

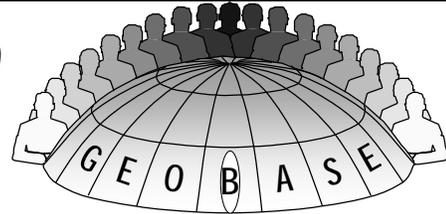
USAF GeoBase Forum

Dec 99

IITA

INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

US AIR FORCE ACADEMY



The USAF GeoBase Forum is a monthly newsletter intended to keep military, civil service and commercial partners informed on issues of mutual interest regarding the USAF GeoBase Initiative.

Last Call for Jan 00 Seminar: "Planning the GeoBase"

The DOD is in the midst of a "Revolution in Business Affairs". This revolution is evidenced by a wealth of new information technology (IT) management practices levied on DOD agencies by Congress and the Executive Branch. A key GeoBase foundation includes planning your geospatial IT investment using a structured process.

To increase awareness of this process, IITA is hosting a three-day seminar entitled "Planning the GeoBase" at the USAF Academy from 11-13 Jan 00. Seminar details and topics to be covered can be found in the attachment accompanying this month's GeoBase Forum. The cut-off date for reservations is Friday 7 Jan and enrollment is limited. Make your reservation today and benefit from a stimulating discussion of planning experiences from across the federal sector.

GeoBase & NIMA Partnering

A meeting was held on 14 Dec 99 between GeoBase planners and representatives of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) at NIMA Headquarters in Bethesda, MD. The purpose of the gathering arranged jointly by Lt Col John Boylan of NIMA and Lt Col Brian Cullis from IITA was to begin bridging the gap between the warfighting and installation complex communities and their respective processes for exploiting geospatial information.

Those attending included: Mr Bobby Carpenter, POC for the Tri-Service Spatial Data Standards at the CADD/GIS Technology Center; Mr. M.K. Miles and Ms. Nancy Blyler from HQ USACE; Mr. Deke Smith, the US Army Research Lab Advisor to the CADD/GIS Center, Lt Col Brian Cullis, the US Air Force Advisor to the CADD/GIS Center and GeoBase Initiative Coordinator, Mr. Dick Bilden from

the HQ Naval Facilities and Engineering Command; Maj Jack Manley (USAF), GeoBase Representative to the Global Combat Support System Requirements Integration Division; Mr. Kevin Backe from the USACE Topographic Engineering Center, Mr. Bao Nguyen and Capt Mits Mazza from the Air Force Communications and Information Center; and Mr Ed Riegelmann from GeoInSight International, IITA GeoBase Development Consultant.

The day long meeting included informative briefings from the NIMA Customer Assistance Team on current NIMA products as well as focused discussion on the status of the Joint Mapping Toolkit (JMTK) which has been designated as the GCSS component supporting mapping requirements. The NIMA representatives were genuinely surprised by the scope and depth of COTS GIS exploitation and spatial data standards development and implementation that has occurred across installation complexes over the past two decades.

The dialogue clearly showed the installation complex community needs to better understand how NIMA data and commercial contracts can be exploited for their mission needs. Furthermore, Mr Mel Wagner and Ms Cheryl Blake from the JMTK office expressed their desire for a joint CADD/GIS Center and NIMA project to demonstrate how COTS GIS can be fielded to use both the NIMA and facilities data sets for their mutual benefit. To help in bolstering more dialogue between the warfighting and installation environments, it was recommended that NIMA become an active member of the CADD/GIS Center executive staff, that they attend the Feb Center Executive Staff Meeting where the project details could be finalized, and that they also consider organizing a booth exhibit at the May 2000 CADD/GIS Conference in St. Louis.

The NIMA Customer Service Team impressed those attending with their readiness to assist all DOD customers in building the most effective GeoBase possible. To help in this effort, the GeoBase Forum intends to include a monthly column highlighting how various NIMA products and services can be integrated into a GeoBase solution. For example, did you know it is DOD *policy* that NIMA be the sole broker for commercial imagery to DOD customers? Learn about this process and more by checking out the NIMA column each month in the Forum.

