

December 2004

### ***DHS Geospatial Program Enacted***

A new Geospatial Management Office will be created in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pursuant to legislation MAPPS helped draft and move through Congress. The bill to revamp the Nation's intelligence apparatus, based upon the recommendations of the 911 Commission, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 7 and the U.S. Senate on December 8, and President Bush signed it into law on December 17.

Section 8201 of S. 2845, the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004, established the Office of Geospatial Management within the Office of the Chief Information Officer in DHS. The office will coordinate geospatial information needs of the Department, implement standards, work with FGDC, and award grants to state and local government.



The provision is based on S. 1230, introduced by Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), and H.R. 3367, offered by Reps. Pete Sessions (R-TX) and Rob Andrews (D-NJ) with the support of MAPPS. Senator Allard offered the geospatial provision in the Senate during its consideration of the 911 Commission bill and it was adopted during House-Senate conference negotiations.

“Enactment of this provision is a major victory for MAPPS,” said Executive Director John Palatiello. “The leadership of a number of members of Congress, including Senators Allard, along with Senators Collins of Maine, Lieberman of Connecticut and Akaka of Hawaii were key passage, along with the efforts of Representatives Sessions and Andrews, along with Representative Hoekstra. Credit also goes to a number of MAPPS members who worked hard to make this happen.”

(Pictured at left, Sen. Allard speaks at a MAPPS Federal Programs Conference)

### ***Omnibus Funding Bill Makes FPI Reform Permanent***

The “Omnibus” Appropriations Act, signed into law by President Bush on December 8, includes a permanent change in Federal procurement law affecting agency purchases from Federal Prison Industries.

Section 637 of the bill provides a limitation on government-wide funding such that "None of the funds made available under this or any other Act for fiscal year 2005 and each fiscal year thereafter shall be expended for the purchase of a product or service offered by Federal Prison Industries, Inc. unless the agency making such purchase determines that such offered product or service provides the best value to the buying agency pursuant to government-wide procurement regulations, issued pursuant to section 25(c)(1) of the Office of Federal Procurement Act (41 U.S.C. 421(c)(1)) that impose procedures, standards, and limitations of section 2410n of title 10, United States Code.”

This provision makes permanent the Appropriations provision enacted for Fiscal Year 2004 that requires all Federal agencies to use normal competitive procedures prior to purchasing products or services from Federal Prison Industries (FPI). Effective immediately, this provision eliminates FPI's mandatory source for products and preferred source for services. Inasmuch as this is a permanent extension of current law it is effective immediately. Federal agencies may not purchase and good or service, from FPI unless a competition is conducted affording interested private firms an opportunity to submit offers.

Comprehensive FPI reform bills passed the House and a Senate Committee in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, but these bills were not enacted into law. MAPPS and a coalition of business and labor groups will push for further reform in the new session of Congress that convenes in January.

## *President's Column*

*by Ken Fleming  
MAPPS President*



In Washington, the elections are over, Congress had adjourned for the year, and preparations have begun for 2005. MAPPS' planning for the new year is also well under way.

With President Bush reelected and with stronger, pro-business majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, MAPPS is anticipating a favorable reception to our legislative initiatives. As you will read in this newsletter, we were successful in adding Federal Prison Industry reform and NOAA contracting provisions to the Omnibus Appropriations bill, and the 911 Commission/Intelligence bill includes the creation of a geospatial program office in the Department of Homeland Security. Our attention now turns to proper implementation of these laws.

We need to continue to work with Congress, the White House and the agencies to assure that adequate funding of those programs that benefit the public, through our profession, is provided. The climate for continuing to transfer more work from in-house government capabilities to the private sector is perhaps better than ever. And we will continue to work out technical procurement issues to assure that these funds are expended wisely.

QBS continues to be one of our main principles and we remain committed to this essential fabric of our profession. The MAPPS Board of Directors has spent a great deal of time on this important topic, working with Congress, the White House and the agencies and developing strategies to enhance and clarify the application of QBS. A session on this issue is also on the program for our Winter Meeting.

