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AND BIOMETRICS AGENCY

DFBA Leads Discussion at the Peace Keeping & Stability Operations Institute, Carlisle PA

Lindsey Martin



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ANONYMITY



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Lindsey Martin, 4/18/2016

On 14 Apr 16, DFBA delivered a guest lecture to students at the U.S. Army War College's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI). The lecture provided an opportunity for rising interagency and international leaders from the Army, Air Force, DOS, as well as Senegal, Botswana, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, Gabon, and Croatia, to learn about the benefits of incorporating biometrics and forensics into peacekeeping and stability operations plans.

The discussion focused on biometric and forensic capabilities in support of security sector reform (SSR) and demobilization, demilitarization, and reconstruction (DDR) efforts to limit potential adversaries' ability to assume false identities; enhance population control; and safeguard government facilities from unauthorized access. Students were particularly interested in the biometrics vetting of warring factions, the ability to safeguard and share biometrics information, forensics collection processes, protection of civil liberties, and theater security cooperation activities.

To answer these questions, DFBA spoke to the role of biometrics and forensics in denying anonymity across the ROMO, successful employment of biometrics and forensics in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) operations, potential applications for DDR and SSR, and host nation considerations such as laws and agreements. DFBA utilized U.S. Pacific Command's (USPACOM) Concept of Operations for ID Activities specific to HA/DR, providing excellent vignettes for population management, identification of remains, assisting in disbursement of aid, and managing Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's).

The discussion identified use cases during which biometric and forensics capabilities prevented anti-government militants from operating in the shadows, where they perpetrate sabotage, subversion, and insurgency. Biometrics and forensics were determined an integral part of detention operations, voter verification, and anti-corruption efforts. Forensic capabilities (i.e., DNA and fingerprint analysis) can be used to associate spoilers, criminals, and militants with illicit activities, materials, events, and groups. For example, forensics can identify individuals or groups involved in planting explosive devices and use pattern analysis to locate them. While it is useful for investigating atrocities and war crimes, forensics supports predominately law enforcement and rule of law procedures. Accordingly, forensics can enhance public confidence in the judicial system by higher conviction rates through scientific evidence. Lastly, it accelerates registration of refugees for assistance and resettlement.

PKSOI greatly appreciated DFBA's perspective and expertise within the biometric and forensic mission space. As a result, identity activities will be featured throughout its curriculum in the coming semesters. Additionally, DFBA hopes to leverage this partnership and broaden its scope beyond PKSOI to the Army War College curriculum write large.