

National Alliance for Public Safety GIS (NA-PSG)

2007 Business Plan

Introduction/Background

The 2005 hurricane season focused significant attention on the need for greater coordination among US emergency response agencies at all levels of government in the United States. First responder agencies seeking to support national domestic HLS goals feel the urgency of this need to an unprecedented extent.

In response, a number of national public safety organizations with a keen appreciation for the importance of geospatial technologies (GIS) to the nation's preparedness goals, have entered into a partnership for the purpose of enhancing our national GIS preparedness capacity.

A Memorandum of Understanding establishing the National Alliance for Public Safety GIS (NA-PSG) was ratified in November 2006, and calls for the NA-PSG Steering Committee to develop of a business plan to guide NA-PSG activities for the 2007 calendar year. The Steering Committee met in September of 2006 for the purpose of developing this plan. This plan is the result of that meeting, and contains the following sections:

1. Mission Statement
2. Governance Structure
3. NA-PSG 2007 Strategies and Actions
4. Schedule for 2007 Steering Committee meetings
5. Addendum: Actions for future consideration

1. Mission (Vision): To overcome the challenges local governments face in implementing GIS programs which effectively support local and national preparedness goals.

2. Governance Structure: decision making process, membership, and financial management

- **Decision making:** NA-PSG Steering Committee will meet twice annually to discuss general NA-PSG business activities, consider Task Force Recommendations, and approve new partners. The governing process will include:
 - Simple majority vote for conducting normal alliance business (approval of new partners will require 2/3 vote, see below). Voting will occur

electronically within a week of notice via email. Partners who were not able to participate in the discussion on a given topic under consideration may request a one week postponement of voting for clarification.

- NA-PSG will use rotating chairs to facilitate alliance business activities. The seated chair will call and facilitate steering committee meetings and other communications. ESRI has agreed to assume the Chair position through February 2007. Jennifer Schottke will represent ESRI as Alliance Chair for the balance of that time.
- **Task Forces:** The work of NA-PSG will be done through Task Forces. Partner organizations may propose activities to the steering committee. Upon acceptance, the committee will appoint a new or existing task force to manage the project. The steering committee will oversee coordination of all alliance activities through regular reporting by Task Force Chairs.

To bring prospective projects or task forces to NA-PSG, the proposing partner group accepts responsibility for the chairmanship of that task force and the full burden of managing the project. This includes:

- fiduciary responsibility
- start date – end date
- communications (regular reports).

Each partner organization a seat on each task force approved by the Steering Committee, and can choose to opt in or out of participation in that activity at any time.

- **Membership:** Partnership in NA-PSG is defined by the existing MOU document. We will hold off on creating a more formal organizational structure for now, and participation in Alliance activities involves the following:
 - Partner structure: New partners approved by 2/3 majority of steering committee during steering committee meetings.
 - Request a seat through an existing partner via a one page letter of request which describes organization and reasons for consideration as a partner.
 - Qualifications for partnership will be developed by next Steering Committee meeting
 - Agree to accept the rotational chair
 - Partners can consider establishing projects/task forces
 - Member structure: NA-PSG will not accept general memberships at this time, rather will put a list-serv on the website for communicating with individuals interested in supporting the mission. Participation in Alliance projects and

task forces will be coordinated and assigned through their respective partner organizations.

It was noted that representation in NA-PSG is missing from several key communities of interest, most notably law enforcement, county management, and emergency management. Actions to address this concern are stated in section 3 below.

- **Financial Management:** There will be no fees at this time. NA-PSG is not incorporated and therefore has no direct mechanism for handling funds. Alliance Partners proposing activities and task forces will assume the full burden of fiduciary responsibility for activities associated with those projects.

3. NA-PSG 2007 Strategies (Major Themes) and Objectives (Actions):

The Steering Committee identified the following desired outcomes from their involvement in NA-PSG activities:

- Develop a national professional GIS preparedness capability for public safety
- Engage and support the local emergency responder* community in the use and coordination of GIS for disaster preparedness and response
- Coordinate, leverage and extend the goals of existing GIS activities among member agencies
- Support the goals of existing state and federal geospatial data sharing programs such as the USGS GIS for the Nation Program
- Identify at-risk areas, to establish pilot sites for the integration of GIS into operational capability for preparedness activities based on best practices
- Encourage and enhance and the coordination of Emergency Operations related GIS activity
- Advocate public policies to encourage realistic, and appropriate use of GIS for public safety and the coordination of federal, state and local response
- Provide subject matter expertise to agencies involved in the development of collaborative models, grants and programmatic initiatives for public safety data sharing (e.g. the USGS Emergency Operations data model being developed under the GIS for the Nation program)

To facilitate these outcomes, the Steering Committee has agreed to the following plan of action:

Strategies

1. Best (or Model) Practices– identify approaches which provide strong support for priority business process requirements.