I have always thought a hallmark of MAPPS has been the programming of timely, relevant and useful topics and presentations at our conferences. I am particularly pleased that we have improved the quality of our sessions over the past year. My thanks to Kurt Allen, Mary Potter and Mary Hiatt who has been an ad hoc program committee helping to organize these excellent sessions. The Summer Meeting saw a record attendance with a strong program and our Fall Policy Conference was an excellent opportunity to learn the latest on Federal policy initiatives affecting our profession and our firm, as well as to interact with key Federal agency officials.

Another strong program is planned to the Winter Meeting, to be held January 28-February 1 in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I would encourage you to visit our website and make plans to attend this conference.

I am also pleased that we now have an active committee system in MAPPS. The Licensed Data and Commercial Remote Sensing Committee posted on the web site a draft document that seeks to help distinguish between geospatial products and services. Please review that document and submit your comments. Thanks to Mike Bullock and his committee for their work on this project. All of our committees continue to address many opportunities and challenges that face us and a detailed report from each committee will be presented at the Winter Meeting, and time is reserved for each committee to meet.

The Membership Committee recommended, and the Board approved, a new dues structure. Invoices have been mailed and renewal is also available via our web site. An article appears elsewhere in this newsletter explaining the rationale for this new structure. My appreciation to Marv Miller, Scott Perkins, Bobby Tuck, Ken Stiller, Hank DiPietro and Tom Brennan for their work on this proposal. We have also instituted a "Member-Get-A-Member" campaign to increase the MAPPS membership. That program is also on the web site and explained in this issue of FLIGHTLINE. I am grateful to Shawana Johnson, Herb Gauch and David Hart for their efforts on this activity.

2004 has been a great year for MAPPS. Here's hoping 2005 brings health, happiness and prosperity to you, your employees and your family.

## ***SBA to Review Definition of Small Business in Mapping***

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has advised MAPPS that it will review the "size standard" or definition of a small business, as requested by the MAPPS Board of Directors. Currently, SBA combines surveying and mapping in one size standard and defines a small business as one with gross annual receipts up to \$4 million, averaged over a three year period. The MAPPS Board, after many months of debate and deliberation, petitioned SBA to review the standard, citing the significant differences between mapping and geospatial firms on one hand and land surveying practices on the other in terms of capital requirements, size and scope of projects, training requirements of personnel, as well as size of firms in revenue, payroll and number of employees. According to the most recent Census of Service Industries, conducted by the Census Bureau, the average number of employees per land surveying and mapping firm is 5.8 and the average firm had gross annual receipts of \$343,172. That data, which is relied upon by SBA, is skewed by the number of land surveying firms in the survey. Moreover, the MAPPS Board noted that according to the report, "U.S. Federal Procurement of Geotechnology, 2000-2002", by Cary and Associates, Longmont, CO, published October 2003, the Federal government is spending some \$5 billion per year on geospatial-related contracts. Of that amount, more than 70% went to just 10 firms, all of which are large aerospace or systems integration corporations. During 2005, the SBA size standards staff will review information on the geospatial community and make a recommendation on a different, and presumably higher, size standard, if warranted.

## ***MAPPS Exec's Study: Gov Should Develop GIS to Sell Surplus Property***

In 2003 the Government Accountability Office found that three agencies – the General Services Administration, the Veterans Affairs Department and the Postal Service – controlled 927 vacant or underutilized properties. In 2001, the Veterans Affairs Department spent more than \$300,000 to maintain a building that had been vacant for 14 years. A new joint policy brief, written by MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello and published by two think tanks, Reason Foundation and TS August, urges Congress to scrutinize the billions of dollars being wasted at unused and underutilized federal properties and recommends the use of geographic information systems to catalog the government's property holdings. The policy brief is available online at: <http://www.rppi.org/pb33.pdf> and [www.tsaugust.com](http://www.tsaugust.com). Mr. Palatiello's paper has also generated national news attention. Go to <http://www.washtimes.com/upi-breaking/20041210-023234-1229r.htm>

