

# Facial recognition rolls out to AFP

National Coordinator for the AFP's Identity Security Strike Teams (ISST) Darren Booy, stated that the AFP Facial Recognition System had been utilised by the ISSTs for some time now.

During the developmental phases of the facial recognition capability, there have been some great operational results from the facial recognition system, which have provided intelligence linking identity crime investigations and suspects.

The facial recognition system has now been embedded as a standing capability across the wider AFP. It is being applied across all investigations and intelligence assessments including serious and organised crime, counter-terrorism, people smuggling and child protection operations.

Its use will assist investigators and intelligence officers to develop actionable intelligence and identity of previously unknown suspects through facial recognition.

The use of the facial recognition capability aligns with the objectives of the National Identity Security Strategy where one of the key objectives was to enhance the national interoperability of biometric identity security measures.

Facial recognition is one such measure and its use by the AFP will enhance operational outcomes.

FBI biometrics expert Dr Richard Vorder Bruegge presents to AFP members in Canberra on the development of automated face recognition.

## Biometric recognition is the face of the future

Dr Richard Vorder Bruegge is confident that face recognition will eventually be an accepted biometric tool in the same way as fingerprints.

The FBI's Senior Level Photographic Technologist said creation of the Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) as a development from the FBI's Biometric Centre of Excellence was an important step in that development.

The FISWG was created to provide leadership to the law enforcement community by developing international standards, guidelines and best practices for the discipline of image-based comparisons of human features, primarily face.

It also aims to provide recommendations for research and development and activities necessary to advance the state of the science in this field.

"We are there to develop consensus guidelines as best practices. We have participants all over the world and the next meeting is in November in 2012," Dr Vorder Bruegge said.

"It is through these scientific working groups that we want to try to develop standards that will apply to the forensic science across the discipline."

AFP Coordinator Forensic and Data Centres Biometrics Dr Simon Walsh said the potential for facial recognition had long been identified.

"It is only in the last year or two years that the software that supports the system has been good enough and discerning enough to make reliable identifications," Dr Walsh said.

