



NGA Supports World Cup Security

BY JEFF U., RICHARD B. AND RICK B.

Working with mission partners, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency provided geospatial intelligence data and products for the 19th FIFA World Cup that were instrumental in security planning for the games.

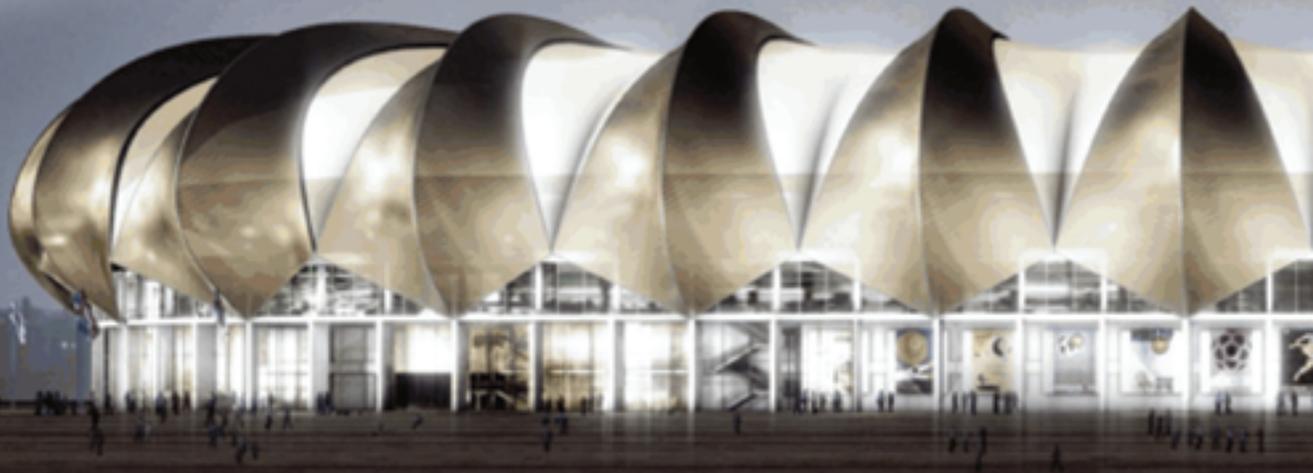
While the soccer matches occurred over a two week period in late June and early July 2010, NGA's preparation took place over the course of the preceding year to ensure the GEOINT products used would be the best possible to help with security at the tournament's many events and venues.

The 2010 World Cup took place in nine cities and ten stadiums throughout South Africa, had 32 international teams participating and included numerous heads of state and foreign dignitaries attending. There were also thousands of media and corporate sponsor representatives and nearly 400,000 visitors who entered the country specifically for the games.

NGA relies on a wide range of GEOINT technologies—from maps and models to animation and scene visualization—to help with securing events like the World Cup. NGA analysts deployed to South Africa and personnel in the United States contributed to the safety and security of U.S. athletes, dignitaries, government facilities and those who attended the matches.

To support this massive undertaking, NGA officers deployed to the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, working closely with other agencies to prepare maps and large-format graphics of World Cup match locations, including cities, training facilities, stadiums, airports, hotels and other points of interest.

Products produced included graphics depicting daily events, stadium vulnerabilities, risk analysis and crime or other incidents, motorcade route and road closure maps, and scene visualization mod-



els. NGA also provided stereo airfield collection, hazardous facilities assessments and counterterrorism analysis.

With matches played throughout the country, threats of terrorism and South Africa's kept analysts busy providing up-to-the minute GEOINT for the Intelligence Community, law enforcement and diplomatic protection services. NGA regional and antiterrorism analysts in St. Louis, Mo., and Washington, D.C., provided 24/7 reachback to the analysts in Pretoria.

Many of the products were used to help security personnel at the games ensure the security of Vice President Joseph Biden and former President Bill Clinton as they attended matches in Rustenburg and Pretoria.

Among its initiatives, NGA partnered with the European Union Satellite Centre, which analyzes imagery and related data for the EU, to jointly pro-

duce unclassified geospatial products for the event. Additionally, Intelligence Community open source analysts provided significant unclassified information critical to the GEOINT production.

By completion of the final match, NGA had produced more than 330 GEOINT products. The agency's successful World Cup participation strengthened partnerships and demonstrated the importance of collaboration to the safe and successful conclusion of large international special events. **P**

Jeff U. and Richard B. are geospatial analysts who directly participated in NGA's support to the World Cup.

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Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Photo Courtesy of FIFA