



Spatially Speaking

FGDC Monthly Update

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MAY 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FGDC Coordination Group Federal participants** **May 28**
- FGDC Executive Committee meeting** **May 30**
- National Geospatial Advisory Committee meeting** **June 3, 4**
- FGDC Steering Committee Meeting** **June 5**
- FGDC Coordination Group** **July 1**

Michael Thieme Joins the FGDC Secretariat in SES Candidate Development Program

On May 12, 2008, Michael Thieme from the U.S. Census Bureau joined the FGDC Secretariat on a detail assignment in support of his participation in the Census Bureau's SES Candidate Development Program. While on detail to FGDC, Michael is serving as Program Manager for the Geospatial Line of Business. He also currently serves as the Workgroup Lead for the Geo LoB Joint Business Case Workgroup and has been involved in the Geo LoB activities since its launching in March 2006. At Census he is the Assistant Division Chief for Geographic Program Management in the Geography Division. The Census Geography Division provides the geographic data, including roads, governmental and statistical boundaries, and addresses that are the foundation for all Census Bureau statistics. It is a division of over 400 employees with an annual operating budget of \$128 million. In his position, he is responsible for program management of Census Geographic Support Systems. This includes responsibility for formulation and execution of all budgets, management of all contracting efforts, implementation of a structured approach to Project Management, and development of process and quality management efforts. Michael also manages the capital planning responsibilities associated with the Master Address File/ Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Enhancement Program. This is the umbrella program under which the current TIGER realignment of street centerlines for the entire nation is included. Michael brings an impressive set of skills to our team and we welcome him to this new assignment.



For more information on FGDC events view the calendar at:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/calendar>

View the FGDC website at: www.fgdc.gov

FGDC CAP Grants Spawn Virginia Metadata Program

Since 2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia has undertaken an intensive effort to increase the metadata proficiency base in Virginia. Supported by NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) grants in 2006 and 2007, Virginia Tech University and the state GIS coordinating office, the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), created a body of training materials, implemented the Virginia Metadata Portal and instructed potential portal users in creating solid metadata. The 2006 grant created an impressive set of metadata training materials, which formed the basis for classes on creating FGDC content standard for digital geospatial metadata, (CSDGM), compliant metadata. The materials are well constructed and highly flexible; easily adjusted to accommodate different training needs. When VGIN implemented the Virginia Metadata Portal in July 2007, the second grant was used to train state agencies and local governments on how to “publish” their metadata to the portal. These classes relied heavily on the training materials created in 2006, supplemented in 2007 with material specific to portal use and operation. The class attendees leave the classroom with hardcopies of the most important materials and a CD that contains all the training materials, metadata tools and supplementary articles. To date, the CAP grant funded classes have trained more than 200 people in the proper creation, maintenance and use of CSDGM compliant metadata. The result is a deep base of individuals in Virginia with sound metadata knowledge. For additional questions, please contact the VGIN Coordinator, Dan Widner at dan.widner@vita.virginia.gov or the metadata trainer, Lyle Hornbaker, at lyle.hornbaker@vita.virginia.gov.

Spatially Speaking” is designed to provide updates on the activities of the FGDC. Sub-committees, workgroups, and other FGDC participants are urged to submit updates to Pat Phillips pphil-lips@fgdc.gov by the 20th of each month.

Virginia Metadata Academy
AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 15, 2007 - VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN VIRGINIA

Workshop Overview:

The Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) which is mandated to coordinate GIS activities across the Commonwealth will implement a geospatial metadata clearinghouse to support the needs of local and state agency stakeholders in the summer of 2007. This effort is timely. Approximately 125 of Virginia's geospatial stakeholders were provided with introductory metadata training during the summer 2006 - winter 2007. These stakeholders are now armed with metadata development tools, and understand the importance of metadata implementation. The implementation of the metadata clearinghouse accompanied by follow-up training through the Virginia Metadata Academy will further support metadata development and publishing among Virginia's geospatial community.

The Virginia Metadata Academy provides an array of metadata educational opportunities to meet the diverse metadata training needs and capabilities of local and state government users, as well as Virginia's private sector and other stakeholders.