## ***Omnibus Funding Bill Seeks Increased NOAA Contracting***

The report of House-Senate conferees to accompany the "Omnibus" Appropriations Act, signed into law by President Bush on December 8, includes a House-initiated requirement that NOAA's National Ocean Service develop a plan to increase the utilization of private firms and reduce government duplication in mapping and charting. The language stems from several NOAA actions, including its controversial acquisition of a digital aerial camera. The language says,

"The Committee expects NOAA to work with the private mapping community to develop a strategy for expanding contracting with private entities to minimize duplication and take maximum advantage of private sector capabilities in fulfillment of NOAA's mapping and charting responsibilities. NOAA shall submit a report on such a strategy to the Committee no later than November 1, 2004. This report shall include a description of activities currently performed by NOAA, and activities performed by contractors, accompanied by cost and percentage information for each."

MAPPS will work with NOAA to provide the private sector input required and is working with Congress on the date it expects the report, since the appropriations bill was not enacted prior to the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2004.

## ***Winter Meeting Set for January 28 – February 1 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands***

A timely and useful education program, the profession's best opportunity for networking with other firm principals, the chance to share information with your professional peers, occasions for socializing, and a beautiful, warm Caribbean setting await the membership as the MAPPS Winter Meeting, to be held January 28-February 1 at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Hotel in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The deadline for registering with MAPPS and making your hotel reservations is January 10. This cutoff date is due to requirements for our shipping materials to the conference. Late and on-site registration will be available, but at a higher rate. A limited number of corporate sponsorships are still available for the MAPPS Winter Meeting. Increase your firm's exposure in the geospatial community and show your support for MAPPS by sponsoring an event at the conference. For information on sponsorship opportunities, email: [sally@mapps.org](mailto:sally@mapps.org). To view the program, register and find more information on the meeting, go to [www.mapps.org](http://www.mapps.org).

## ***Dues Mailed, New Structure Implemented***

Invoices for 2005 MAPPS dues have been mailed to all incumbent member firms. The MAPPs Board of Directors has approved a new dues structure based on the size of firms. This new structure will encourage a greater number of firms in the geospatial community to participate in MAPPs as well as provide for more fairness and equity for member firms of all sizes. The structure also aligns MAPPs with other similar associations of firms.

The dues will also provide MAPPs with the revenue necessary to continue serving its members interest and expand its services. The MAPPs Board has approved new staffing for the association, including an additional government affairs professional to increase the exposure and influence of MAPPs before Congress, Federal agencies and state legislatures. There has not been a dues increase since 2001. Under the approved restructuring, some two-thirds of firms in MAPPs will experience a reduction or no change in dues.

A PowerPoint presentation explaining the new dues structure, presented by MAPPs Director Marvin Miller at the Fall Policy Conference in Washington, DC in October, is available on the MAPPs web site, [www.mapps.org](http://www.mapps.org).

## ***Mike Ritchie Elected COFPAES Chairman***



Mike Ritchie, PE, PLS, PSM, CP, the immediate past president of MAPPs, has been elected Chairman of the Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services, COFPAES, for 2005.

Mr. Ritchie is President and CEO of Photo Science, Inc, a full-service geospatial solutions firm headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky with branch offices in Bangor, ME; Colorado Springs, CO; Orlando, St. Petersburg, and Tampa, FL; Norcross (Atlanta), GA; and Greenbelt (Washington, DC), MD.

Mr. Ritchie graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1972 with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering. He has more than 25 years of experience in his field and currently holds professional engineering registrations in fifteen states, is a licensed professional land surveyor in six states, and is a nationally Certified Photogrammetrist.

Mr. Ritchie is a past President of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers and the Kentucky Council of Engineering Companies. In addition, he is a former Chairman of the Professional Engineers in Private Practice and a National Director of the National Society of Professional Engineers. In 1999, Mr. Ritchie was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Council of Engineering Companies. He recently completed a two-year term as National Director representing Kentucky to the American Council of Engineering Companies. He is currently serving on the National Council for Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) Task Force on model law revisions to the practice of land surveying and photogrammetry and has served for two years as the MAPPs delegate to COFPAES.

