

FLIGHT LINE

Newsletter of the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)

March 2006

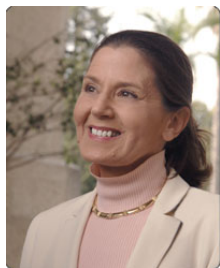
House Intelligence Committee Chairman Hoekstra Deputy Interior Secretary Scarlett to Address MAPPS Federal Programs Conference

Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, will be a featured speaker at the MAPPS Federal Programs Conference, March 13-15 in Washington, DC.



The Intelligence Committee has jurisdiction over the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and important client organization to MAPPS and dozens of its member firms. The committee approves the NGA budget, as well as provides program authority, policy and oversight of NGA and other intelligence agencies. Additionally, Rep. Hoekstra has a longstanding working relationship with MAPPS as the sponsor of legislation to reform Federal Prison Industries.

"We are honored and delighted that Chairman Hoekstra will be taking time from his very busy schedule to be with the MAPPS membership," said MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello. "MAPPS member firms, as prime contractors and subcontractors, are increasingly engaged in NGA's programs, including GGI, Clearview, and Nextview, and having Chairman Hoekstra with us is an important step in building the already excellent working relationship MAPPS has with NGA, and will help MAPPS efforts in supporting NGA in Congress."



Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior, was sworn in on November 22, 2005. Previously, she had served as Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management, and Budget at the Department. Prior to joining the Bush Administration in July 2001, she was President of the Los Angeles-based Reason Foundation, a nonprofit public policy research and communications organization. For 15 years, she directed Reason Public Policy Institute, the policy research division of the Foundation. Her research focused primarily on environmental, land use, and natural resources issues, where she authored numerous articles and research papers on free-market, incentive-based proposals. Ms. Scarlett co-chairs the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), the Federal government's interagency coordinating committee on geospatial activities. She will be the luncheon speaker on Monday, March 13.

On the evening of Tuesday, March 14, the MAPPS PAC Inner Circle will host a dinner featuring two important and outstanding guests. Congressman John J. "Jimmy" Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) will join us. Rep. Duncan was the sponsor of the "Freedom from Government Competition Act", which was modified and enacted as the "Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act. This law for the first time put into place a statutory requirement that Federal agencies look at its "commercial activities" for potential contracting out to the private sector. As Chairman of the House Water Resources

Subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, he is the sponsor of bills such as H.R.4560, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds and other purposes and H.R.4650, to direct the Corps of Engineers to carry out programs and activities to enhance the safety of levees in the US. Both of these are bills that will create significant market opportunities for private geospatial firms. Also with us will be nationally recognized pollster, John Zogby, (www.zogby.com), often seen offering his expertise on TV programs. MAPPS PAC Inner Circle Dinner is *not* included in Conference registration. For information, contact MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello.

The MAPPS Federal Programs Conference is March 13-15 at the Hyatt Hotel on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, features presentations by Federal agencies on their programs, budgets and upcoming contracts, liaison meetings with Federal agencies, policy briefings, and meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress. MAPPS is the only geospatial organization that has an organized Capitol Hill advocacy program. Registration deadline is Monday, March 6.

DC Airspace Regs Revised to Include Aerial Photo Waivers



The Federal Aviation Administration has issued a notice to airmen, or NOTAM, on February 22 that the Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) for the Washington, DC area recognizes a waiver process, as requested by MAPPS. [NOTAM number FDC 6/2238](#) reinstates waivers for activities such as aerial photography missions, which permit operations in the airspace around the Nation's Capital. Restrictions were first imposed after the attack on September 11, 2001. MAPPS Executive Director, John Palatiello, accompanied by MAPPS Aerial Photography Committee Chair Rich Breitlow, testified on the need to revise the FAA Proposed Regulation to allow waivers for professional aerial photography flights at a FAA hearing on January 18 at Washington Dulles Airport. Detailed information, including the regulations and the MAPPS testimony can be viewed at [ADIZ Waivers](#) or view information on the [Flight Restrictions](#).

