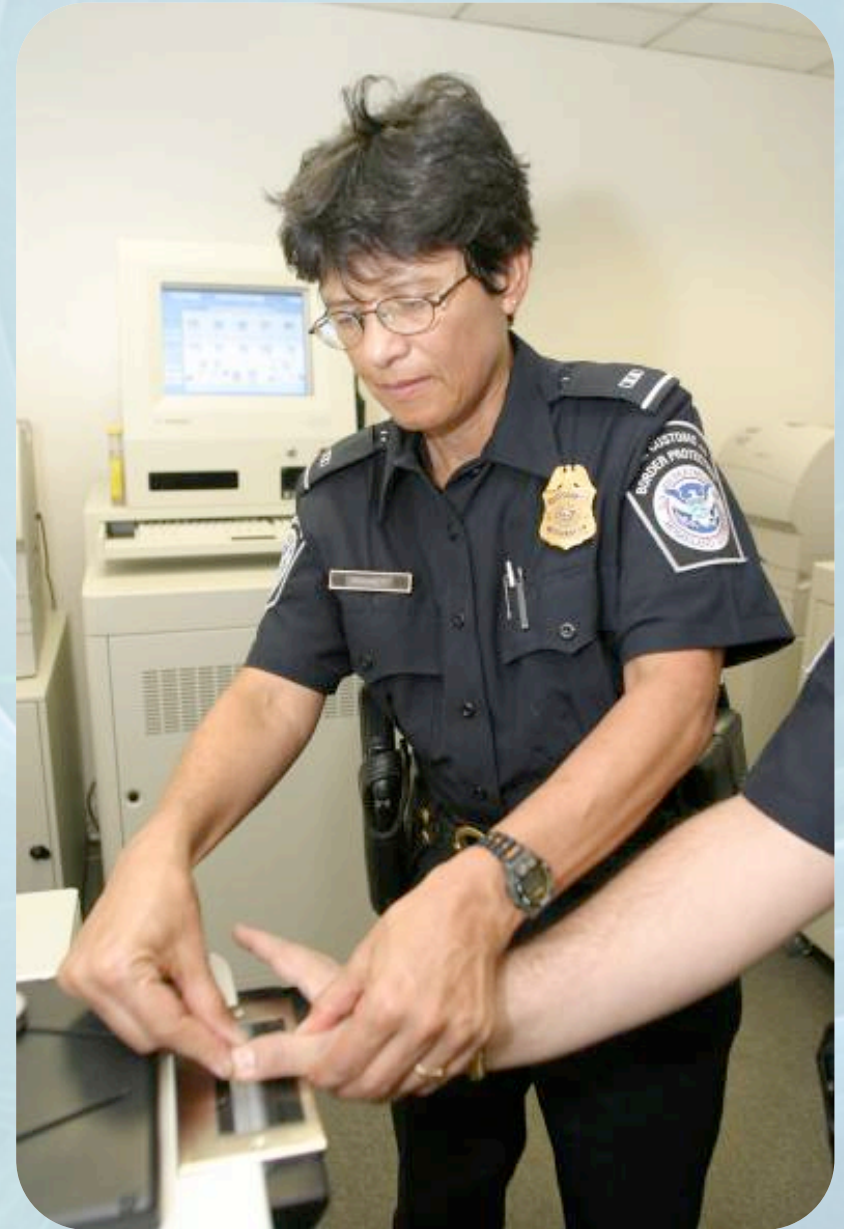
***- OMB and OSTP FY2009 R&D Budget Priorities (www.ostp.gov)***



