

FGDC Homeland Security Working Group 2009 Work Plan

Agency Name: Department of Homeland Security

Lead or Co-Lead: Michael Lee

Subcommittee or Working Group: Homeland Security Working Group

Background:

The FGDC Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) serves as the focal point for identification of geospatial metadata, information content, symbology, interface and other specifications, guidelines, and standards required to ensure that geospatial information technologies support the achievement of these strategic goals of homeland security:

- Awareness -- Identify and understand threats, assess vulnerabilities, determine potential impacts and disseminate timely information to our homeland security partners and the American public.
- Prevention -- Detect, deter and mitigate threats to our homeland.
- Protection -- Safeguard our people and their freedoms, critical infrastructure, property and the economy of our Nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- Response -- Lead, manage and coordinate the national response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- Recovery -- Lead national, state, tribal, local and private sector efforts to restore services and rebuild communities after acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies
- Service -- Serve the public effectively by facilitating lawful trade, travel and immigration.

2009 Work Plan:

Most activities of the FGDC HSWG are accomplished through subgroups. The following is a summary compiled from the work plans of each of the subgroups. More detail regarding tasks and resources are contained in the 2009 Subgroup Work Plans found in the FGDC HSWG website subgroup links.

Guidance Subgroup

Objectives:

The Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) Guidance Subgroup is established under the auspices of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to serve as the focal point for preparing recommendations concerning guidance, policy, and process required to ensure that geospatial information technologies support the strategic goals of homeland security (HLS) and homeland defense (HLD).

The Guidance Subgroup will establish and maintain a scope and procedural process aligned with, but not redundant with, the auspices and scope of the overall HSWG and its other subgroups. The Subgroup will apply subject matter expertise of the members, or solicit outside subject matter expertise where relevant, to initiate draft FGDC policy guidance on issues needing attention to effectively institute or enable the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in the HLS/HLD arena. This subgroup will also function as a clearinghouse and action team on guidance, policy, and process issues requiring FGDC attention that are raised by HSWG member agencies, other FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups, interagency working groups such as the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Working Group (HIFLD), and non-governmental organizations such as the NSGIC Geospatial Preparedness Committee.

Points of Contact:

Guidance Subgroup Co-Chairs: Michael Lee, DHS Geospatial Management Office, michael.p.lee@dhs.gov; Travis Hardy, DHS Geospatial Management Office, travis.hardy@associates.hq.dhs.gov.

Symbology Subgroup

Objectives:

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) has voted to establish the Symbology Subgroup in order to expand various aspects of the Homeland Security Mapping Standard - Point Symbology for Emergency Management (ANSI INCITS 415-2006) by adding to the symbol set and broadening adoption and implementation by the Homeland Security and Homeland Defense (HLS/HD) community at all levels. (Note: ANSI INCITS 415-2006 was the result of work performed previously by the FGDC HSWG Emergency Response Symbology Subgroup.)

Participation from local, state, federal responders, academic and industry groups will ensure the creation of an extended, validated, and easily identifiable set of mapping symbols which convey the same meaning to multiple disciplines and levels of users.

Multiple formats will be offered to simplify use of the existing ANSI INCITS 415-2006 standard symbols with geospatial and presentation products and broaden distribution of these symbology products. New catalog techniques will enable simplified discovery of appropriate symbols for the situation at hand.

Additionally, subgroup efforts will result in extensions to the ANSI INCITS 415-2006 standard symbols, and/or definitions of new standards, that could include the development of linear and area HLS/HD symbology. Efforts will include investigating how to document managing HLS/HD symbology across heterogeneous missions and end-user environments.

Points of Contact:

Symbology Subgroup Chair: Robert Phillips, DHS/USCG, (216) 902-6211.

Content Subgroup

Objectives:

The Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) Content Subgroup is established under the auspices of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to serve as the focal point for information content required to ensure that geospatial information technologies support the strategic goals of homeland security (HLS). Having reviewed several potential data content schemas such as the FGDC Framework and Homeland Security Infrastructure Program, an effort to create a logical model containing the most relevant data themes from the various sources was begun in April 2006. This effort is funded by the Department of Homeland Security Geospatial Management Office (DHS GMO). An initial model was published in late May 2006 for review and comment by stakeholders. The logical model will undergo several iterations as the model is refined through feedback and testing the process of data acquisition from selected state and federal GIS data centers into various physical data models derived from the logical model. The end goal is population of the DHS data warehouse geospatial data domain and creation of the core geospatial definitions which will in turn be embedded into the schemas of other data warehouse domains as defined in the DHS National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), resulting in a consistent definition and application of geospatial data standards for multifaceted federal and first responder data exchanges.

Points of Contact:

Content Subgroup Co-Chairs: Michael Lee, DHS Geospatial Management Office, michael.p.lee@dhs.gov; Andrew Freckmann, andrew.freckmann@associates.hq.dhs.gov.

US National Grid Subgroup

Objectives:

Implementation of the USNG standard to improve homeland security operations, consequence management, and improve commerce.

Scope of Work:

Implementation efforts will be across a wide range of areas and organizations. These include implementation in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that is notably lacking in specifics on geospatial information and services to include the FGDC's USNG standard among other standards. The need of first responders that the USNG answers for a common grid reference system has been documented in Congressional

testimony and reports, and reports co-produced by the Department of Homeland Security. Based on the outcome of the spring 2006 DHS Hurricane Preparedness meeting at USGS and the DHS Geospatial Management Officer's (GMO) guidance there, FGDC will sponsor the USNG through the process to become an ANSI standard. To this end, an informal determination at FGDC was made that the USNG meets the requirements to follow the accelerated ANSI process. Other areas of focus will continue to be: 1) Implementation in commercial Geographic Information System (GIS) software and other map production capabilities. 2) Education of policy makers at all levels and training first responders as well as policy decisions by organizations to adopt and implement the national grid. 3) Implementation of the USNG in various geospatial products such as maps (digital and hardcopy), map indexes, and other uses in databases.

Points of Contact:

USNG Subgroup Co-chairs: Tom Terry, HQMC-IPI, (703) 695-3118; Ed Freeborn, DOJ/NLECTC-NE, (315) 339-6184.