Air, Land and Sea: Securing Borders Through Biometrics

Biometric ID verification can help reduce security screening delays and improve identity confirmation.

**AIR**

With e-passports, biometric face recognition already accelerates the process of entering the country, and soon will facilitate the process of leaving the country.

Global Entry-registered members with a machine-readable passport can enter the U.S. by scanning their fingerprints.

**LAND**

Development efforts are underway on advanced camera technology that enables biometric verification of individuals entering and leaving a country in vehicles.

National biometric ID cards currently verify the identities of people who routinely cross borders.

Biometric-based travel ID cards for people who frequently cross land borders include NEXUS for the Canadian border and Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) for the Mexican border. These cards speed up crossings through checkpoints in priority vehicle lanes.

**SEA**

For improved tracking and security, passengers on cruise ships and ferries could be biometrically enrolled in a system on- or off-board the ship, and disembark and re-board through mobile biometric e-gates positioned at gangplanks.