

# *Biometric Consortium 2005 Conference*

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## **Wally Briefs**

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**Topic:** Venezuela Election - Fingerprints = "One Voter - One Vote"

### **Abstract:**

The Automated Fingerprint Identification and Voter Authentication System (SAV, Sistema Autenticacion de Votantes) was utilized during the Venezuela referendum and electoral procedures on August 15, 2004 and is intended for use in future elections, both local and National. The system guarantees "One Voter - One Vote".

The project was contracted for 41 days prior to the election. During this short time, Cogent Systems, Inc. procured the equipment for Authentication stations, for a Central Site fingerprint matching system, provided customized software, configured hardware, trained operators and technicians, and distributed the stations throughout the country and was ready for the election.

The system was designed and delivered to handle One Million persons per Hour against a database of 10 Million voters. Over a period of ten hours, 5.5 Million peoples fingerprints were captured, processed, transmitted and searched. The average search time was 3 seconds.

To deliver this system in less than 41 days, Cogent established a Central Service Center in Caracas, Venezuela, hired and trained 90 technicians, created production lines and procured 12,000 IBM laptops that were configured at the service center, a single fingerprint scanner was installed, and the laptops were configured, tested, repackaged, distributed and installed and tested in 2,990 voting stations throughout the country by 500 Cogent trained technicians in three days. Cogent trained 500 "Train the Trainers" who in turned trained 16,000 operators to operate the Authentication Stations and perform the fingerprint capture and transmission and receive the results in less than 30 seconds.

**Biography:** Wally Briefs joined Cogent in April 1996. He currently serves as Senior Vice President, International and supports all new business activity from a strategic and client management perspective. Mr. Briefs responsibilities include business development, and marketing and sales. Prior to joining Cogent, Mr. Briefs served as a consultant to Cogent from January 1990 to April 1996. From November 1966 through April 1996, Mr. Briefs served as a law enforcement official for several agencies, including the New York City Police Department. Mr. Briefs has over thirty-eight years experience in the identification of finger and palm prints, law enforcement, and crime scene investigation and over sixteen years experience in automated palm and fingerprint identification systems including design, procurement and management of local, state, and federal AFIS programs.