United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
geoint 2010 symposium
November 1 - 4, 2010 • New Orleans, Louisiana
DAY
SHOW DAILY 4

Produced by *Geospatial Intelligence Forum* www.gif-kmi.com

ISR in the Afghan Fight

Koziol outlines wide-ranging efforts to develop a comprehensive, integrated picture of all aspects of operations.

Plans are underway to create a light detection and ranging (LiDAR) map of the entire nation of Afghanistan, Air Force Lieutenant General John C. Koziol told GEOINT 2010 Symposium attendees Wednesday morning.

Koziol, who heads the Department of Defense ISR Task Force, reported on a wide range of GEOINT and ISR programs, both current and planned, that hold out the promise of a comprehensive, integrated picture of all aspects of operations in that country.

The LiDAR project, Koziol explained, got rolling recently with the arrival of a Gulfstream aircraft, which along with other LiDAR assets will put together high resolution imagery of the country over the course of the next few months.

"Can you imagine the impact that's going to have for both military and civilian operations?" Koziol asked. "It's critical. Planners for a mission going into a village can see in three dimensions, understanding that a wall is so high, and the dimensions of a building are this. It's an unbelievable capability."

That initiative is just one of a number of other innovative efforts being conducted on a rapid basis to support stepped-up coalition operations. "We're putting this capability out as fast as we can," Koziol said. "Don't waste our time developing sensors. We are on a critical pace right now to get capability into theater.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➥

Panel Eyes the Enterprise

Technology experts address acquisition and governance.

In a lively and wide-ranging discussion Wednesday morning, three of the leaders at the intersection of defense and intelligence discussed the acquisition and governance issues involved in managing information.

Panelists at the general session, titled, "Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise (DI2E) Emerging Challenges Driven by New Capabilities," were Kevin P. Meiners, acting deputy under secretary of defense (portfolio, programs and resources) in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; Dawn Meyerriecks, assistant director of national intelligence of acquisition and technology, Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 ➥

Geo-Enterprise On-Demand Solution

Northrop Grumman's help to Boy Scouts highlights capabilities.

Northrop Grumman Corporation has announced the donation of a robust geospatial data set and capability to the Boy Scouts of America in support of their 100th anniversary and to help further scouting education. The company used GEOINT 2010 to present the data to the Boy Scouts.

The data set, which includes high-resolution light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data and electro-optical imagery over the Philmont Scout Ranch and Cimarron, N.M., is representative of the company's complete, end-to-end geospatial capability. The company utilized its airborne collection capability, including sensors and aircraft, its advanced processing capability, and extrapolated key information from the data which will help the Boy Scouts garner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 ➥

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and Dr. Lisa Porter, director of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

A relatively new concept, the DI2E is a network framework that embodies multi-intelligence, user-defined services with the goal of flowing information to all users, including those at the tactical edge, as well as from the field back to decision-makers.

"The idea behind DI2E was a simple one," Meiners explained. "General Clapper had come up with his defense intel strategy, which talked about the defense intel enterprise, which includes everything. As we started working through in our office how to bring things together, we added an additional "i" In there, which was the Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise.

"The idea is that governance is the key. The key is not documentation, but the governance—getting the different people together," Meiners added.

In her remarks, Meyerriecks addressed technology delivery as a continuum. "We have to figure out how to bring the scientists and technologists together with procurement and acquisition in a way that's responsible from a taxpayer perspective, and also from the point where the scientists and technologists will actually talk to and consider the fact that maybe transition is important, and they might have to deal with those acquisition wonks.

"We spend a lot of time talking about the sea change that we're trying to infuse in the community," Meyerriecks continued. "What that takes is incredible maturity and leadership on both sides. Wherever you sit in the spectrum, just remember that we are not your enemies. We're all about trying to deliver capability to the field. That's a sea change from an oversight perspective that I'm really pushing with my team."

Meyerricks acknowledged that science and technology experts will never be able to anticipate every question that field commanders might have about the mountains of data that is available. That's why the focus should be on creating a framework that, like Apple's iPhone, enables users to develop their own applications.

Porter also addressed the fact that technology developers have to deal with the world as it is, rather than what might facilitate program design. "In the intelligence community, we can't make the assumption that we control the sensor and have exquisite control over how we acquire the information. For example, we have a program that is trying to make sure we can process massive amounts of what we call OPV—other people's video. It's not video that we control ourselves. But we can't dictate the terms on which we get information. All of the programs in our analysis office are really thinking about that," she said.

Extracting Information from Imagery

ITT Visual Information Solutions release latest software.

ITT Visual Information Solutions, a subsidiary of ITT Corporation and a developer of software products for data visualization and image analysis, just announced the release of ENVI 4.8, the latest version of its premier software solution for extracting information from geospatial imagery. This release significantly streamlines the process of adding image analysis to the workflows of image analysts, researchers and GIS professionals across industries, allowing users to take advantage of the important information imagery provides.

ENVI 4.8 delivers complete integration with the ArcGIS platform from Esri, now making image analysis tools accessible directly from within the ArcGIS interface. In addition, the release includes functionality for viewing LiDAR data in a high performance display, as well as a new, automated process for viewshed analysis, giving users situational awareness from fixed vantage points. Releasing concurrently with ENVI 4.8, ITT also announces ENVI for ArcGIS Server, which delivers ENVI image analysis tools to users across entire organizations using ArcGIS Server.

"As geospatial information becomes an increasingly vital element for decision making across industries, from defense and intelligence to urban planning and natural resource management, we have consistently delivered new ENVI capabilities to make the analysis of imagery less time-consuming and less complex," said Richard Cooke, president of ITT Visual Information Solutions.

ENVI 4.8 completes the third phase of ITT's integration effort with ArcGIS. This release allows ArcGIS users in both desktop and server environments to access ENVI image analysis tools from a familiar ArcGIS toolbox.

The new software also makes it easier to add additional geospatial information to the overall image analysis workflow by extending ENVI's LiDAR functionality to include a three-dimensional viewer that works efficiently with large datasets. This enhancement helps users visually interpret LiDAR data to get a more complete understanding of an area of interest. Additionally, ENVI 4.8 introduces viewshed analysis process that guides users through multiple steps of determining which geographic elements are viewable from a fixed vantage point.