Abstract

ARMY ITAMGIS: Automating Surface Danger Zone Development
Track: Defense and Intelligence
Author(s): Craig Thomas, Sean Harkins, Paul Dubois

Accurate Surface Danger Zones (SDZs), which are related to features on the ground, are crucial to the safety of soldiers on the Army’s training complex. Careful manual construction of these SDZs on transparency film is time-consuming and SDZs are placed over installation special maps. This methodology limits the scalability of the maps and it is difficult to precisely know the location of the SDZ on the ground. USAEC partnered with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to automate this process through GIS and contracted with ESRI Business Partner GIS, Inc. The Army Training Support Center, USAEC, TRADOC Safety Office, NGB, U.S. Marine Corps Training and Education Command, and personnel from several Army installations participated in a working group to define the requirements for this tool. The basis of all requirements is AR 385-63. At the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Annual Workshop, the working group presented a prototype of the automated SDZ GIS tool to a cross-section of probable users: Range Managers, ITAM Coordinators, Environmentalists, Range Safety Officers and GIS Analysts. The response from these users was overwhelmingly positive, with every probable user responding to the question "Will this tool be useful to you in your job?" with a "YES."

Craig Thomas
U.S. Army Environmental Center
5179 Hoadley Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground 21010
USA
Phone: (410)436-1509
E-mail: craig.thomas@aec.apgea.army.mil

Sean Harkins
ITAM Eastern Regional Support Center
18872 A.P. Hill Drive, Building 1273
Fort A.P. Hill , VA 22427-3118
USA
Phone: (804) 633-8381
E-mail: sean.harkins@calibresys.com

Paul Dubois
US Army Environmental Center
5179 Hoadley Road
APG 21010
USA
Phone: 410-436-1505
E-mail: paul.dubois@aec.apgea.army.mil