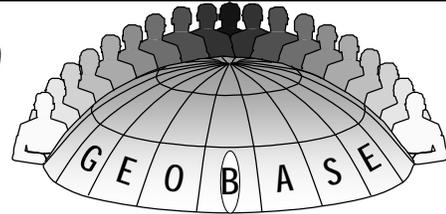


USAF GeoBase Forum

Nov 99



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.

The USAF GeoBase Foundations

The USAF has been frustrated in its ability to make the most effective use of geospatial IT on a corporate scale since there is no identified Air Staff element responsible for guiding corporate investment. While this issue is being addressed and in lieu of formal policy, one of the key aims of the Aug 99 USAF GeoBase Policy Workshop was to reach a tentative consensus on key principles to guide interim investment.

The current GeoBase Foundations are listed below for your review and feedback. Should you feel the foundations should be modified or further principles appended to the list, please forward your rationale to the USAF GeoBase Initiative Coordinator, Lt Col Brian Cullis at Brian.Cullis@usafa.af.mil.

USAF organizations will:

1. Recognize geospatial information resources as vital USAF mission assets warranting investment, management, and exploitation.
2. Acknowledge that cultural change issues such as user understanding, acceptance and stewardship are far more critical to successful use of geospatial information resources than the specific technology.
3. Employ a strategic planning process to guide the long-term development and mission impact assessment of organizational geospatial information resource investments.
4. Increase accountability, reduce investment risk, and better correlate mission needs with current technology and market conditions by pursuing long-term geospatial information resource aims through phased modular projects.
5. Ensure past, current, and future geospatial IRM investments are inventoried, managed and exploited in a shared forum to avoid wasteful redundancies.
6. Validate the appropriateness of existing sources of geospatial information prior to investing in new geospatial data collection efforts.
7. Employ available data and quality assurance standards (e.g. TSSDS, FGDC) to maximize interoperability, minimize application development

costs and protect the geospatial information resource investment.

8. Seek to provide all mission elements with controlled, ready access to a georeferenced common operational picture of the target mission space via established communication networks.

9. Assign geospatial information owners with the responsibilities for maintaining, protecting and stewarding their functional information assets.

10. Protect their geospatial information resources at a level commensurate with the risk and magnitude of harm that could result from disclosure, loss, misuse, alteration or destruction of the information.

11. Facilitate sharing their geospatial information resources to the maximum extent allowable both across and beyond the installation with other federal, state, municipal or international agencies.

12. Recognize the need to establish a skilled cadre of full-time personnel to develop, implement, and sustain long-term use of geospatial information resource investments to support the mission.

Until formal authority establishes a functional OPR for the USAF GeoBase Initiative, the Institute for Information Technology Applications (IITA) at the USAF Academy will retain management responsibility. Should there be any changes to the GeoBase guidelines, IITA will notify you through the USAF GeoBase Forum. Please become an active partner in the GeoBase Community by fully adopting the GeoBase Foundations to shape your organizational investment paths in geospatial IT.

GeoBase and the GCSS-AF

One of the principal lessons learned from Desert Storm was the need for the commander to have an integrated view of the battlespace readily available throughout all phases of combat, from mobilization through redeployment. In response, the Defense Planning Guidance for FY 1999 - 2003 formalized the C4I for the Warrior (C4IFTW) concept by initiating Joint Vision 2010 (JV2010). JV2010 enunciated the need for embracing information superiority and technological advances to transform traditional warfighting and lead U.S. forces to increased jointness and military effectiveness. Included among the four pillars of JV2010 is Focused Logistics. The Global Combat Support System (GCSS) is identified in Focused Logistics implementation documents as a critical component

of the information fusion tenet to achieve focus across the entire spectrum of combat support.

[Excerpt from GCSS Executive Summary which can be found at <http://www.disa.mil/line/gcss.html>].

GCSS-AF is an enterprise concept directed toward the development, integration and deployment of Agile Combat Support (ACS) information systems. These systems are intended to provide combat support information to the warfighter and support the functional business processes of the USAF. The Automated Civil Engineer System (ACES), managed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency (AFCEA), is but one of more than 40 combat support systems intended to become an integrated component of the GCSS architecture. To ensure the Expeditionary Air Force (EAF) is properly supported, the AF Chief Information Officer (CIO) gave the GCSS-AF Requirements Integration Team (GRITT), the task of developing a road map to make GCSS-AF reality. The GRITT Final Report can be downloaded from <http://www.afcesa.af.mil>.

