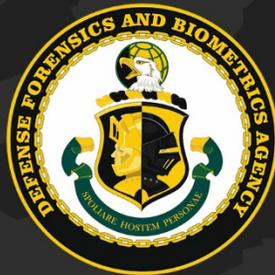


**DFBA** | DEFENSE FORENSICS  
AND BIOMETRICS AGENCY

# AFRICOM Symposium

*Lindsey Martin*



**DENY THE ENEMY  
ANONYMITY**



# AFRICOM Symposium

*Lindsey Martin, 4/15/2016*

Mr. Brian Hunt represented DFBA at the U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) Protection Synchronization Symposium from 4-8 April 2016. The symposium provided an opportunity for collaboration and crosstalk within USAFRICOM, and between its many components, to include EUCOM and CENTCOM representatives, OUSD (P), DIA, DISA, DFBA, DFSC, NCIS, interagency partners from DOS and DHS CBP and ICE, security professionals, subject matter experts, and academia. The attendees discussed mission assurance, force protection, antiterrorism, biometrics and forensics, JRAMP, C-IED, and critical infrastructure protection policy, programs, operations, and issues pertinent to USAFRICOM operations and missions in its AOR.

As a part of this effort, DFBA briefed its DOD and interagency partners on the benefits of biometrics and forensics to AT/FP missions. Attendees actively participated in the discussion, asking questions about privacy issues, portals' connections back to the DoD Automated Biometrics Identification System (ABIS), and the use of biometrics and forensics for installation access, to include the status of Gatekeeper on the Move. Following the brief, EEB held a sidebar discussion regarding Gatekeeper on the Move with COL Robertson, USCENTCOM. DFBA's presentation to attendees directly contributed to the success of the conference by highlighting the benefits of incorporating biometrics and forensics in AT/FP activities.

In addition to DFBA's briefing, a working group with representatives from AFRICOM J34, NCIS, DHS CBP, and DFSC was notably one of the most relevant discussions EEB participated in throughout the symposium. The J34 presented its view on the level of capabilities it can provide to partner nations, which ranged from providing SEEKs to providing SEEKs with their own database, plus a connection back to U.S. databases. AFRICOM vocalized their preference to adopt the latter, pressing the importance of investing in the highest capabilities within the mission space and enabling the U.S. to collect and screen biometric data. The J34 representatives identified USARAF as the ideal component to eventually take over Identity Activities (IA) because it is the only AFRICOM component that currently has IA capabilities. Despite USARAF's concern over funding for future capabilities, they currently have enough kits, including SEEKs and Iris on the Move, to provide a short term solution for implementation.

The symposium highlighted the importance of continued attendance at geographic combatant command hosted events. Participating in these events sharpen strategic communications points to illustrate roles and uses of biometrics and forensics capabilities to support operations across the spectrum of missions. CCMD symposiums also enable DFBA to emphasize the role it plays within the DOD biometrics and forensics enterprise.