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Defense Strategies Institute Identity Management Symposium

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Lindsey Martin, 4/22/2016

On April 19th, Mr. Jerry Reimers represented DFBA at the Defense Strategies Institute (DSI) Identity Management Symposium in Alexandria, VA. The symposium provided the opportunity to exchange valuable information on efforts within government, academia, and industry regarding plans to integrate biometrics capabilities with other tools, both existing and in research and development, to support defense and homeland security operations.

Mr. Reimers provided a detailed briefing on Identity Intelligence in support of DFBA's foreign partners as the Head of Delegation for NATO. His briefing, "Protecting the Nation and our Foreign Partners through Identity Activities, Leveraging Identity Intelligence (I2)", offered insights on the competing spectrum of privacy and security, while emphasizing the necessity of deploying biometric capabilities across the range of military operations (ROMO) to counter illicit activities and identify persons of interest worldwide. Throughout his briefing, Mr. Reimers underscored the importance of the intelligence community's ability to provide context to the big data stored in the many biometrics databases strewn across the interagency.

Mr. Reimers articulated that on its own, biometric information is incapable of telling a story, but pairing this information with biographical information and multi-modal biometrics offers analysts the information necessary to match and verify persons of interest. This process is known as Identity Intelligence, or I2, which is the totality of all identifiers, to include voice, iris, facial, latent prints, ten prints, biographical documents, DNA, and behavioral identifiers, and provides the "so what" for each biometric capture. Mr. Reimers highlighted the use of I2 and its functionalities in support of the U.S. Government's business mission areas, specifically those related to insider threat and base access, stating that cooperation between both blue and red forces is essential in combatting non-traditional threats at home and abroad.

In addition to Mr. Reimers' presentation, there were notable briefings from across the biometrics community, including the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) on expanding defense biometric capabilities and identity intelligence, the Defense Forensic Science Center on expeditionary forensics, and the U.S. Coast Guard on maritime biometrics capabilities. Each presentation emphasized current capabilities, while also mentioning challenges and areas of improvement for efficiency and information sharing across the biometric mission space.