

# JGAC Report December 2008

—by Laurence Socci

## VICTORY! The ACSM National Surveyor's Week Resolution Passed Congress

On September 23, we had a major victory as the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 223, the National Surveyor's Week Resolution. The resolution easily passed the House, after passing the Senate last term. This is a big step for professional surveyors. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this effort a success.

### FEMA Flood Map Modernization Coalition update

FEMA is working to reduce its oversight of the Map Modernization program. FEMA will be moving to an all digital distribution; and it intends to have more individual contracts at the state and local levels. Each community will get one paper map. It will be used by communities to adopt the official FEMA map. FEMA predicts that by the official end of the program, 92% of the population in the United States will have a GiS version of its floodmap.

In another development, FEMA has entered a phase in its program called Risk MAP, which stands for Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning. As part of this program, FEMA will reassess the floodmaps every five years under the following scheme: (1) Identify Risk (map risk data); (2) Assess Risk (assess present and future risks); (3) Communicate Risk (plan for risk); and (4) Mitigate Risk (reduce or transfer the risk).

### SmartBuy Statement of Work Encourages Violation of Brooks Act

The GSA recently issued a Statement of Work (SOW) regarding its new procurement vehicle, SmartBuy, which is to be used for the procurement of CAD and GIS software. COFPAES became aware of the Statement of Work and wrote a letter to the GSA in opposition to it because it included professional services which are covered under the Brooks Act. In a letter to Matt Leopard, Chairman of the Common Services Workgroup at the GSA, John Palatiello, COFPAES Administrator, described the long-standing concerns COFPAES has had with the GSA's inclusion of surveying and mapping services on the GSA Schedule. He argued that the GIS SmartBuy conflicts with the successful, existing, multiple award contract vehicle programs, and the Statement of Work includes services, including surveying and mapping services, that fall within the Brooks Act, the FAR, and other Federal definitions of services subject to the Brooks Act qualifications based selection process.

As a result of the letter, several parts of the Statement of Work were changed or eliminated; however, many portions of the SOW that COFPAES opposes continue to exist. According to a GSA official, the final SOW and actual RFQ will not be published in FedBizOpps. It will only be sent to firms on the GSA IT Schedule 70.

### Federal Register Notice Regarding Flood Hazard Map Data

FEMA recently placed a Federal Register Notice regarding flood hazard map data. It is included here, in full, for your reference.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Availability of Flood Hazard Maps and Data

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is completing the update and conversion to digital of the National Flood Insurance Program flood hazard map inventory. As part of the Flood Map Modernization Program, FEMA will discontinue the public distribution of paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Flood Insurance Study reports, and related flood hazard map products.

FEMA will provide communities where the flood hazard information is updated with an updated paper map to satisfy local regulatory requirements for a paper map product.

For all other requests, FEMA will distribute digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Flood Insurance Study reports, and related flood hazard map products in place of the paper ver-

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sions. Over the past several years, FEMA has transitioned from paper maps to digital map images and digital flood hazard data as the primary flood hazard information products. These products will still be available through the FEMA Map Service Center. This change will reduce duplication of effort and reduce the cost for updating flood hazard maps.

**DATES:** This change is effective as of October 1, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Information about FEMA Flood Hazard Maps and Data is available on the Map Service Center Web site <http://msc.fema.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Rooney, Data and Dissemination Branch, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, ([paul.rooney@dhs.gov](mailto:paul.rooney@dhs.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for identifying high risk flood areas to support the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These areas have historically been identified on paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Over the past several years, FEMA has introduced new digital products including digital map images (the full size FIRM Scans and letter size FIRMettes) and digital geospatial flood hazard data (the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Database product and National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL)). These digital products now make up the vast majority of the flood hazard information distributed by FEMA and are equivalent to the paper maps for any official activities under the NFIP.

FEMA will continue to provide local governments a paper copy of their flood hazard map and flood insurance study report when the map is updated by FEMA. The Agency will discontinue all other distribution of paper maps and study reports beginning with map update projects where the letter of final determination is issued on or after October 1, 2009. The letter of final determination is issued six months before new flood maps become effective for NFIP regulatory purposes.

FEMA will continue to provide digital flood hazard data products for Internet download, on CD-ROM, and via Web Mapping Service. Federal, State, and local government customers that have been receiving paper products will now receive digital flood hazard maps and data, and continue to be exempt from fees (specified in 42 U.S.C. 4101).

This change will allow FEMA to realize significant cost savings in the map update process by eliminating the need to generate large format film negatives to support offset printing. It will also save the cost of printing and distributing the paper maps to fee exempt customers. This change simplifies the products available depicting flood hazard for a location.

The FEMA Map Service Center provides complete information about the digital flood hazard data products, free tools, and easy-to-follow instructions for using them at <http://msc.fema.gov>.

### USGS Coalition update

Recent changes of USGS Directors and how this may affect the fields represented by the coalition were discussed. Of interest to the surveying community is the appointment of Kevin Gallagher as the acting Associate Director for Geospatial Information and Chief Information Officer. Bryant Cramer is the acting Associate Director of Geography.

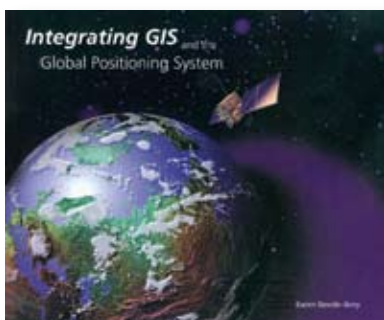
The coalition also evaluated a recent Congressional reception which was attended by about 150 people, including USGS personnel, coalition members, and Congressional staff. An award of appreciation was given to Congressman Norman Dicks for his work on behalf of the USGS.

### Surveying listed as a STEM Designated Degree

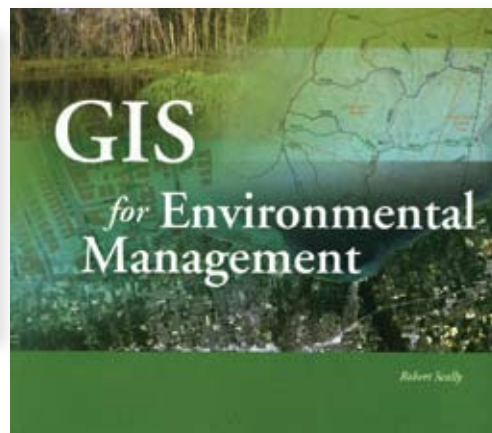
As of September 25, 2008, surveying is listed as a designated degree program under the titles "Surveying Engineering" and "Surveying Technology/Surveying". Research is under way to identify educational programs around the country that may qualify for the program, particularly related programs that may not have the word "surveying" in their title.

Laurence Socci is available for comment at [laurence@theclagroup.com](mailto:laurence@theclagroup.com)

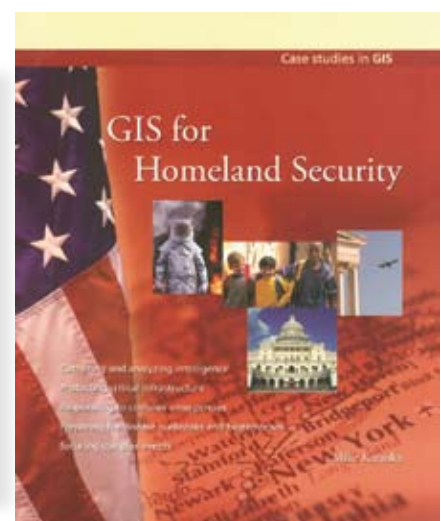
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