Offshoring Panel Suggests Data Handling Standards, Policy

The MAPPS Offshoring Task Force, appointed in July 2005 by MAPPS President Kurt Allen, has reported its findings and recommendations to the MAPPS membership and Board of Directors. Presented as a PowerPoint presentation at the Winter Conference on January 29, the MAPPS panel found that geospatial data security and attention to data handling are paramount public and homeland safety issues for all geospatial professionals, and provided a recommended MAPPS policy and data handling standard.

The Task Force is chaired by John Voycik (Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.) and members are Herb Satterlee (DigitalGlobe); John Copple (Sanborn); Dee Vaidya, (Techni Graphic Systems); Greg Tilley (VARGIS); Jim Page (James W. Sewall Company); Susan Marlow (Smart Data Strategies); Jeff Lovin (Woolpert); Mary Brauer-Cox (LSI); Jean Carter (Aerial Data Service); and Eric Sandberg (BAE Systems). (Note: Mr. Satterlee has since resigned from DigitalGlobe.)

The MAPPS Board of Directors is seeking member feedback and comments on the report and policy recommendations. Please view the [Task Force Report and Recommendations](#) and submit your comments.

President's Column

by Kurt Allen
MAPPS President



"Managing Change"

Like the geospatial profession, MAPPS is going through a lot of changes. Our membership is becoming more diverse, we expanded the size of the Board of Directors, reformed the nominations and elections process, restructured our dues, added new staff, implemented an active committee system, and tackled some difficult issues.

Prior to the Winter Meeting, the MAPPS Board put our strategic plan on our web site for member comment. Many of you availed yourself of that opportunity, and for that the Board is grateful. Your input is valuable. We held a session at the Winter Meeting to solicit more member input. That session was lively and constructive. Again, some excellent ideas resulted.

At the conclusion of the Winter Meeting, the Board stayed behind for an extra day and developed an update to the association's strategic plan, with the members' input in front of all of us.

In the coming days, a draft revised plan will again be disseminated to the membership and posted on the web site for another round of member comments. I urge you to provide feedback on YOUR association.

The Board had a few major goals in mind when drafting an updated plan. These were –

- Recognize that MAPPS is now a big and diverse tent; but that we must be guided by certain core values,
- MAPPS as a member organization must be responsive to the needs and desires of the membership,
- As a Board of Directors, we have a fiduciary responsibility to add budget and fiscal realism to the plan and strategically endeavor that which we can realistically accomplish with the

financial, staff, member and other resources at hand, and

- Attempt to develop a plan with items that are politically realistic and achievable.

Most importantly, we want an open process. We want the members input. Serving on the MAPPS Board has its personal and professional rewards. But it is also a lot of hard work, and the Board members do make sacrifices to serve. Our meetings are open to the members. We make accommodations to those who wish to attend our meetings and make presentations. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 12 at the Hyatt in Washington, DC, on the day preceding the Federal Programs Conference. If you wish to attend or make a presentation to the Board, please contact our Executive Director, John Palatiello, so we may accommodate you.

As I mentioned in my address to the membership upon assuming the office of MAPPS President last summer, I indicated that professionalism was an issue on which I would focus during my term. Professionalism is also one of the core values I mentioned above. As a trade association – one which is exclusively comprised of companies in free enterprise – MAPPS certain must have the business interests at our core. But we are also professionals, so we must always be cognizant of our responsibility to balance profits with the public (and our clients) interests. Those are not mutually exclusive goals or values. Being a profession does distinguish us from being an industry.

I will address the issue of professionalism in more detail in my next column, and perhaps in several others to follow.

