



CIVIL APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

★ Department of the Interior ★ Department of Agriculture ★ Department of Commerce
★ Department of Transportation ★ Department of Energy ★ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
★ Federal Emergency Management Agency ★ National Aeronautics and Space Administration
★ National Science Foundation ★ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Civil Applications Committee

July 2001

Background

The Civil Applications Committee (CAC) is an inter-agency committee that coordinates and oversees the Federal civil use of classified collections. The CAC was officially chartered in 1975 by the Office of the President to provide Federal civil agencies access to National Systems data in support of mission responsibilities. In recent years, CAC activities have expanded beyond traditional mapping applications to a broad range of environmental and remote sensing applications central to Federal agency missions. Examples include monitoring volcanoes; detecting wildland fires; coordinating emergency response to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods; monitoring ecosystems; and mapping wetlands.

The CAC provides a forum through which the Federal civil agencies coordinate data requirements, develop tasking strategies, certify the proper use of data, and track and plan for the progress and evolution of National Systems. The CAC coordinates the use of imagery exploitation and application resources and supports remote sensing research and development activities at special facilities, such as the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Advanced Systems Center (ASC). At these facilities, appropriate capabilities and exploitation tools are available for CAC members to use for end-to-end data processing and developing custom products. Through the CAC, arrangements can also be made for technical support from military and intelligence community agencies.

Oversight

Oversight responsibilities of the CAC include disseminating information to Federal users on policies related to the proper nonintelligence use of the data and the protection of intelligence sources and materials. The CAC receives, reviews, and approves all civil



requests, assigns priorities to such requests, and acts as the interface between the Federal civil agencies and the intelligence and military communities. Through the CAC, pertinent knowledge on the use of remote sensing capabilities is distributed to the civil community members. The CAC also represents the civil community in national security forums and serves as an advocate for policies and technology of common benefit to the civil, military, and intelligence communities.

Source Management

The CAC Data Acquisition and Management Team processes all classified imagery requests approved by the CAC and ensures that domestic imagery requirements are submitted and processed according to established policies and procedures. Data acquisition resources are provided by the USGS at the ASC. This team helps agencies define their imagery requirements, develops the collection parameters, forwards

those requirements to the appropriate policy offices for approval, and distributes the acquired imagery to the requesting organization.

Forums

CAC meetings are held once each month, usually at the USGS ASC in Reston, Va., to provide informational briefings and conduct routine business. CAC working groups are established to address specific CAC programs and issues and meet as needed.

Membership

The CAC is made up of voting representatives from the Federal civil community, including the following:

- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Nonvoting associate members include the following:

- National Imagery and Mapping Agency
- National Reconnaissance Office
- Director of Central Intelligence Environmental and Societal Issues Center (DESC)
- Department of State

Contacts

For more information on the CAC, contact:

CAC Secretariat
USGS, Advanced Systems Center, MS 562
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Phone: 703-648-7888
Fax: 703-648-7873
E-mail: cac@usgs.gov

For more information on imagery requirements and collection, contact the CAC Data Acquisition and Management Team at the address indicated on the front of this page, or telephone 703-648-7822.