Congratulations to the 2008 USGIF Award Winners!

Academic Achievement Award
Sgt. Eric S. Patwell

Sgt. Eric S. Patwell entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 1999 as an F/A-18 engine mechanic. In 2005, following two overseas deployments, he became an imagery intelligence analyst and deployed with the 26th MEU from 2006-2007. In 2008, he attended the community geospatial intelligence analysis course at Ft. Belvoir, Va. where he finished as the class honor graduate. Also during this time, he completed his bachelor's degree in intelligence analysis. Sgt. Patwell is currently deployed with the 26th MEU. He provides daily geospatial intelligence analysis and planning products supporting MEU contingency operations across the full spectrum of conflict.

Academic Research Award
Capt. Robert Johnson

Capt. Robert Johnson serves as a United States Air Force Officer with the National Air and Space Intelligence Center's (NASIC) GEOINT/MASINT Analysis Squadron. He is a recent distinguished graduate from the Air Force Institute of Technology where he completed his master's thesis in the area of hyperspectral target detection, which was selected as the best out of 247 theses. Prior to serving in Air Force intelligence, Capt. Johnson has worked as a flight test engineer under the USAF Air-to-Air Weapons System Evaluation Program specializing in flight test of semi-active and active radar guided missiles. Since becoming a member of the GEOINT/MASINT Analysis Squadron, Capt. Johnson has worked to transition his autonomous global anomaly detector (AutoGAD) to GEOINT systems including hyperspectral and advanced high time framing non-imaging infrared systems.

Intelligence Achievement Award (Military)
Mr. Ray Caputo

Mr. Caputo works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Topographic Engineering Center (TEC) in Alexandria, Va. He has a degree in geography from the State University of New York College at Oneonta and has worked in the geospatial business for 20+ years with federal, state and local governments along with companies in the private sector. He is granted this award due to his effortless work with the Army's GeoPDF Project. This project has been instrumental in getting geospatial information out of the hands of GIS/mapping professionals and into the hands of anyone and everyone who can benefit from its use within the DoD and other sectors in and out of government.

Intelligence Achievement Award (Governement)
Open Source Center Address Finder Team

The Open Source Center Address Finder team is a recipient for the 2008 USGIF Government Achievement Award for their successful efforts to turn paper records of Iraqi cadastral data into a geospatial product that enables Multinational Coalition Force personnel in the Operation Iraqi Freedom Theater of Operations to identify with precision locations associated with both hostile and friendly personnel. The result of the Address Finder team's efforts reduced the time needed to identify a location of interest from hours to seconds, consequently increasing the immediacy of response, and reduced the search field thereby minimizing the potential for collateral damage.

Intelligence Achievement Award (Industry)
Mr. Christopher Jengo

Christopher Jengo is this year's recipient for the Industry Achievement Award due to his development of the Spectral Processing Exploitation and Analysis Resource (SPEAR). SPEAR gives analysts a streamlined and task-oriented way to exploit multispectral data. By leveraging the powerful and proven tools already in ENVI within task-specific workflows, SPEAR provides analysts a simple and reliable way to create non-literal intelligence products on their own desktop in minutes rather than relying upon experts at remote locations that could extend their timeline by days. Chris has extensive experience developing tools and training for non-literal imagery analysis. He is a senior engineer with ITT Visual Information Solutions and provides on-site support to the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC).