



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Fall Conference

October 29, 2008

at the

Sheraton Hotel – Braintree, MA

Leveraging GIS for Emergency
Response & Incident Management
for Utilities

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New England Chapter of GITA's 2008 Fall Conference. Over the last several years both natural and man-made disasters have tested the strength and resilience of our ability to respond to emergency situations, coordinate rescue/relief/restoration efforts, and communicate and exchange data between diverse organizations. Hurricanes in the Southeast, wildfires in the Northwest, and acts of terrorism in the Northeast have demonstrated the criticality of up-to-date, shared geospatial information.

Our conference theme this year is ***Leveraging GIS for Emergency Response & Incident Management for Utilities***:

- How does a utility leverage and share facilities data to perform restoration work more efficiently?
- How have utilities revamped their emergency response procedures and secured critical infrastructure information?

This year's prestigious slate of speakers will answer these and many more questions. Additionally, you will learn which strategies, technologies, and processes are working today.

Through our educational conferences and corporate/vendor sponsorships we fund the NEGITA Scholarship Program. Over the years, with your support, NEGITA has awarded scholarships and internships to students with a demonstrated passion for GIS and the desire to contribute to the body of knowledge of GITA. **We thank you for your support.**

Sincerely,
Tom Janes
Intergraph Corporation



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Registration and Breakfast

8:00 – 8:30

Sponsored by
National Grid

8:30 – 8:40

Tom Janes
President, GITA New England Chapter
Welcome and President's remarks

8:40 – 10:20

Talbot Brooks
Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies
Delta State University

Disaster and the Common, Spatially-Based Operational Picture

The Emergency Management/Homeland Security community within the US must improve its coordinated approach for application of geospatial information technologies (GIT), as the current lack of cohesiveness is resulting in a static work force that is ill-equipped to effectively implement or use the requisite geospatial technology needed for effective planning, mitigation and response in this high job growth industry. As demonstrated by 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, GIT substantially improves our ability to both prevent and respond to disastrous events and emergencies by creating the necessary common, spatially-based reference for management and response.

No matter the root cause of an emergency – terrorism, natural occurrences, or unintentional human error – the methods of mitigating, understanding, and responding to threats to our security and disastrous occurrences are based upon where they occur. All disasters and emergencies begin at the local level. A coordinated approach that integrates and makes effective use of GIT at the responder (local) and decision maker (state and federal) levels provides the spatial basis for mitigation, understanding, and response by providing a common operational picture (i.e.- a map) of location, resources, and conditions.

This cannot happen without explicit practices and training to enable the many mutually dependent agencies and organizations charged with protecting our state's citizens and infrastructure to efficiently and effectively share vital information and coordinate necessary resources through the use of GIT. This presentation outlines the roles and responsibilities for the addition of geospatial services within a disaster/emergency management plan in manner consistent with the guidance and recommendations set forth in the National Incident Management System, the National Response Plan, the Incident Command System, and the National Association for Search and Rescue.

Talbot Brooks is Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies at Delta State University, a GIT Branch Chief for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and Deputy Chief of Bolivar County Volunteer Fire Department. After starting his career in 1987 as a paid firefighter, he earned a degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology and served as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in upstate NY. Upon graduation he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He was then hired by the US Dept. of Agriculture's US Water Conservation Laboratory in Phoenix, AZ as a research technician developing remote sensing technologies for agriculture, investigating the potential effects of climate change on food supply and security. He left USDA to pursue a career as a research scientist for the Department of Geography at Arizona State University in 2000, where he focused on the application of geospatial technologies to public safety, homeland security, and community development. He left ASU in 2005 to join Delta State University in Cleveland, MS where he continues these activities.

10:20 – 10:40

Break
Sponsored by
University of Massachusetts GIS Lab

10:40 – 12:00

Talbot Brooks

Disaster and the Common, Spatially-Based Operational Picture (*continued*)

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch
Sponsored by
James W. Sewall Company & Intergraph Corporation

1:00 – 1:40

2008 Hank Emery & Ed Forrest Scholarship Recipient Presentations

- Amy Hicks (*City of Laconia, NH*)
- Michele Karas (*Town of Winthrop, MA*)
- Michael Waters (*NSTAR*)

1:40 – 2:20

Anthony DeBenedictis

Manager of Operational Records, NSTAR

NSTAR's Post-9/11 Emergency Response Protocols

After 9/11, utilities revisited their security measures and safety protocols, and looked more closely at critical infrastructure intersections. Infrastructure data that utilities had previously maintained and regularly shared with others were suddenly considered more sensitive in nature. This talk is about how NSTAR treated this data and revamped their emergency response plans after the events of 9/11.

Anthony DeBenedictis has been with NSTAR since 1987, where he formerly served as Manager of Emergency Preparedness. NSTAR, Massachusetts' largest investor-owned electric and gas utility, transmits and delivers electricity and natural gas to 1.3 million residential and business customers in more than 100 Eastern and Central Massachusetts communities. NSTAR's regulated subsidiaries have more than 3,000 employees. NSTAR also has non-utility subsidiaries in telecommunications and other energy-related fields.

2:20 – 2:30

Break
Sponsored by
NSTAR

2:30 – 3:00

Kevin Partridge

Director of Homeland Security Emergency Response, Department of Fire Services

Coordination of Public Safety Agencies, Municipalities, & Utilities During Emergencies

Mr. Partridge will speak to us about how the Fire Services Department supports local fire departments in major fires and emergencies.

Kevin Partridge has been with the Department of Fire Services for 2 1/2 years, and prior to that he was the fire chief in Avon, MA. Additionally, he worked in the Berkley, MA fire department for 20 years, including 10 years as chief. In his current role as director Kevin oversees the Special Operations Division, with the Hazmat division, Massachusetts Fire Academy and the State Fire Marshall office all reporting to Kevin.

3:00 – 3:30

Robert H. Scott, III, P.E.

Executive Director, Security Solutions Marketing, Intergraph

Geospatially Enabled Solutions for “All Hazards” Incident Management

In the last decade significant natural disaster and terrorism events have heightened the need for stronger incident management and security around a nations’ transportation, border, military and other critical infrastructure. Technology adoption requires an approach that integrates various systems to work together to provide the user agencies with a coherent solution. By utilizing a geospatially enabled computer-aided dispatch system as an integration platform, alarms, sensors and cameras can be brought together to form systems to meet evolving “all hazards” mitigation needs. This presentation will illustrate some of the key examples of these requirements and how geospatial technology is able to help protect national infrastructure.

Robert Scott is responsible for setting the direction and marketing of Intergraph’s solutions related to integrated security, intelligence and public safety systems for national governments, transportation agencies, military installations and state/local government. Mr. Scott’s career with Intergraph has spanned over 20 years; during his tenure he has held positions in engineering, business development, program management, and marketing. Mr. Scott was instrumental in Intergraph’s entry into the public safety market and subsequent utilization of the public safety application for the integrated security market.

He is a registered civil engineer, has a BSCE from Lehigh University and has participated in graduate study in geodetic engineering. Mr. Scott has experience in Public Safety, Security, GIS, digital scanning and map production, civil engineering and utility distribution systems.

3:30 – 3:45

Closing Remarks & Annual NEGITA Board Meeting

Registration for the Conference

Register on line at:

https://www.gita.org/forms/forms/Default/2008_New_England_Chapter_Fall_Conference.aspx

Please have your GITA membership number ready to include in the registration form.

GITA & URISA members	\$75.00	(\$85.00 at the door)
Non-members	\$90.00	(\$100.00 at the door)
Students	\$25.00	(same price at the door)

Hotel Information

Sheraton Braintree Hotel

37 Forbes Road, Braintree, MA 02184

Tel: +1-781-848-0600

Book online using Corporate Account # 343252 for a discount hotel rate:

http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/pre_decider_all.html?propertyID=776&corporateAccountNumber=343252

Directions

From Boston Logan International Airport

Take Interstate 93 South to the Braintree exit (Exit 6). Bear right off the exit and at the second set of lights turn right. The hotel will be on your left.

From Cape Cod

Take Route 3 North to Interstate 93 South. Proceed on I-93 South until you come to the Braintree exit (Exit 6). Bear right off of the exit and turn right at the 2nd set of lights. The hotel is on your left.

From West

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90 East) to exit 14 (Interstate 95). Follow I-95 South to I-93 North and take Exit 6, Braintree. Bear right off of the exit and take a right at the first set of lights. The hotel will be on the left.

Thank You to Our Corporate Chapter and Conference Sponsors:

