



VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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Using Biometrics to Increase Security While Protecting Civil Liberties

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Stephen L. Morris is the Assistant Director (AD) of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division in Clarksburg, West Virginia. In this role, he leads more than 2,400 employees in providing critical biometric identification and criminal justice information-sharing services to law enforcement agencies across the nation and around the world.

Mr. Morris joined the FBI in 1988 as an administrative file clerk in the Honolulu Division. He completed new agent training in Quantico, Virginia, in 1991, and was assigned to the El Paso Division.

His career highlights include establishing the El Paso criminal intelligence squad, supervising domestic and international criminal informant programs, serving as supervisory senior resident agent for the Dayton Resident Agency, managing the FBI's command center for strategic information and crisis management and serving as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Houston Division.

Prior to becoming AD of the CJIS Division in March 2014, Mr. Morris served as a Deputy Assistant Director and Section Chief within the division.

A native of South Carolina, Mr. Morris is a 1990 graduate of Hawaii Pacific University.

Located in Clarksburg, West Virginia, the CJIS Division serves as the "information arm" of the FBI and its law enforcement and criminal justice partners across the country and around the world, providing biometric identification and information-sharing services. These services help investigators solve and prevent crime, while being carefully managed to also protect the privacy and rights of citizens. Two initiatives that illustrate this role include the **Next Generation Identification (NGI)** system and the forward-facing **FBI Biometric Center of Excellence (BCOE)**.

In September 2014, the NGI system became fully operational, expanding the FBI's biometric identification capabilities and providing the criminal justice community with the world's largest repository of biometric and criminal history information. The NGI system replaced the first automated fingerprint matching system, known as the IAFIS (Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System), which came online in 1999 and revolutionized the processing of fingerprints. The NGI system, implemented incrementally over the past five years, has provided many enhancements to fingerprint and latent searches.

The Advanced Fingerprint Identification Technology component, deployed in early 2011, increased automated fingerprint identification accuracy to 99.6 percent with its new algorithms. In the summer of 2011, NGI introduced the capability for mobile fingerprint searches of the Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC). The NGI RISC rapid search, with response times of less than 10 seconds, provides on-scene access to a national repository of wanted persons, convicted sex offenders and known or suspected terrorists. In the spring of 2013, searches of latent prints (fingerprints left



behind at crime scenes) became three times more accurate with NGI's new algorithms.

The most recent increment of NGI that went live in September 2014 provided capabilities long awaited by law enforcement, including a National Rap Back service and facial recognition. The National Rap Back is a subscription service in which authorized agencies are notified of arrests involving individuals working with vulnerable populations or in positions of trust (such as eldercare workers and teachers) and people under criminal justice supervision.

The NGI's facial recognition service offers another tool to help law enforcement identify suspects. The NGI photo repository currently has more than 24 million criminal mug shot photos available for law enforcement agencies to search. Unlike fingerprint submissions, which are used to determine positive identification of subjects, the NGI facial recognition capability is used by law enforcement to develop investigative leads. "Probe" photos are submitted, searched against the repository, and a ranked list of candidate photos that may be matches are



returned to law enforcement investigators. These candidate photos and the criminal justice information accompanying them can be used to help make a positive identification.

Protection of privacy and civil liberties was integral to the development and implementation of the NGI system. Stringent FBI legal authorities and strict policy guidelines govern access, how searches are conducted and the types of criminal history information retained within the system. Authorized criminal justice users must complete training, comply with the CJIS Security Policy and undergo state and federal audits.

For emerging biometric identification capabilities, the FBI BCOE has an important role in assessing privacy issues surrounding new technologies. The FBI BCOE, managed by the CJIS Division, explores new and enhanced biometric and identity management technologies for criminal justice and national security. The BCOE collaborates with staff from the FBI's Laboratory Division and Operational Technology Division, as well as other law enforcement and intelligence agencies, members of academia and partners in private industry.

To aid in effectively protecting citizen privacy while enhancing biometric

capabilities, the BCOE helps establish biometric standards and specifications and develops biometric prototypes, pilots and tools. One example of the BCOE's work is the Iris Pilot Program. Through this pilot, the BCOE has explored methods to enroll iris images into a repository, tested the ability to search iris image submissions against the repository and determined the accuracy of search matches.

In the fight against crime and terrorism in the United States, the FBI remains equally vigilant in protecting the rights of our citizenry. Through the efforts of the BCOE and systems such as NGI, the CJIS Division strives to maintain the balance between security and privacy while incorporating rapidly advancing identification technologies. With such solutions, the division can continue to fulfill its mission to equip law enforcement, national security and intelligence community partners with the criminal justice information they need to protect the United States while preserving civil liberties. ▽

About the FBI's CJIS Division

Established in 1992, the FBI created the CJIS Division to consolidate its criminal justice services and information systems into a single organizational entity. In addition to biometric identification using NGI, the CJIS Division administers many other vital services for law enforcement and criminal justice partners.

These include: the **National Crime Information Center**, which provides centralized access information regarding stolen/recovered property, wanted persons, and missing and unidentified persons; the **National Instant Criminal Background Check System**, which ensures the timely transfer of firearms to eligible gun buyers and prevents the transfer of firearms to those prohibited from purchasing them; the **National Data Exchange** and **Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal**, two systems that help law enforcement share information and collaborate across jurisdictional lines; and the **Uniform Crime Reporting Program**, which provides a national perspective of crime through statistics.

For more information about the CJIS Division, visit:
www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis