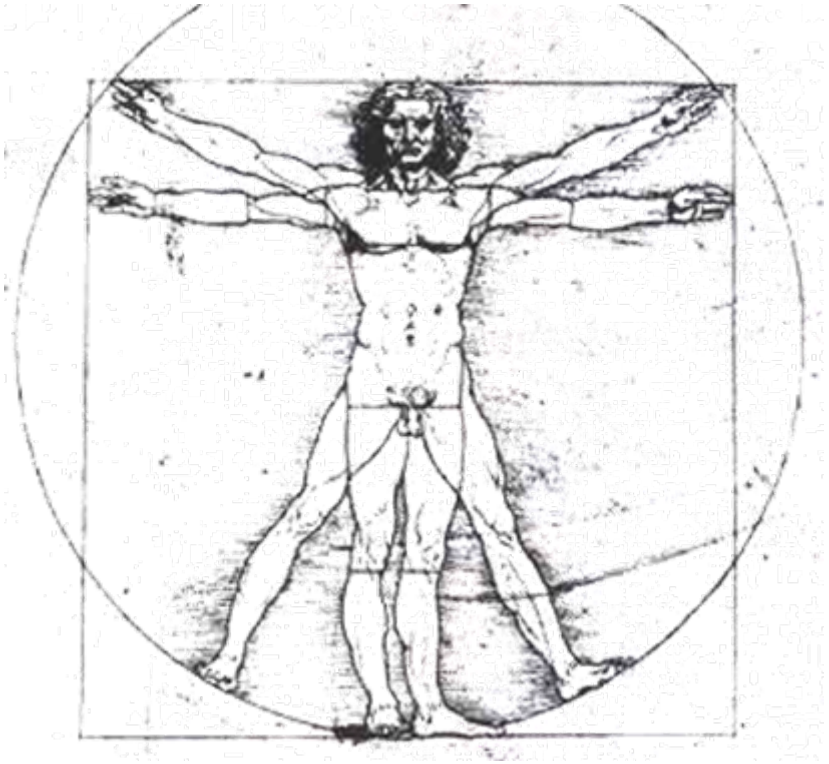
S&T Stakeholders Conference - West

January 14-17, 2008

S&T Human Factors Division: Overview

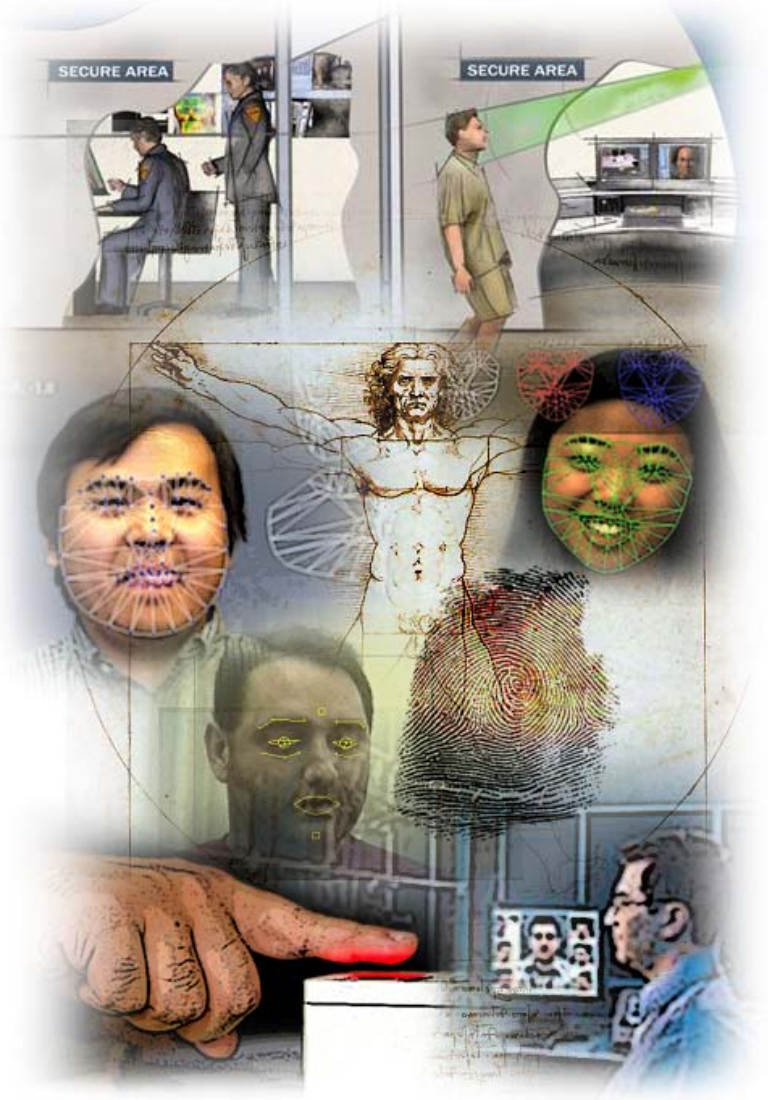


Sharla Rausch, Ph.D., Division Head
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate
Human Factors Division

Homeland Security

Human Factors Division Mission Statement

To apply the social and behavioral sciences to improve detection, analysis, and understanding of the threats posed by individuals, groups, and radical movements; to support the preparedness, response, and recovery of communities impacted by catastrophic events; and to advance national security by integrating human factors into homeland security technologies.



Customers: TSA, US-VISIT, USCIS, ICE, SCO, USSS, FEMA, OI&A, USCG, State & Local, S&T Divisions

Homeland Security

Human Factors Division Goals

1. Enhance the analytical capability of the Department to understand terrorist motivation, intent and behavior.
2. Improve screening by providing a science-based capability to identify deceptive and suspicious behavior.
