# Monitoring Student Movements With GPS



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#### Scope of Presentation

- Use of GPS to monitor student movements in a surveying course
  - Completion of field laboratory exercises
  - Student preparation
  - Efficient use of time
  - Adequate in class training
  - Evaluate instructor expectations



### Surveying in the Curricullum

- Part of the major in Geospatial Information Science
  - 30 course core curricullum
  - 2 elective courses
  - 1 integrative experience course
  - 7 courses within the major
    - Computer Cartography
    - Geographic Information Systems
    - Advanced Geographic Information Systems
    - Remote Sensing
    - Advanced Remote Sensing
    - Photogrammetry
    - Surveying

## Surveying at West Point

- Taught continuously since 1802
- 40 lessons with 22 laboratory periods
- Modern surveying course covering:
  - Error theory
  - Horizontal distance
  - Angle measurements
  - Closed traverse
  - Horizontal curves
  - RTK GPS
  - Topographic & site surveys



#### Student Laboratory Issues

#### • TIME!!!!!

Consistent complaint "Not enough time to complete field laboratory exercises!"

- Classroom preparation
  - Lecture on concepts & theory
  - In class equipment setup
  - Equipment setup cheat sheets
  - Mission planning worksheet



#### **Instructor Laboratory Observations**

• Preparation, preparation, preparation (or lack thereof)!!!!

- Much ado about nothing
- Chicken with head cut off syndrome

• Solution?



#### **Monitoring Student Movements**

- Automated method to track student movements
  - Wildlife tagging with GPS receivers
  - Positional information
  - "Time on target" information
  - Garmin Forerunner 305



## **Experimental Design**

- Garmin Forerunner 305s issued to 2 crews
  - rod person
  - equipment (total station) person
  - note taker
- Data Collected
  - position every five seconds
  - time stamp for every position

#### • Analysis



- shape files for spatial movement documentation
- time stamp for temporal documentation

## Experimental Design - Project

- Firsty Club Site Survey
  X, Y, and Z data for:
  - buildings
  - other man mad features
  - vegetative features
  - topographic points for contouring



# Experimental Design – Study Site



# Data Acquisition - Analysis of Shapefiles



# Data Acquisition - Analysis of Shapefiles



# Data Acquisition – Analysis of Time Data

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## Analysis

- Shapefiles
  - Show "huddles" near a set up station
  - Show efficiency or inefficiency of data collection at x,y,z points
- Temporal Data
  - Inefficiency and confusion at beginning of the exercise
  - Success once set up and "planning" is complete
  - Inefficiency and confusion decreases with each successive set up station
- Shapefile & Temporal Data Integration

## Conclusions

- @#\*%& Students!!!
  - Project planning
  - Familiarization with equipment
- @#\*%& Instructors!!!
  - Inadequate emphasis on project planning
  - Not enough time to become familiar with equipment
- Solution
  - Don't expect all students to police themselves
  - Lab practical on setup and utilization of equipment
  - Preliminay project plan to be turned in prior to lab exercise