The USAF GeoBase must move towards integrating with the GCSS-AF architecture. Therefore, a presentation was made to BGen Bell (GRITT Chair) and the GRITT members on 22 Oct 99 in Crystal City. BGen Bell accepted the recommendation that USAF GeoBase requirements be integrated with those of GCSS-AF and he recommended Major Jack Manley (USAFE) serve as the GeoBase representative in the new GCSS-AF Integrated Requirements Division. Major Manley served as the ILE representative to the GRITT and has extensive experience with requirements definition, data standards, and program management.

The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) is charged with providing mapping support for the DOD Geospatial Information Infrastructure (GII) and intends to use their Joint Mapping Toolkit (JMTK) to meet GCSS mapping requirements. However, the USAF GeoBase Initiative can help in supporting the very large-scale mapping requirements that are part of the base information infrastructure or BII. To help in building an end-to-end global-to-base mapping resource, an exploratory meeting will be held in Washington DC in mid-December with representatives from NIMA, the CADD/GIS Technology Center staff, the 497th Intelligence Group, the Air Force Communications and Information Center, and other key members of the GeoBase Community central to the JMTK/GeoBase interface issue. Next month's GeoBase Forum will include a summary of the meeting's discussion.

GeoBase and the ACES

The Civil Engineer Automation Steering Group (CE ASG) convened at Tyndall AFB 1-2 Nov 99. The ASG is comprised of senior Civil Engineers from the

MAJCOMs, the Air Reserve Component, the USAF Academy, AFCEE, and AFCEA with AF/ILE-2 serving as Chair. Among their responsibilities, the CE ASG has served as a steering group for ACES.

The GeoBase Foundations were presented to the ASG with the proposal the principles serve as de facto guidance while formal policy instruments were developed. No dissenting opinions were recorded from the group. Furthermore, rather than investing in a variety of unique application interfaces between ACES and COTS GIS, a proposal was submitted to have a contractor develop a methodology to interface Tri-Service Spatial Data Content Standard-compliant ESRI, Intergraph and AutoDesk GIS solutions with the ACES Oracle database schema. Unfortunately, a single logical ACES database schema will not be available until Jun 00 so the proposal was tabled. The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) left the meeting with several action items to be addressed before the next ASG meeting in the spring. In line with their mission directive, AFCEE will carry responsibility for all CE-relevant GeoBase issues.

The 1999 USAF GI&S Conference

The 1999 USAF Geospatial Information and Services (GI&S) Conference was held 19-21 Oct 99 in Falls Church, VA with the HQ 497th Intelligence Group, Directorate of Applications Operations (INO) serving as host. Brig Gen Shaffer, AF/XOI, set the stage by renewing USAF-level emphasis on GI&S and tangible, focused efforts to rebuild the USAF GI&S capability. The IITA GeoBase Coordinator shared the GeoBase concept briefing, emphasizing the need for closer partnering between the GI&S Community and base-level COTS GIS development. Two action items resulting from the conference included establishing 497 IG/INOT as the AF/XOI GeoBase Community representative and having the 480IG at Langley AFB ensure IITA is fully informed on their GI production capabilities. There were also very informative briefings on JMTK, "NIMA-In-A-Box" and FalconView presented during the two day conference. Should you be interested in gaining access to the briefing slides, please contact Mr. R. Bryne Lee at the 497IG, DSN 761-6179, leer@pentagon.af.mil.

NAVFAC Geospatial Policy

Headquarters, Naval Facilities Engineering Command recently held their CADD/GIS Policy Workshop 26-28 Oct 99 at the Washington Navy Yard. The meeting had several objectives to include the following; 1) develop an overall strategy leading to comprehensive Navy policy in coordination with the efforts of the other services; (2) identify and resolve issues associated with

implementing CADD, GIS and related electronic tools; (3) develop and formulate interim guidelines; (4) finalize NAVFAC Mapping Guidelines for distribution; (5) develop a Concept of Operations including education and teaming for delivery of services; and (6) develop a plan of action and milestones for follow-on actions.

