

# Biometric Consortium 2005 Conference

---



**Mr. Samuel J. Cava**

Director, Department of Defense Biometrics Fusion Center  
*DoD Biometrics*

347 West Main Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
Phone: 304.326.3001  
Sam.cava@dodbfca.army.mil

**Topic:** DoD ABIS: Capabilities and Information Sharing

**Abstract:** The DoD Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) is an electronic database and associated set of software applications that supports the storage, retrieval, and searching of multiple types of biometric data collected from persons of national security interest. This session will provide an overview of ways in which the system is used by the military to identify friend or foe and further discuss the importance and challenges of ensuring information sharing and interoperability within the biometric Community of Interest.

**Biography:** Samuel J. Cava was appointed Director of the Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC) in December 2003. In this position, he has led the expansion of the Center's contribution to the Nation's defense through the implementation of the DoD Automated Biometrics Identification System and the near real-time analysis of Red Force biometric data. He has initiated pilot programs to demonstrate the value of interoperable biometric systems in Joint Force missions.

In his first full year as Director, Mr. Cava has transformed the BFC from a biometric technology knowledge center to one that performs biometric system implementations in support of mission critical operations across numerous commands by emphasizing a joint warfighter mindset. The BFC team partnered with the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet on the Maritime Interception Operation Demonstration, initiated the U.S. Army's Military Entrance Processing Command biometric enrollment project, and won approval for its upcoming mobile biometric collection system advanced concept technology demonstration. In fostering the Biometrics Fusion Center—growing the organization from 50 to over 100 staff in one year—he has cemented strong relationships with other government agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Security Agency, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He also serves as the chair of the White House National Science and Technology Council Research and Development Interagency Working Sub-Group.

Attaining the rank of Captain in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Cava served in the National Reconnaissance Office/Advanced Sciences and Technologies Group from February 1999 to March 2001, and in the National Air Intelligence Center/Science and Technologies Branch from August 1995 through February 1999. During his military career, Mr. Cava established the Tasking, Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination system architecture for a \$1 billion national sensor asset program, and a similar program valued at \$250 million at four national agencies. His leadership skills were honed as the chair of several national working groups that cut across the CIA, DIA, NIMA, DOE, NSA, NRO and DoD. The working groups established national standards for data dissemination, archiving and retrieval and information reporting; and developed the prototype data repository containing signatures used in forensic sciences. He exited the U.S. Air Force in 2001, and retains the rank of Captain on Inactive Ready Reserve status.

He returned to his alma mater, West Virginia University, Morgantown, in 2001 as a special advisor on governmental affairs. In this role, he produced a highly regarded white paper on the recapitalization of assets for Measurement and Signature Intelligence to put into place a more robust capability that would maintain its data stream as technology replacements came into use. West Virginia University subsequently appointed Mr. Cava as Director, Forensics and Biometrics Program Development. Working collaboratively with faculty leaders, Mr. Cava co-established the Biometric Knowledge Center, oversaw an increase in student enrollment in the forensics/biometrics major, and obtained state economic development funding to nurture the region's emerging biometric technology.

Mr. Cava is a native of Clarksburg, WV, and received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from West Virginia University, where he studied on an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. He serves on the West Virginia Drug and Violent Crime Task Force board of directors. He is married and has three children.