



NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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U-132-05/OGM

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MEMORANDUM FOR PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL
INTELLIGENCE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE FOR
COLLECTION

SUBJECT: Statutory Definition of Geospatial Intelligence
and its Amplification

REFERENCE: Clarification of Geospatial Intelligence

1. Per our conversation, I am providing you with clarification of the definition of GEOINT. The NIMA Act of 1996 establishing the National Imagery and Mapping Agency and the subsequent amended language in the 2003 Defense Authorization Act as codified in the U.S. Code, governs the mission of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). The following definitions are extracted from U.S. Code Title 10, §467:

(2) (A) The term "imagery" means, except as provided in subparagraph (B), a likeness or representation of any natural or man-made feature or related object or activity and the positional data acquired at the same time the likeness or representation was acquired, including:

(i) products produced by space-based national intelligence reconnaissance systems; and

(ii) likenesses and representations produced by satellites, airborne platforms, unmanned aerial vehicles, or other similar means.

(B) Such term does not include handheld or clandestine photography taken by or on behalf of human intelligence collection organizations.

(3) The term "imagery intelligence" means the technical, geographic, and intelligence information derived through the interpretation or analysis of imagery and collateral materials.

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(4) The term "geospatial information" means information that identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on the Earth and includes:

(A) statistical data and information derived from, among other things, remote sensing, mapping, and surveying technologies; and

(B) mapping, charting, geodetic data, and related products.

(5) The term "geospatial intelligence" means the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. Geospatial intelligence consists of imagery, imagery intelligence, and geospatial information.

2. The following amplifies the statutory definition and represents the full manifestation of NGA's missions per section 442(a) Title 10. The relevance of this amplification derives from the "terms of art" unique to the GEOINT discipline.

GEOINT encompasses all aspects of imagery (including capabilities formerly referred to as Advanced Geospatial Intelligence and imagery-derived MASINT) and geospatial information and services (GI&S; formerly referred to as mapping, charting, and geodesy). It includes, but is not limited to, data ranging from the ultraviolet through the microwave portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, as well as information derived from the analysis of literal imagery; geospatial data; and information technically derived from the processing, exploitation, literal, and non-literal analysis of spectral, spatial, temporal, radiometric, phase history, polarimetric data, fused products (that is, products created out of two or more data sources), and the ancillary data needed for data processing

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and exploitation, and signature information (to include development, validation, simulation, data archival, and dissemination). These types of data can be collected on stationary and moving targets by electro-optical (to include IR, MWIR, SWIR TIR, Spectral, MSI, HSI, HD), SAR (to include MTI), related sensor programs (both active and passive), and non-technical means (to include geospatial information acquired by personnel in the field).

3. The statutory definition, as amplified, provides the basis for a clear distinction between GEOINT and MASINT. The relevant Intelligence Community Directives should reflect this definition and amplification.



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Director