Appendix D

BIOMETRIC CONSORTIUM

The Biometric Consortium (BC) serves as the U.S. government's focal point for research, development, test, evaluation, and application of biometric-based personal identification/verification technology.[1] The BC's 700 members include federal, state, and local government officials; biometric industry representatives; academics; and representatives from related technologies. Jeffrey S. Dunn of the NSA and Fernando Podio of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) currently co-chair the BC.

The BC plays an important role in educating policymakers and the public about biometrics. For example, the BC chairs have testified before Congress and briefed senior Executive Branch officials on biometrics.[2] In addition, they have spoken at many leading government, industry, and academic conferences.

The BC sponsors conferences and other meetings as required. It publishes proceedings from its conferences and hosts a Web site. Among its responsibilities, the BC addresses legal and ethical issues surrounding biometrics. It also advises and assists member agencies concerning biometric technologies as well as the selection and application of biometric devices.[3]

---

[1]The BC Web site is available at http://www.biometrics.org/.

[2]See, e.g., Dunn (1998).

[3]BC Co-chairs Dunn and Podio both generously assisted RAND's research efforts for this project.

Chartered as a Working Group on December 7, 1995, the BC answers to the U.S. Security Policy Board through its Facilities Protection Committee. The Security Policy Board consists of the Director of Central Intelligence, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Secretary of State, Under Secretary of Energy, Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Deputy Attorney General, one Deputy Secretary from another nondefense-related agency, and one representative from OMB and the NSC staff.

In sum, the BC is one of the federal government's leading institutional assets in the field of biometric technologies.