Since its inception in 1966, COFPAES has provided the design community with a common voice and focus on federal procurement law and regulations. COFPAES serves the American public as a well-known and respected forum for the consideration of policy and operational changes in the selection procedures of design professionals. Because of its emphasis on professionalism in the procurement process, COFPAES assists Congress and federal agencies in assuring that projects to satisfy the building, infrastructure, resource, defense and security needs of our Nation are conducted in an efficient and quality manner. The member organization of COFPAES are the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, American Institute of Architects, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and MAPPs. COFPAES also has individual A/E and geospatial firms as corporate members. For information, visit [www.cofpaes.org](http://www.cofpaes.org).

***Join us at the MAPPs Winter Meeting  
January 28 – February 1, 2005  
St. Thomas, USVI***

## ***Member-Get-A-Member Campaign Launched***

The new "Member-Get-A-Member" contest, unleashing a worldwide effort for MAPPS members to bring new firms into the membership, has been launched by the MAPPS Board of Directors. The challenge to each MAPPS member is to refer at least one new member firm from the mapping and geospatial profession to the membership. As a reward, the person who recruits the most new member firms will win an all-expense-paid trip (Airfare, Hotel & Registration) to the MAPPS Annual Summer Meeting, to be held July 2005 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. The reward for everyone is the benefits of an expanded MAPPS membership, including a stronger profession, a more effective voice in Legislation & Government Policy, generation of more networking and business opportunities for member firms, and more information sharing on mapping and geospatial issues. For information, including a membership form, visit the MAPPS web site, [www.mapps.org](http://www.mapps.org).

## ***DoT Geospatial Contracting Out Advocated***

A respected free-market think tank recommends that state transportation agencies contract with the private sector, and eliminate unfair government competition with the private sector. The article, which appears in the current issue of Privatization Watch, published by the Reason Foundation, highlights the Washington State transportation agency, which markets its aerial photography and photogrammetric services and price list on the Internet, and says such a practice "not only perpetuates inefficient bureaucracies, but puts government in direct competition with private, taxpaying companies and their employees." The article says when Congress reauthorizes the Federal Intermodal Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), "stronger federal legislation could require efficiency, enhance quality and lower costs, implement accountability, as well as stretch highway dollars to meet pressing transportation infrastructure needs."

You can read the article on the MAPPS web site, [www.mapps.org](http://www.mapps.org) or Reason's web site, [www.rppi.org/pw327.pdf#page=14](http://www.rppi.org/pw327.pdf#page=14)

## ***Changes to NOAA Charting Rules Urged***

In November 15 comments to the Director of the Office of Coast Survey in NOAA's National Ocean Service, MAPPS called for revisions to Certification Requirements for Distributors of NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts/NOAA Hydrographic Products.

Regulations, published for public comment, implement the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA). MAPPS supported HSIA in Congress and appeared before a Congressional committee to present testimony on issues affecting NOAA's geospatial and charting program.

MAPPS said it "is deeply concerned that the proposed rule does not conform to the provisions of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA), as amended. We believe the Coast Survey has failed to provide a public standard of quality that would provide means for certification by NOAA of nautical chart products produced in the private sector. This limits a full competitive market in the private sector. It fails to open this market to competition as suggested by Congress in HSIA and perpetuates a government monopoly where a competitive market would otherwise exist. We are also concerned about the proposed rule's limits on use of privately-made electronic charts on ECDIS closes the markets for all non-SOLAS vessels in the United States. This market is the largest open to our chart-making member firms, many of which are small business ... We are chagrined that the rule does not utilize ISO Standard 19379 as the means for certifying privately-made ECS databases. This standard, which was produced by an international committee of experts, including NOAA and partially funded by NOAA, is appropriate as the standard of quality required by HSIA. This standard will enable NOAA to certify and approve electronic charts as mandated by PL 108-293, and will empower many small business charting firms." Finally, MAPPS urged "NOAA to eliminate the limitation in the proposed rule that prevents the use of certified electronic charts for mandated chart carriage. This change will enable NOAA to authorize a national, market-based supply of electronic charts for ECS, including those from small business."



## ***Evick Presented Brooks Medal in Recognition of QBS Efforts***



The Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services, COFPAES, has awarded its prestigious “Brooks Medal” to Donald R. Evick, PE, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The award was recently presented at a special ceremony at The American Institute of Architects.