### DHS People Screening IPT







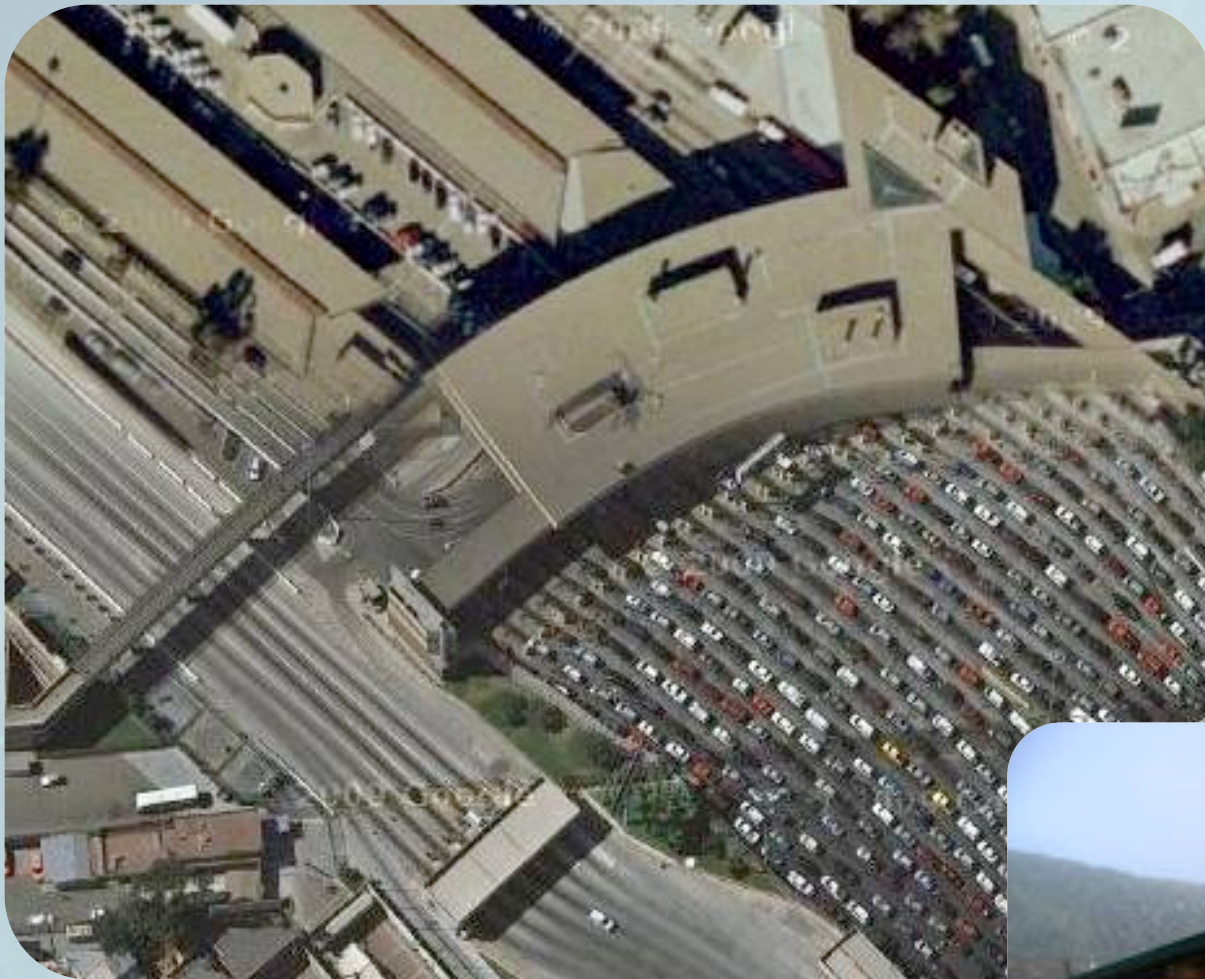
Science and Technology





**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology





**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology





**Security**  
Science and Technology





**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology

# Human Factors

Behavioral Sciences Division

## **Biometrics: *DHS's Unique Challenges***

- DHS has some unique Biometric challenges for screening operations
  - Scale and diversity of screening sites
  - Accommodation of existing DHS practices
    - Workload, wait times and throughput
  - Harsh lighting and environmental factors
  - Extreme Outdoor Mobile Conditions
  - Non-cooperative users
  - Field-collected samples of mixed quality
  - Real-time access to match results across the DHS enterprise and interoperability with mission partners
- These challenges must be addressed for widespread deployment of biometrics







# Homeland Security

---

## Science and Technology



**Homeland  
Security**  
Science and Technology