The meeting was attended by a large cross-section of field representatives, as well as strong representation from the NAVFAC CIO office that is heavily involved in supporting CADD/GIS issues. There was good discussion of how to ensure close coordination with the CADD/GIS Technology Center in developing a final version of the NAVFAC Guidelines for Installation Mapping and Geospatial Data, and ensuring compliance with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) metadata, and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

Four presentations were especially valuable and relevant to the USAF GeoBase pursuit. John Wyeth contributed a very informative briefing entitled "Integrated Facilities Data: Making Facilities Data Available on Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Intranet" (wyethjh@mail.ports.navy.mil). Ayman El-Swaify, the CADD/GIS Manager from Navy PWC Yokosuka (elswaifya@pwcycoko.navy.mil) shared the excellent work being performed in the Japan region with his briefing entitled "CADD/GIS Implementation by the U.S. Navy, Japan Region". A great example of collapsing contiguous GIS programs in Hawaii into a single, integrated regional architecture was demonstrated in a briefing entitled "Regional Shore Installation Management System". Mr Bobby Bean, shared the current status of the enterprise-wide investment in geospatial IT at Patuxant River NAS (beanra@navair.navy.mil). Finally, Mr Maury Wilber, a world-class benefit-cost expert, shared his fiscal analysis of returns from the PRNAS IT investments.

Of more significant note, the NAVFAC CADD/GIS policy draft adopted several of the GeoBase Foundations agreed upon at the Aug 99 USAF GeoBase Policy Workshop held in San Antonio. This Navy workshop was the first opportunity for the GeoBase foundations to be scrutinized outside of the USAF community. Their inclusion in the draft NAVFAC policy demonstrated their universal relevance and applicability to other DOD service components. If you would like to obtain a copy of the briefings, you can either contact the presenter directly, or get in touch with Dick Bilden at NAVFAC, Ph: (202) 685-9197 or bildend@navfac.navy.mil.

GeoBase Seminar Series Scheduled

The GeoBase Seminar Series (GSS) was recently organized by the Institute for IT Applications to serve as a quality educational forum where a variety of requirements associated with the GeoBase vision

could be addressed. All military, civil service and commercial representatives involved with designing, implementing and sustaining GeoBase investments are invited to participate and learn how they can more effectively shape organizational and corporate GeoBase programs.

The USAF GeoBase relies on the use of a proven strategic planning process, with more detailed implementation plans supporting key objectives. The early success of this approach has led to a large number of requests for more information on this planning process. Therefore, the initial topic offered in the GSS will be "Planning the GeoBase: From Strategy to Implementation". Registrants will benefit from the accumulated experiences of GeoBase strategic plan developers across PACAF installations, the USAF Academy, and new planning efforts underway in AETC.

To allow for the most interaction, class sizes will be limited to the first 25 registrants on a "first come, first-served" basis. However, three separate seminar dates will be offered on 11-13 Jan 00, 15-17 Feb 00, and 7-9 Mar 00. To accommodate your travel plans, each of the seminars will begin at 1230 hrs on Day 1 and conclude at 1600 hrs on Day 3. Registrations will be accepted until COB the Friday prior to the week of the seminar offering. A registration fee of \$20 will be used to defray the cost of the materials and facilities used. No meals will be included in the registration fee.

Please contact Ms Sharon Richardson, GSS Coordinator at (719) 333-2746 or DSN 333-2746 for details on signing up for the three dates. Please contact Lt Col Cullis at (719) 333-3978/DSN 333-3978 regarding the content of the workshop.

GeoBase Happenings in the USAF

14 Dec 99. Exploratory JMTK/GeoBase Partnering Meeting, Washington DC. (Closed Meeting)

16 Dec 99. GeoBase Briefing to SAF/MII (Mr Dishner), Washington DC.

17 Dec 99. GeoBase Website IOC. (The URL will be posted in the Dec 99 GeoBase Forum).

11-13 Jan 00. GeoBase Seminar #00011 "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.

15-17 Feb 00. GeoBase Seminar #00012. "Planning the GeoBase: From Strategy to Implementation", USAF Academy, Colorado. (25 Maximum)

7-9 Mar 00. GeoBase Seminar #00013. "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

Information Technology and Organisational Change, Ken Eason, (1988), Taylor and Francis Publishers, ISBN 0-85066-388-1.

Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies, James Collins & Jerry Porras, (1994), Harper-Collins Publishers, ISBN 0-88730-739-6.

Investing in Information Technology: A Decision-Making Guide for Business and Technology Managers, Bill Bysinger and Ken Knight, (1996), Van Nostrand Reinhold Publishers, ISBN 0-442-02337-5.

Fusion Leadership: Unlocking the Subtle Forces that Change People and Organizations, Richard Daft and Robert Lengel, (1998), Berrett-Koehler Publishers, ISBN 1-57675-023-X.

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. Please help to keep this list updated by providing Lt Col Cullis with the name and e-mail of an individual who would be willing to become part of the GeoBase Community Network.

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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.