



Weld County Sheriff's Office

1950 "O" Street, Greeley CO 80631

1-800-436-9276 or 356-4015 ext 2803

or Cell # 970 381 0107

P R E S S R E L E A S E

December 14, 2006

Iris Image Capture Press Release

The Weld County Sheriff's Office is using new biometric identification technology to keep track of inmates in jail.

The system, manufactured by SecuriMetrics, Inc. www.securimetrics.com , captures the unique image of each inmate's iris and converts it to a mathematical code. This code can then be compared to records in a database or stored in the database. Unlike a card, key, or a code, a biometric characteristic is something unique to a person, which they always possess. The iris is so unique that not even both eyes of the same person possess the same characteristics. The characteristics of the iris do not change throughout one's life. Statistically, the iris is the most unique feature of the human body; it

is even more accurate than DNA.

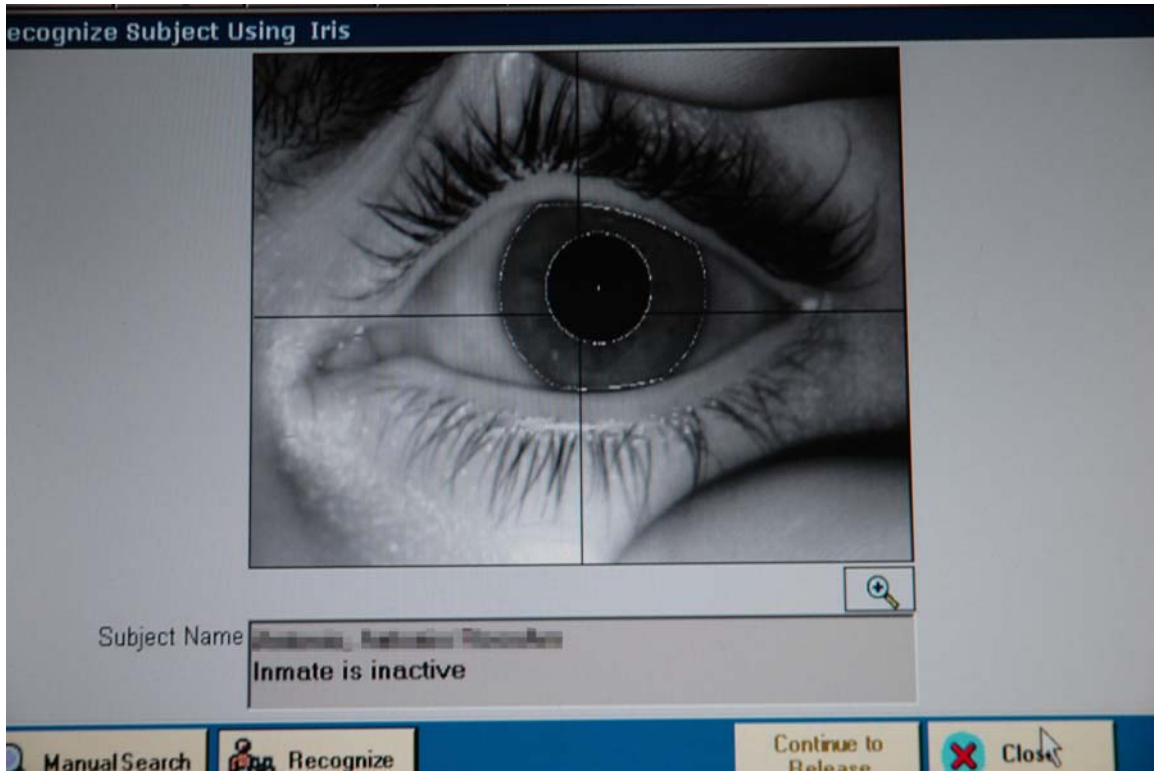
In addition to taking photographs and fingerprints, the iris recognition system is now being used during the booking process to positively identify the inmate. The current system includes a computer with application software, and two hand held capture devices. To capture an iris image the officer does not need to physically touch the inmate. The capture device is capable of operating at a distance of approximately 12 inches from the inmate's face. The entire capture process takes approximately 30 seconds. The entire system cost of \$28,500.00 was funded by a grant.

It is not uncommon for an inmate to be deceptive about their name during the booking process. If an inmate is booked under a false name, and the entire booking process is completed, the time required to correct the mistake, once the real identity is established, can be substantial. The iris recognition system can provide a positive match against its database almost instantaneously, usually in about 30 seconds. Currently, the time required to match an inmate's fingerprints to state and national databases can take hours and often the results are only known after the booking process is complete.

The jail is required to know the location of all incarcerated inmates. A capture of the iris is taken

after the inmate is booked and compared against other records in the database. If no matches are found, the captured record is stored for future reference. To verify the correct person is being released, another image of the iris is captured and compared to the booking capture.

Currently, the database only includes inmates booked in to the Weld County Jail. In the future, the databases could be shared with other jails using iris recognition technology. Several other jails in Colorado already use the SecuriMetrics iris recognition systems including the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, the Garfield County Jail, and a half way house in Colorado Springs. The systems are also used by the United States Department of Defense at detainee camps in the Middle-East.



An image of an inmate's eye is captured for positive identification prior to being released from the jail.



The entire system is housed in this mobile cart and can be relocated as needed.



A second handheld capture device is located in the booking area and can be taken anywhere it is needed.

John B Cooke

JOHN B. COOKE
SHERIFF