GeoBase and Peace Operations

The building of a single, geospatial framework to incorporate various operational assets into an integrated decision support system carries value and relevance far beyond defense installation boundaries. Consider the plight of the UN Humanitarian Mission to Kosovo. Scores of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as military personnel from nations around the world are all seeking to help resettle thousands of refugees in the war-torn Balkan region. The challenge is enormous; from collecting data on the status of the physical infrastructure in cities, towns and villages across Kosovo, to the location of known minefields and the design of an effective aid distribution system, the need for an accurate georeferenced picture of the region is absolutely vital. But how does one go about organizing such a capability amidst the economic, political, and social chaos of the post-civil war environment?

To Col Mike Dziedic (USAF) of the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), the answer was simple. Col Dziedic is assigned as a Fellow for Peace Operations to INSS at National Defense University (NDU) on Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Already convinced of the value of GIS technology to the resettlement efforts, Col Dziedic was seeking a coherent strategy for organizing the efforts of the many parties who all had vested interests in some component of the peace operations.

In Oct 99, Col Dziedic was one of several NDU faculty members receiving a GeoBase concept briefing. Immediately after the briefing, Col Dziedic began an active dialogue with the GeoBase development team at IITA to pursue the idea of a parallel effort to the GeoBase to support peace operations; in essence, a "GeoPeace" model. This dialogue led to a meeting on Fort McNair on 17 Dec 99. Among others, some of those attending included Col Dziedic from INSS, Mr Bill Wood, the US State Department Geographer, Mr Dwight Toavs from NDU's Information Resource Management College, representatives from the Institute for Peace in Washington, DC, and Lt Col Cullis from IITA.

The four-hour meeting culminated with the members reaching consensus that a comprehensive information strategic plan of a format similar to the DOD IM Strategic Plan could serve as a valuable integrating mechanism for all parties involved in supporting peace operations. Though each conflict presents unique situational factors, the time required to coordinate necessary civil-military support among the UN and NGOs could be drastically reduced if all parties could take advantage of a preconceived plan for sharing georeferenced information resources.

Therefore, a series of focused "GeoPeace" partnering workshops will be held in Washington beginning in early '00 to help guide the development of this strategic information plan to support present and future peace operations. Both INSS and IITA are excited about the potential such an approach could offer to the larger global community. The near future may include the eventual establishment of an Interagency Peace Institute in Washington with GIS technology serving as a vital integration tool.

Mr Wood and Col Dziedic are in the final stages of co-authoring an insightful paper on the use of geospatial information technologies supporting peace operations. Be sure to check the GeoBase website in late Jan 00 to download your own copy. You will be amazed at the similarities between the organizational and technical GIS adoption obstacles faced within and among the various governmental and NGO elements and those encountered within the US defense culture.

SAF/MII GeoBase Presentation

On 16 Sep 99, a GeoBase Decision Briefing was presented to Mr Jimmy Dishner, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations. The SAF/MII mission is to provide policy and oversight for the Air Force's \$6 billion annual installation programs including: 1) planning, programming, budgeting, and execution of Air Force military construction (MILCON), military family housing (MFH), nonappropriated fund (NAF), and operations and maintenance (O&M) facility programs; 2) acquisition, purchase, lease, and disposal of real property; 3) base conversion and realignment; and 4) base structure and utilization. SAF/MII serves as the principal interface with OSD and Congress on these matters. Lt Col Brian Cullis, the GeoBase Initiative Coordinator presented the briefing to Mr Dishner, with Mr Aimone, Deputy USAF Civil Engineer, also in attendance.

Mr Dishner immediately recognized the economies of scale to be achieved through data aggregation across USAF installations for making much more informed strategic basing decisions and quickly compiling statistics for advocacy briefings to senior OSD and Congressional offices. Furthermore, Mr Dishner saw the potential for the GeoBase to serve as an invaluable viewer capable of exploiting the stores of infrastructure data collected over the past few years as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and Y2K efforts.

From the field engineering assistant to the highest offices of the Pentagon, the SAF/MII briefing confirmed the immense value of the GeoBase to the Air Force enterprise. Mr Dishner enthusiastically recommended the GeoBase Decision Brief be

presented to the Air Force Board of Directors in Jan 00 for their action. Mr Aimone volunteered AF/ILE to serve as the Air Staff advocate to nominate the GeoBase topic as a Board of Directors agenda item.