The Virginia Metadata Academy consists of three different metadata workshop opportunities, including (Click title to receive a description of a particular workshop):

1. [Metadata Creator Workshops \(Basic\)](#)
2. [Metadata Retreats \(Intermediate\)](#)
3. [Metadata Clearinghouse Implementation Options \(Advanced\)](#)

Big Convention, Big Savings

In preparation for the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Denver, Colorado this August, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) had the requirement to acquire high resolution LiDAR to support the threat mitigation issues associated with a national security event. They looked at this project as an opportunity to provide local municipalities with a means to acquire high resolution LiDAR that would meet their needs as well as the needs of NGA. The U.S. Geological Survey contacted Local Municipalities to look for collaborative partners. With the brunt of the cost being paid for by NGA, this provided a very inexpensive opportunity for the Denver community to acquire very accurate surface and elevation information for their diverse GIS needs.

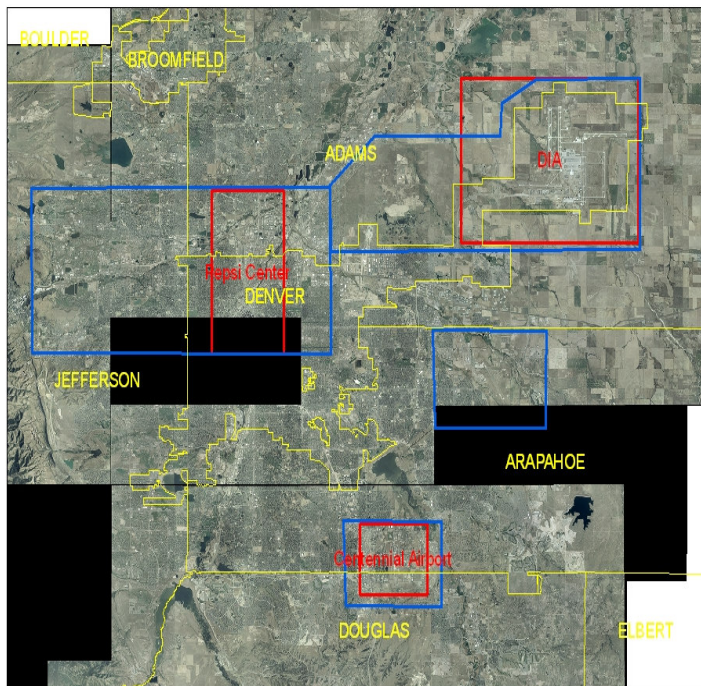
A solicitation was sent out to the Denver geospatial community that led to an initial response of over 16 partners. The original project footprint needed to meet this response was 7 times that of the NGA footprints required for the DNC event. The first response included Public Utility Companies, Water Districts, Local Municipalities, the National Guard, and the Army Corp of Engineers. As initial cost estimates were firmed up and the area of interest refined, the project eventually added an additional 11 partners and a project area of 950 square miles.

The two requirements shared by the partners were; to deliver a 2 foot FEMA compliant flood mapping contour and, to expand the footprint to a contiguous area covering everyone's areas of interest. This would require a higher resolution LiDAR product; .7 meter vs. 1.3 meter and would require a significant amount of additional processing. Neither of these changes were an initial requirement for the DNC NGA project so this result caused a significant cost increase that equated to almost 3 times the amount that NGA estimated.

The resulting project provides current 2 foot contours that can be used to update the FEMA flood maps supporting the Flood Insurance Program, and provides accurate geospatial information for planning and confronting the growth issues in the Denver metropolitan area. The raw LiDAR data will provide the data necessary to extract surface model information that can be derived through additional processing. The cost savings to the metropolitan area can best be summed up by this quote from the Arvada Reporter. *“Due to the economies of scale, the City of Arvada will achieve this data for a total cost of \$17,771. By comparison, one metro-area city of similar size recently paid \$80,000 for the same data. Another city requested bids for LiDAR coverage in 2007 and received bids of up to \$100,000.”* NGA providing the foundation funding for this project has provided a significant GIS asset to the entire Denver metropolitan area. (Mark Eaton (303)202-4274)

NGA DNC Imagery Footprints

NGA DNC Lidar Footprints



DNC Lidar Project