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Bush Administration Seeks Sunshine on Geospatial Spending

President Bush's 2007 Budget Proposal includes an initiative long sought by MAPPS - a more open and transparent approach to Federal geospatial spending. In 2003, MAPPS was instrumental in working with Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL) to conduct Congressional hearings on the Federal government's geospatial activities. The association persuaded Rep. Putnam and Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigate Uncle Sam's geospatial function. In 2004, a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives held a second hearing, at which GAO reported that inter-agency coordination could be improved and that the government could not account for its geospatial investments (Geospatial Information: Better Coordination and Oversight Could Help Reduce Duplicative Investments, Government Accountability Office, GAO-04-824T, June 23, 2004). MAPPS testified at both the 2003 and 2004 hearings.

As a result of those inquiries, the President's 2007 budget includes the following: "Geospatial - To identify opportunities for optimizing and consolidating Federal geospatial-related investments to reduce the cost of Government and improve services to citizens through business performance improvements. The (Lines of Business) LoB Taskforce will analyze cost benefits, alternatives and risks, define roles and responsibilities, expected outcomes, performance measures, milestones, and timelines. The Federal Geographic Data Committee will continue to develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and full implementation will require Federal agencies to play a critical role; therefore, the establishment of the Geospatial LoB will ensure sustainable business model for federal partners to establish a sustainable business model for Federal partners to collaborate on geospatial-related activities and investments."

DC Area Members, Visitors Hear NOAA Staff Chief



The second MAPPS Washington Policy Forum was held on February 9, when members heard Scott Rayder, chief of Staff to the Administrator of NOAA outline the agencies programs, budget and future directions. Rayder substituted for NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher, who was called to a budget briefing.

Rayder noted several successful contracting programs in which NOAA uses private sector services, primarily MAPPS member firms. These include hydrographic survey contracts, remote sensing contracts by the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, SC, and the recently re-competed shoreline mapping contracts. He outlined NOAA strategic mission objectives in coastal & oceans activities, climate change, weather & water information, and commerce & transportation. Rayder added that an additional activity, NOAA's program of contracts and grants is not applications oriented, but has become a major part of the agency's across-the-board activities and deserves strategic attention. He noted the need for an integrated ocean and coastal mapping program and called on MAPPS to help with that effort.

The Washington Policy Forum is a new MAPPS forum designed to offer networking opportunities for members in the Washington, DC area, lobbyists and marketing representatives of out of town firms, and member firm principals visiting Washington and discussion of markets and issues affecting the geospatial community.



The first Forum was held in December with Col. Brian Cullis, USAF, a special assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. For upcoming Washington Policy Forums, watch "Upcoming Meetings" on the MAPPS web site at www.mapps.org.

MAPPS, ASPRS Applaud White House Support for Landsat

MAPPS and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) jointly praised the Bush Administration for unveiling a new policy on continuity of the LANDSAT program.

Calling a December 23rd [Policy Memo](#) from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy "a Christmas present to the remote sensing community," MAPPS and ASPRS applauded initiatives that (quoting from the memo) direct "NASA to acquire a single Landsat data continuity mission in the form of a free flyer spacecraft," to deliver the spacecraft's data to USGS for "collection, archiving, processing and distribution," and direct the National Science and Technology Council to coordinate with other agencies "to develop a long-term plan to achieve technical, financial and managerial stability for operational land imaging in accord with the goals and objectives of the U.S Integrated Earth Observation System."

MAPPS and ASPRS were instrumental in persuading the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to commit to a free flyer in an effort to minimize the current widening gap in Landsat data.

First launched in 1972, the Landsat program has been overwhelmingly successful. Moderate resolution Landsat satellite data has been considered a national asset throughout the program's 33-year history, making essential contributions to U.S. economic, environmental, public safety, emergency relief, and national security interests.

In May of 2003, the Landsat 7 ETM+ sensor experienced a partial but permanent failure of its scan line corrector resulting in a loss of approximately 12% of each scene. On November 26, 2005, Landsat 5's solar array drive (which points the satellite solar panels to the sun) began to fail. Each day without fully functional Landsat data blinds the Nation and the world, leaving scientists and policy makers unprepared to understand, predict or manage global resources or how they change over time.

