

National Emergency Number Association
The Voice of 9-1-1



April 25, 2008

Cy Smith, President
National Geographic Information Council
2105 Laurel Bush Road, Suite 200
Bel Air, MD 21015

Dear President Smith,

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) recognizes the importance of the National States Geographic Information Council's (NSGIC) Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative and the impact it has on public safety. The availability of precise geospatial information allows emergency responders to locate calls for help more accurately and effectively. The IFTN initiative supports NENA's mission to provide the best possible care for those individuals who rely on the 9-1-1 system in their most critical times of need. Accurate geospatial information is of paramount importance to help 9-1-1 telecommunicators do their job.

It is because of our commitment to public safety that we endorse the Imagery for the Nation initiative that aims to further improve and institutionalize federal orthophotography programs within a more consistent 3-year cycle. The NSGIC initiative focuses on the availability of GIS imagery and adopts an important strategy to sufficiently fund, collect, manage, archive and distribute aerial imagery. In short, 9-1-1 services in America will benefit from this initiative which will be a great benefit to our members and the communities they serve. We commend NSGIC for their leadership on this matter and offer our continued support.

Sincerely,

Robert Cobb, Ph.D., ENP
Interim Executive Director