The Brooks Medal honors individuals who have provided extraordinary service to the public in their advocacy of qualifications based selection (QBS) of A/E services. The medal is named for former Congressman Jack Brooks, the author of the Brooks Act and the gentleman for whom the Brooks Act is affectionately named.

**(Pictured, l-r, are John Truhan, PE, ASCE Delegate; Thomas Turner, FAIA, AIA Delegate; Joe Wisnewski, FAIA, 2004 COFPAES Chairman, Don, Evick, PE; Mike Ritchie, PE, LS, CP, MAPPS Delegate; Rick Allen, LS, ACSM Acting Delegate, and John Palatiello, COFPAES Administrator.)**

Past award recipients have included Senator William Cohen (R-ME), who later became Secretary of Defense, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA), and Congressional staff member Bill Montalto.

In remarks at the award presentation, Joe Wisnewski, FAIA, 2004 COFPAES Chairman, said, “Don Evick has been the epitome of quality and professionalism. He has been an effective advocate for QBS within government agencies and has been one of those dedicated Federal employees who works quietly, behind the scenes, to make qualifications based selection work. At a time when it is popular in some quarters to bash government bureaucrats, it is heartwarming to know there are dedicated public servants who choose government service and are dedicated to making government work for the people. Don epitomizes the thousands of Federal employees who make the system work. For a career of dedication to quality in the relationship between Federal agencies and the design professionals it retains by contract, COFPAES is pleased and honored to bestow the Brooks Medal to Don Evick.”

During his with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Evick has been the primary instructor and developer of the Corps’ A/E contracting class, teaching as many as 10 sessions of the course each year. He has written the Engineer Supplement to the FAR/DFAR/AFAR on the A-E process, and the Corps pamphlet on doing A-E business with the Corps. He was a leader in the development of the new SF 330, which replaced the old 254 and 255 earlier this year and he was responsible for seeing this all the way through OMB approval. He reformed and updated the old A-E contracting support system (ACASS), migrating it to a new web based system, has been the liaison between the professional organizations and the Corps on A/E contracting policy, facilitating issues raised by the contracting community; helped negotiate the Corps partnering agreement with several A-E organizations which became a model for public-private partnership between the Corps and the A-E community and for a number of years, Don has handled all professional registration policy issues for the Corps. He will be retiring from government service at the end of 2004.

COFPAES is a coalition of the nation’s leading design associations and societies. The member organizations of COFPAES are the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, American Institute of Architects, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and MAPPS. COFPAES also has individual A/E and geospatial firms as corporate members. For information, visit [www.cofpaes.org](http://www.cofpaes.org).

## ***National Academy Launches Geographic Information Web Site***

The National Academy of Sciences has launched a new web site that consolidates its many activities and information resources in the geographic information field. Visit the site at <http://gi.nationalacademies.org/>



## ***Congressman Moore Visits Western Air Maps***

**(l-r) Congressman Moore, Western Air Maps owner Don Wigger and plotter operator Kevin Rowell view a stereo workstation**

Congressman Dennis Moore (D-KS) visited the Overland Park, Kansas office of Western Air Maps, Inc. on November 30. Congressman Moore met with company officials to discuss legislative issues affecting the geospatial profession, including the role of geospatial data in Homeland Security, the implications to Homeland Security of offshoring geospatial production, and the Federal government's use of commercially acquired satellite and airborne remote sensing data. Congressman Moore will look into hearings by the House Science Committee on offshoring geospatial data production and possible legislation on increasing government utilization of private remote sensing capabilities. After a brief presentation of the firm's operations, Congressman Moore toured the facility to gain first hand knowledge of the types of services MAPPS member firms provide to the Federal government. The Congressman viewed demonstrations of work currently being produced by Western Air Maps for NOAA, NGA, and the USACE.

### ***Upcoming MAPPS Events***

MAPPS Winter Meeting, **Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2005**, Marriott Frenchman's Reef, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Federal Programs Conference, **March 14-16, 2005**, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Annual Summer Conference, **July 16-21, 2005**, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina



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