



## NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Inaugural Meeting Lays Groundwork for Community-Based GEOINT Standards**

BETHESDA, MD — The National Center for Geospatial Intelligence Standards (NCGIS) hosted the inaugural meeting of the Geospatial Intelligence Standards Working Group (GWG) on January 12, 2005, in Chantilly, Va. More than 130 people attended, including representatives from the Department of Defense (DoD) and Intelligence Communities; federal civil agencies, as represented by the Federal Geographic Data Committee; standards development and setting organizations, such as the International Organization of Standards and the American National Standards Institute; Australian, British and Canadian coalition partners; and industry consortia, such as the Open Geospatial Consortium and the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation.

As the functional manager for geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) created the GWG in partnership with the Defense Information Systems Agency Information Standards Committee. The NCGIS chairs the GWG and provides secretariat support. The GWG serves as the community's advocate for information technology standardization activities related to GEOINT.

Bobbi Lenczowski, Senior Executive, NGA West, presented the keynote address, highlighting the practical needs and difficulties in achieving standardization and recognizing that "...interoperability cannot happen without standards and standards agreements. We have an awesome responsibility before us." After initial informational briefings, the committee began to lay the foundation for the road ahead as attendees discussed leading standardization issues and how the GWG should proceed to effectively address these issues.

"The overwhelming participation indicates an Intelligence Community anxious to adopt standards that extend beyond their individual agency's needs and meet the president's post 9-11 interoperability mandate," said Karen Irby, Director, NCGIS, and Chair of the GWG.

The GWG is open to all National System for Geospatial-Intelligence personnel interested in facilitating the adoption, promulgation and use of GEOINT standards for enabling technologies, data architecture and software. For more information, go to the NCGIS web site, [www.nga.mil](http://www.nga.mil); select Products and Services, then select Standards.

NGA is a DoD combat support agency and a member of the National Intelligence Community. The Agency's mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of our national security. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., NGA has major facilities in the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and St. Louis, Mo., areas with NGA support teams worldwide.