

ASPRS
Imagery in Emergency Response Roundtable Session
San Antonio, Texas
November 8, 2006

Roundtable discussion of progress since the May workshop in Reno:

Brenda Jones/USGS/EROS:

Described improvements in access via EROS to emergency response data:

- a. Improvements to Hazards Data Distribution System;
- b. Have implemented a standard file naming convention
- c. Have implemented a Pixia prototype
- d. Have acquired Aerials Express Data for 3-counties inland along the Gulf and Atlantic coast with resolution ranging from 1 ft to 1 m;
- e. USGS Geospatial Liaisons are working with state and local government to determine and inventory the best source of data in an area

Questions about role/responsibility of Interagency Remote Sensing Coordination Cell; response by Mike Aslaskan, NOAA, who is the NOAA representative was that the function of this group is to recommend technical specifications and priority of acquisition of geospatial data, including imagery in a disaster response scenario.

Mike Aslaskan – speaking in terms of experience with IRSCC said the connection of this group to state requirements is still unclear.

Bruce Davis, NASA/Stennis on detail to DHS/FEMA – role as the strike force coordinator for DHS-FEMA sees the requirements and acts on them; IRSCC acts as a group of subject matter experts prioritizes requirements and works with John Perry to act on those requirements.

Bruce verbalized a flow of information to/from Federal and State agencies; it would be good to get documentation on this process to post on the ASPRS web site. Bruce indicated this was available and derived from some FEMA CONOPS documentaiton. Bruce stated the need to have more forums such as that held in Reston in June to communicate what is happening in terms of roles and responsibilities in terms of Federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector.

Larry Handley – we have a lot of post-emergency, recovery efforts (in Louisiana); there is a need for a repository of data acquired; there is also a need for research regarding what are the best instruments to be used for particular requirements and the relationship to UAVs and their use in emergency response. There will be a workshop December 13 and 14, 2006 in Lafayette on UAVs.

Question from Brenda Burroughs, GeoEye – regarding posting of available commercial data; EROS is standing up a separate service to post information about acquisitions on an incident basis.

Some questions were raised about the possible use of Geospatial One-Stop's Marketplace for this purpose. Many felt this was not appropriate for specific incident information.

Jeff Seahase – NGA will post information on <http://www.nga-earth.mil>; shows all commercial and satellite imagery; this will be the NITF's; this will show everything that has been acquired.

Additional notes from Jeff on this:

<http://www.nga-earth.org/>

NGA Earth is a new (post-Katrina) effort. When using NGA Earth, all data is available to .mil or .gov users, others will only see Public Domain data. In times of crisis response, the site will be opened to other users - probably with a password. The site can be used to view/stream data similar to Google Earth or to download data.

<https://warp.nga.mil>

The Unclassified National Information Library (UNIL) was available during the Katrina response, however, some new capabilities have been added. For instance, all the ancillary files (.imd, .rpb, .shp, etc) are available in a zipped file. User IDs and Passwords are available to .mil and .gov users. Others can be added on a case-by-case basis.

Brenda Burroughs - Can the vendors provide direct access to the data without going through a third party?

Jeff Seahase indicated NGA is working to be able to just point to the commercial satellite vendor's sites, but, the bandwidth must be able to accommodate the flow of imagery on both ends – provider and user.

Bruce Davis – need to look at what data are needed at what point in the timeline post-hurricane and provide a phased approach to data acquisition and data delivery.

NC State Emergency Management person – would like to see a recommended set of IT requirements based on data requirements at different points in the timeline.

Mike Aslaskan – NOAA – want to go to real-time acquisition and orthorectification; are working with Applanix to make this happen. Are delivering in JPEG (vs GeoTIFF which are much larger datasets) www.ngs.noaa.gov shows data flown during Ernesto – samples; time turnaround was processed and delivered within 6 hours after acquisition.

Bruce Davis – need to follow through with an exercise program with all players for tasking, acquisition, and delivery of geospatial data.

Jeff Seahase – NGA is planning to post their products on www.ngaearth.mil, also will post on DHS-FEMA website to get outside of the NGA firewalls. Note that during Katrina, FEMA posted data via LSU to the “FEMA Store”.

Possible ASPRS future activities:

1. develop a website with multiple sources on what's happening with emergency response.
2. ASPRS-sponsored session at the NEMA national manager's conference; the annual conference is in the fall
3. At annual meetings – organize **dedicated sessions** to discuss and continue this debate.
4. Encourage discussion on these issues at regional ASPRS conferences
5. Need an emergency response powerpoint to show
6. Need some discussion/information on how long data are available (versus archive) at each of the various agencies.
7. Look at and provide a broader review of things like standards, specifications, etc..., e.g., naming convention

Attendees at 11/8/2006 Session are highlighted in bold below.

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