



Geographic Information Systems Mission Overview



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Questions, comments, and suggestions related to this overview are encouraged. For more information, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Homeland Security, Civil Emergency Management, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000.

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Mission and Scope

The Geographic Information Systems Cadre of Subject Matter Experts (GIS Cadre of SMEs) is ready to support response and recovery efforts for every type of event. Since the Cadre was formally established five years ago – first as a Planning and Response Team (PRT) – GIS Specialists have responded to typhoons, hurricanes, wildfires, mudslides, floods, and earthquakes.

There are currently four teams in the on-call rotation with each team comprised of six to seven GIS Specialists led by an Action Officer. Members of the teams are from various districts and have diverse backgrounds in a wide range of disciplines, as well as expertise in cartography and GIS analysis. The teams are available to assist USACE operations when district or division resources are exhausted and also provide support directly to FEMA at the JFOs and AFOs. Once these teams are fully deployed, the Cadre calls on a reserve list of over 80 individuals from the greater USACE GIS community for support.

When assistance is needed at the UOC, GIS Specialists or Action Officers are available to provide direct support with mission status mapping and other cartographic and analysis products. One or more Action Officers also provide support at the NRCC as GIS and Remote Sensing Liaisons for imagery acquisition and overall coordination with FEMA and partner agencies. These individuals also work closely with the imagery interpretation team at the Topographic Engineering Center (TEC). The TEC team interprets roofing damage that qualifies under FEMA guidelines for the Blue Roofs from post-event high resolution imagery. Interpreted products (GIS data and Map Books) are then delivered to field sites.

The GIS Cadre currently maintains a comprehensive and up-to-date national data set consisting of transportation networks, cultural features, political boundaries, elevation, land cover, census, and critical infrastructure. GIS Specialists deploy with external hard drives containing these datasets as well as various analysis tools. They have the latest version of ArcGIS software and have access to additional analysis tools when specialized applications are requested. If home district laptop resources are unavailable for those deploying, the specialists have access to a small pool of laptops maintained by one of the Action Officers. The Cadre is also in the process of procuring a large-format plotter for deployments requiring stand-alone capability.

If you have any question related to how the GIS Cadre can support your missions, or coordinate with missions that have direct GIS capability, please contact one of the Action Officers: Teri Alberico at 651-290-5269, Kevin Carlock at 309-794-5844, Jon Kragt at 402-221-4613, or Steve McDevitt at 917-790-8719.

