

NIMA Input for FGDC Annual Report to OMB FY 2003

Part A

GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)

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6. Strategy: Has your agency prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into your business process - in coordination with the FGDC strategy, pursuant to OMB Circular A-16? If yes, briefly describe.

NIMA's primary business is Geospatial Intelligence and as such most business processes at NIMA are focussed on geographic information and spatial data activities. Further, NIMA is an active participant in Geospatial One Stop. NIMA is actively pursuing the posting of its metadata about domestic geospatial holdings on the Geospatial One Stop Portal, to be followed by a posting of our planned geospatial data and information collection.

7. Compliance: How are your spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards? Also, please list the FGDC Standards you are using or plan to use in your organization.

The metadata for NIMA's domestic geospatial data will be compliant and placed on the Geospatial One Stop Portal. NIMA will implement the relevant and available standards supported by Geospatial One-Stop as part of NIMA's development of a web server host for unclassified holdings to be posted. NIMA is an active participant in standards development and implementation at the Geospatial One Stop, FGDC and ISO levels.

8. Redundancy: Prior to collecting data, how does your agency ensure that the data are not already available?

NIMA has a strategic partnership with USGS and FGDC--codified in a Memorandum of Agreement. One of the key elements of this partnership, is the coordination of data collection between NIMA and USGS.

9. Collection: Do your agency contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards?

NIMA doesn't have standing contracts for domestic geospatial data collection. NIMA actively participates in the development of FGDC, National and International Standards and contributes significant resources to the development of the Geospatial One Stop Framework Themes which will be incorporated into the National and International Standards.

10. Clearinghouse: Is all the data and/or metadata that your agency is able to share with the public published on the NSDI Clearinghouse? If not, please cite barriers encountered.

NIMA is in the process of putting an interface to the Geospatial One Stop Portal in place to post metadata about unclassified, nonproprietary data, which NIMA can share with the public. Over time the volume of data identified on this interface will increase as NIMA clears more data for release. The barriers to the release of data include the classification of data and the proprietary nature of certain data sets. The difficulties of incorporating DoD and Intelligence data are recognized in the OMB Circular A-16, Section 7.

11. E-Gov: How are you using geospatial data in your mission activities to provide better services? (Please list)

Geospatial data is the foundation for all of NIMA's Geospatial Intelligence analysis and production activities. It provides the spatial context for addressing key intelligence questions and operational missions for our customers in the National Security, Department of Defense and Intelligence communities.

12. Geospatial One-Stop: How is your agency involved in the Geospatial One-Stop?

NIMA is a federal partner and provides the Department of Defense lead on Geospatial One Stop. NIMA provides both direct and in kind resources to the development and sustainment of Geospatial One Stop. This includes standards development, provision of data and metadata, portal development resources and partnerships with other Geospatial One Stop developers.

13. Enterprise Architecture: Is geospatial data a component of your enterprise architecture? Please provide a brief summary of how geospatial data fits into your enterprise architecture.

Geospatial intelligence data is the core component of NIMA's enterprise architecture.

14. Partnerships: What efforts are being taken to coordinate data and build partnerships at the field level for data collection and standards development?

Identify partnerships and data sharing activities with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments and other entities

NIMA has data collection and data sharing partnerships with USGS (well established), FEMA and DHS (in initial development). NIMA relationships for data collection and data sharing with state, local and tribal government are arbitrated through other federal agencies such as USGS and FEMA. The best example of this are the resources invested by NIMA in the collection and sharing of infrastructure data for “133” cities. NIMA is also working towards participation in the geospatial market place of Geospatial One Stop as barriers described in number 10 are removed.

15. Concerns or Lessons Learned: Are there areas or issues regarding spatial data that require attention or lessons learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

Issues of classification, privacy and the proprietary nature of certain types and classes of data need to be resolved. There is a natural tension between the need to release as much data as possible to provide the widest possible application for maximum benefit weighed against the need to protect national security and privacy interests. Arguments can be made for both sides. What is needed is a clear, concise, comprehensive and enforceable policy. Standards need to be applied and adhered to even as they evolve to ensure that semantic consistency develops throughout the geospatial community.