



20 years

# NGA

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

A Generation of  
Geospatial Intelligence



Source: NGA Historical Research Center



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## Shuttle Radar Topography Mission

A collaboration between Defense Mapping Agency, NASA, the German Aerospace Center, and the Italian Space Agency, work began on the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission in August 1996.

Launched from the Kennedy Space Center on February 11, 2000, Space Shuttle Endeavour spent 11 days in flight. The crew spent 222.4 hours—almost nine days and eight hours—recording topographical data during repeated orbits 145 miles above the Earth. This plan allowed radar imaging of the globe between 60 degrees north latitude and about 56 degrees south latitude, covering about eighty percent of the Earth's surface and ninety-five percent of its population.



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## September 11, 2001

Two days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 claimed roughly 3,000 American lives, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency welcomed retired Air Force Lieutenant General James R. Clapper Jr. as its second director, succeeding Army Lieutenant General James C. King. Soon after his arrival the new director began to promote products that developed from a variety of new initiatives. An ambitious synthesis of source and image emerged during General King's tenure known simply as *geospatial intelligence*, or GEOINT. Director Clapper immediately reached out to the deployed warfighter to provide geospatial support and set the agency working on the first *Geospatial Intelligence Basic Doctrine*.