2. Provide input to standardizing how inputs and outputs to GIS systems can be standardized to facilitate broader use among partner member clientele.
3. Develop Guidance Resources: Provide a framework/template for using GIS as a decision support tool for local HLS functions. Provide resources to help respective clientele implement these tools.

Actions

The steering committee has agreed to pursue the following actions to support these strategies:

1. Establish Best Practices Task Force, chair: IAFC

Objective: Connecting the dots to help answer the questions and give respective clientele some places to turn to for effective implementation and use of GIS to support their respective business processes.

Assigned Tasks:

- A. Determine what to call it. An option to consider: “Model Practices”
- B. Recommend to steering committee what the task force’s agenda should be.
Options to consider include
 - VISION
 - Bundles
 - Other items described in NA-PSG Purpose, Role of Alliance above
- C. Report recommendations to steering committee for review at January meeting

2. Establish Credentialing and Standards Task Force, chair: CPSE

Objective: Develop a process and mechanism for credentialing GIS public safety personnel.

Assigned Tasks:

- A. Identify existing credentialing programs for public safety GIS (ie NWCG GIST)
- B. Identify existing initiatives to develop credentialing programs for public safety GIS (ie NIC standards and credentialing workgroups)
- C. Report recommendations to steering committee for review at January meeting

3. Establish Workshops and Education Task Force, chair: ESRI

Objective: Identify existing and needed guidelines and resources to support the development of GIS capability

Assigned Tasks:

- A. Establish a NA-PSG Web-page at publicsafetygis.org to promote educational resources and alliance activities
- B. Plan and schedule the workshops which ESRI has already agreed to sponsor
- C. Review existing plans for additional programs specified in MOU Exhibit 1, Section C and develop work plan for task force to assist in program development and logistics.
- D. Report recommendations to steering committee for review at January meeting

4. Extend an invitation to five additional organizations to join NA-PSG:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
 - National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
 - Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (COLEA)
 - International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
 - National League of Cities (NLC)
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2007 Steering committee meetings scheduled for:

- Thursday, January 11, 2007, 2:30PM-4:30PM, Washington Convention Center, WDC (in conjunction with the ESRI Fed Users Conference)

Agenda

- 1. consider process/qualifications for adding new partners
 - 2. Vote on new partners
 - 3. Reports from Task Forces
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- Monday April 16, 2007. (New Orleans in conjunction with the annual GIPSE conference).

Addendum A:

Other relevant partner activities and interests for future consideration

Currently In Progress

1. Develop preparedness guidelines and response guide handbook for state and local governments in the following target areas:
 - a. Adopting standard SOPs for data sharing during incident response
 - b. Adopting guidelines for standard map products
 - c. Establishing regional networks of emergency GIS professionals
 - d. Including GIS resources in Mutual Aid agreements
 - e. Understanding relevant data models, filing and naming conventions
2. Promote understanding of the application of GIS to HLS mission
 - Awareness materials (e.g. general information, interviews, best practices, etc)
 - Media outreach (e.g. articles in trade publications, interviews, showcase of best practices, etc.)
 - Joint partner participation at conference venues:
 - Association conferences
 - ESRI-UC Exec Seminar
 - ESRI's Homeland Security Summit
 - GISPCE Conference
3. Development of IRMP/SOC training resources. In particular focusing on specific tasks utilizing the concepts of CAST or Critical Attendance Standards (or Critical Assignment Standards) and including development of a document to accompany the self assessment manual: GIS techniques and map products.

Future possibilities

- Policy: to encourage realistic and appropriate use of GIS and the coordination of federal, state and local response.
- Data model: provide subject matter expertise in the development of the USGS Emergency Operations data model being developed under the GIS for the Nation program
- Training: encourage the development of public safety GIS professionals
 - Develop Public Safety specific GIS training
 - Address both technical and management
 - Use existing curriculum sponsored by NSA
 - Conduct workshops (IAFC Fire GIS workshop model: Management/technical tracks)

- Role of US Fire Academy, etc.
 - Webinars
- Analyze and discuss the cost / benefits of the development of a commission for the purpose of credentialing public safety GIS professionals
- Coordinate input for development of tools and capabilities
 - Conduct requirements and gap analysis for applications, data and services development
 - Technical advisory council/working group for input to and coordination of application/data services development
 - Encourage the development of integrated risk management approach to disaster preparedness in order to create excellence at the local level utilizing data and systems technology that is readily available. Central to this technology is the use of GIS for data management and compilation.