3. Enhance the capability to control movement of individuals into and out of the United States and its critical assets through accurate, timely, and easy-to-use biometric identification and credentialing validation tools.
4. Enhance safety, effectiveness, and usability of technology by systematically incorporating user and public input.
5. Mitigate impacts of catastrophic events by delivering capabilities that incorporate social, psychological and economic aspects of community preparedness, response and recovery.

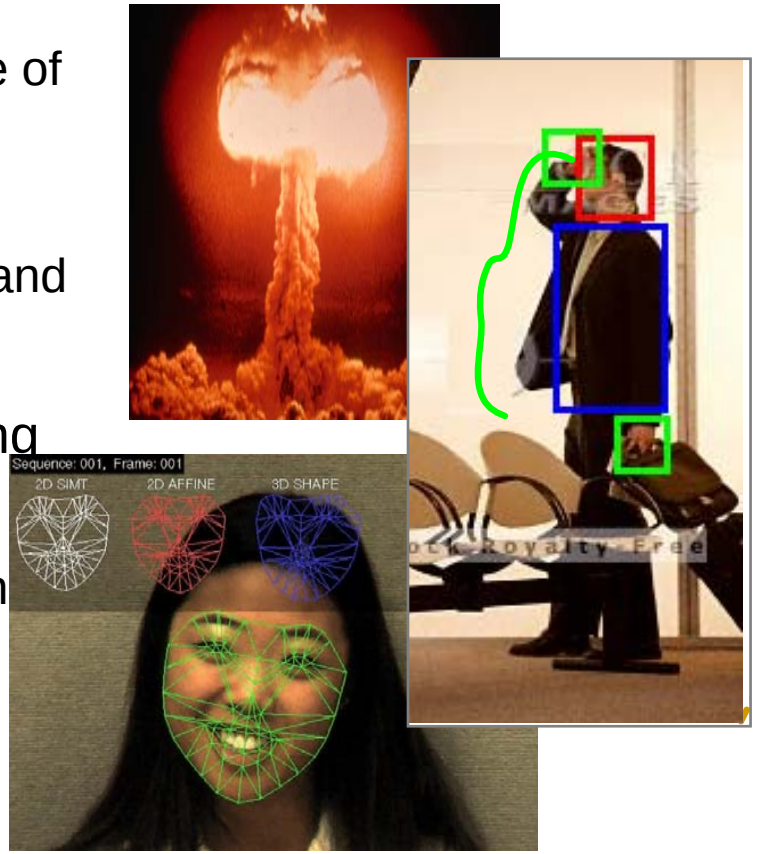
Know our enemies, understand ourselves; put the human in the equation.

Homeland Security

HFD Thrust Areas

The DHS S&T Human Factors Division is comprised of two primary thrust areas, with programs under each:

- Social-Behavioral Threat Analysis
  - Precursors, Signatures, and Deterrence of Radicalization
  - Suspicious Behavior Detection
  - Community Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
- Human-System Research & Engineering
  - Personal Identification Systems
  - Technology Acceptance and Integration
  - Human-System Optimization



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