In 2005, MAPPS and ASPRS wrote two letters to Dr. John H. Marburger, III, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, urging the Administration to "move quickly and forcefully to secure the future of mid-resolution land imaging data through deployment of a free-flying U.S. government mission." In the U.S., MAPPS and ASPRS together represent the \$5 billion mapping and remote sensing profession, including individuals and organizations from private, government and academic sectors. "We are ecstatic about the White House's commitment to the Landsat Program," stated John Palatiello, Executive Director of MAPPS and James Plasker, Executive Director of ASPRS.

Noting that the Landsat Program still needs to evolve into a sustained operational program, Palatiello and Plasker stated, "We are very pleased to have been able to work with the Administration on this issue. We look forward to seeing the immediate Landsat Data Continuity Mission gap filled, and to working with the White House and the rest of the community to address the long-term issues which are still very critical."

Water Bill Introduced, Includes QBS for Grants

Rep. John J. "Jimmy" Duncan (R-TN), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, has introduced H.R. 4560, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds. Included in the bill is a provision requiring contracts and subcontracts for program management, construction management, planning studies, feasibility studies, architectural services, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping, and related services to be awarded by the qualifications based selection process.

NASA Bill, With Remote Sensing Application Grants, Enacted

A NASA Authorization bill enacted into law in December includes a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot projects to explore the integrated use of commercial sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address state, local, regional, and tribal agency needs. The program was originally sponsored by Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO) in separate legislation, the Remote Sensing Applications Act, H.R. 426. The bill includes two major revisions sought by MAPPS. The enacted law differs from the original bill by deleting a government study of commercial remote sensing pricing, and emphasizes use of commercial geospatial and remote sensing data over government data. The bill to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for science, aeronautics, exploration, exploration capabilities, and the Inspector General, and for other purposes, for fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 was signed into law by President Bush on December 30, becoming Public Law 109-155.

MAPPS Committee and Task Force Listing

In recent years, MAPPS has successfully implemented an active and productive structure of committees and task forces. These panels develop policy initiatives for the Board of Directors, and help plan the activities of the association. The following is a list of MAPPS Committees and Task Forces. If you would like to be more active in MAPPS on one of these committees, or if you have an idea for a MAPPS committee or task force, please contact MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello at (703) 787-6996 or john@mapps.org.

Committees

Aerial Photography Committee - Richard Breitlow, Chair

Conference Program Committee* - Dave Hart, Chair

Legislative Affairs Committee* - Marvin Miller, Chair

Licensing of Photogrammetrists Committee - Mike Ritchie, Chair

MAPPS PAC (Political Action Committee) - Michael Janus, Chair

Membership Committee - Shawana Johnson, Chair

Commercial Remote Sensing & Licensed Data Committee - Michael Bullock, Chair

(continued)

Liaison Committees

DHS - Marvin Miller and Brant Howard, Co-Chairs
DOD - Dave Hart, Chair
NGA - Michael Bullock, Chair
NOAA - Scott Perkins, Chair
TSA/FAA - Richard Breitlow, Chair
USGS - Pat Olson, Chair
USDA - Anne Miglarese, Chair

Task Forces

Offshoring Task Force* - John Voycik, Chair
Cadastre Task Force - Susan Marlow, Chair
FEMA Task Force* - Silas Suazo, Chair

*Designates membership by appointment of the MAPPS President

Upcoming MAPPS Events

Federal Programs Conference

March 13-15, 2006

Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill

Washington, DC

Registration Ends March 6, 12:00 noon

MAPPS Summer Meeting

July 15-19, 2006

Four Seasons Resort

Whistler, BC Canada

[Preliminary Conference Info](#)

MAPPS/ASPRS Specialty Conference

November 6-10, 2006

Measuring the Earth: Digital Surface

Modeling & Automated Feature Extraction

[Crown Plaza Riverwalk Hotel](#)

San Antonio, TX