<http://www.asprs.org/membership.html>. What do you think about the idea of a GeoBase Code of Ethics? Please share your thoughts with IITA by sending your comments to Lt Col Brian Cullis, GeoBase Initiative Coordinator at brian.cullis@usafa.af.mil.

GeoBase Website IOC Achieved

The GeoBase website has achieved an initial operational capability and can be accessed at <http://www.geobase.org>. The site will be adding increased functionality, resources and tools over the next few months. Our goal is to have the site serve as the preferred source for building geospatial information resource management solutions across the DOD. Please take a few moments to check out the website and let us know what services would be of most value to you!

A Code of Ethics for the GeoBase?

The forward vision of the GeoBase has continued to attract a diverse group of members to the GeoBase Community. From the active duty to the reserves, NASA to the CIA, and commercial interests far and wide, the mix of parties all seeking the same corporate aims for geospatial information management is simply fascinating. However, the mix of customers with suppliers carrying competing interests has already led to a few isolated instances of misleading statements regarding the GeoBase or misquoting individuals for personal gain.

Some of this 'posturing' witnessed to date can be attributed to the fact the GeoBase is still in a developmental stage with formal DOD funding and acknowledgement still forthcoming. The adoption of geospatial IT, whether organizational or enterprise, inevitably brings change and disrupts the status quo. Nonetheless, both the federal and commercial sectors should understand the future landscape for geospatial IT *will change*. The commercial sector will soon see the defense sector behaving in a much more informed manner, demanding comprehensive *organizational* information solutions and not just technical deliverables. Likewise, the defense sector will begin to be held more accountable for their geospatial investments as well as show good faith in upholding customer responsibilities according to contractual guidelines.

Some GeoBase Community members have raised the idea of establishing a GeoBase Code of Ethics to both help establish a firm sense of professional responsibility on all parties as well as provide a lighthouse to guide GeoBase activities. If you would like to see an example of a professional Code of Ethics, visit the "Ethics of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing" at

GeoBase Happenings in the USAF

11-13 Jan 00. GeoBase Seminar "Planning the GeoBase: From Strategy to Implementation", USAF Academy, Colorado. (25 Maximum)

23 Jan - 2 Feb 00. 18FW GeoBase Strategic Planning Visit, Kadena AB, Okinawa.

1-4 Feb 00. Spatial Data Standards (SDS) Implementation Workshop, CADD/GIS Technology Center, Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS. More information is available under "Classes" at <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>. POC: Bobby Carpenter, carpenb@wes.army.mil or phone (601)634-4572.

15-17 Feb 00. GeoBase Seminar "Planning the GeoBase: From Strategy to Implementation", USAF Academy, Colorado. (25 Maximum)

23-27 Feb 00. Edwards Flight Test Center GeoBase Consultation, Edwards AFB, California.

7-9 Mar 00. GeoBase Seminar "Planning the GeoBase: From Strategy to Implementation", USAF Academy, Colorado. (25 Maximum)

May 22-25 00. CADD/GIS/FM Symposium and Exposition, Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. USAF GeoBase Day tentatively scheduled for 26 May at the same location. More information will be posted on the CADD/GIS Center's website at <http://www.tsc.wes.army.mil> as details unfold.

Recommended Reading

Getting to Yes : Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In. Roger Fisher, William Ury and Bruce Patton (Editor). 2nd edition (Dec 91) Penguin USA (Paper) ISBN: 0140157352

The Dance of Change: The Challenges to Sustaining Momentum in Learning Organizations. Peter Senge (Editor). Doubleday, Publishing. Mar 99 ISBN: 0385493223

GeoBase Community Network

This list is intended to provide you with names of individuals that may be able to address questions regarding GeoBase activities within specific organizations.

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USAF GeoBase Forum Inputs

The success of the USAF GeoBase relies on people like you sharing your geospatial information resource management ideas and insights. Let's together defeat the "Not Invented Here" syndrome and benefit from our collective experiences. Please consider sending your thoughts and recommendations to the GeoBase Forum at IITA care of brian.cullis@usafa.af.mil.

Disclaimer

The opinions stated in the USAF GeoBase Forum do not reflect official USAF policy unless otherwise stated.