



Career Achievement Award

Chris Miles

DHS Science & Technology Directorate (Retired)

Chris Miles served and led the federal identity community over the past 20 years, first at the Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and then at the DHS S&T Directorate until his distinguished retirement earlier this year. Chris led significant research in the area of identity technologies that has revolutionized the way federal, state and local agencies perform their jobs.

He successfully led NIJ's Sensors and Surveillance, Firearm Technologies, and Biometrics portfolios for three years. Under Chris's leadership, the Biometrics portfolio advanced biometric technologies for use by federal, state, local, and corrections law enforcement agencies. His research portfolio helped solidify the technology for its eventual widespread operational usage within these communities.

Upon his move to DHS S&T, Chris worked to similarly mature the DHS identity research program and rapidly transition promising approaches for operational use. He managed the DHS biometrics basic research portfolio efforts in multi-biometrics research, standoff biometrics, and decision fusion research. Chris played a leading role in establishing the rapid deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) program in the identity community, whose rapidly developed capabilities have fundamentally enhanced operations across multiple domains. His management and novel development of rapid and low-cost DNA analysis systems provides innovative family relationship verification, saving countless federal funds and speeding up a process that was too slow for operational consideration in the past. In addition, these new rapid DNA systems are being used at mass fatality events, refugee camps around the world, as well as immigration offices. These new rapid DNA systems are now in everyday use by federal, state, and local agencies including CBP, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and police departments in Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Florida, Utah, Arizona, Texas, California, and Delaware.

Chris leveraged his experiences beyond managing his core programs in highly impactful ways for the federal government (and the nation). Immediately after 9/11 he participated in a Federal Aviation Administration biometrics working group to identify options to rapidly enhance security postures for our aviation sector, and later served on a DHS Go-Team that planned identity operations and policies during the establishment of the TSA. He also helped coordinate the 2003 USG Biometrics Workshop, which helped lead to the creation of the White House's National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Biometrics & Identity. This Subcommittee coordinated all the federal government's science and technology activities in identity from 2003-2011; Chris served as the DHS representative and an overall co-chair for several of these years. Chris also served on the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) M1 Biometrics Technical Committee, which worked to rapidly develop and obtain approval of formal national and international generic biometric standards. He also served as the federal liaison to National Science Foundation's Center for Identification Technology Research, which conducted over 300 research projects advancing identity over a 10-year period and continues research activities today.