



NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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On My Mind: Supporting the Warfighter

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U.S. military partners depend on the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's GEOINT products and services to help them carry out their mission set, including conducting counter-insurgency and counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan, fighting organized crime and the illegal narcotics trade in the Western Hemisphere, mounting post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Africa and delivering humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the Pacific. The warfighter depends on us because we provide them with vital GEOINT when they need it, where they need it and how they need it.

Members of the NGA Volunteer Deployment Team, embedded with military commanders and operators around the world, provide GEOINT products, information and expertise in real time to soldiers on the ground and pilots in the air. Not only do NGA deployers supplement missions by providing access to imagery and geospatial holdings, but they also integrate that information with multi-intelligence analysis to create customized GEOINT products for target packages, route studies, force protection assessments and precision targeting. NGA ensures military units are equipped with the tools to better assist in humanitarian efforts, such as by providing critical infrastructure assessments. The support NGA provides runs deep. Experts from across the broad spectrum of GEOINT tradecrafts at our headquarters locations serve in a reachback capacity for our forward-deployed personnel, ultimately increasing GEOINT support to the military customer.

Just as NGA sends analysts and technical experts to military sites, including regional and functional combatant commands, the military services send their personnel to NGA. Some are assigned to the NGA College as instructors. Some come to the college as students, taking GEOINT tradecraft classes with their fellow service members and with NGA GEOINT and technical specialists. Others work at NGA locations as analysts alongside their NGA counterparts. The synergy that results from this kind of collaboration improves NGA's ability to support the military because the soldier, sailor, airman or Marine sitting at the workstation next to an NGA analyst brings a real-world operational perspective to the analytical process. In fact, the service member could be working on a GEOINT product to support the very same mission he or she just supported during a deployment.

In this issue of the Pathfinder, you will learn about some of the ways the agency supports the 21st century warfighter and how the NGA-military services collaboration enhances both of our abilities to more effectively meet the military's GEOINT requirements and better harness the power of GEOINT for mission success.

As I have traveled to Iraq, Afghanistan, the combatant commands and other military sites, I have received one consistent message from our mission partners: keep on doing what you're doing, and then do more. NGA's GEOINT is making a mission-critical difference. That mission-critical difference is built on a foundation of close collaboration and mutual respect. NGA is honored to support the mission of the U.S. armed forces.

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Director