CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2005 USGIF AWARD WINNERS!

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

John Gutraj

Mr. John Gutraj graduated from the Geospatial Intelligence Training Program with 96.4 GPA. He is the first person ever to be awarded the Human Development Shining Star Award, while still a student. A recognized team player, Gutraj developed a learning database used to catalog and link the equipment used in the course. The project was such a success that he was invited from St. Louis to Washington, DC to teach NGA instructors how to use the database. His commitment to the craft is exemplified by his ability to graduate in the top 10 percent of his class following an extended medical absence during his coursework.

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT

Satellite Positioning and Inertial Navigation Lab, Ohio State University

A team from the Satellite Positioning and Inertial Navigation Lab of Ohio State University, led by Ms. Dorota Grejner-Brzezinski, focused its research on a personal navigator relevant to national security. Since GPS, commonly used for navigation by military/emergency personnel, is a line-of-sight system and is subject to interference/jamming, the signal coverage is not guaranteed anytime/anywhere. Ms. Grejner-Brzezinski team's research is aimed at prototyping a seamless and reliable personal navigator based on intelligent fusion of multi-sensory data, using state-of-the-art sensors and algorithmic approaches in an open-ended architecture, to ensure the system's continuous operations in urban and indoor environments.

GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENT

Afghanistan/Pakistan Border Project Team

The Afghanistan/Pakistan Border Project Team, led by Mr. K. Michael Harris, used innovative geospatial intelligence solutions to meet critical operation needs by directly supporting troops engaged in the Global War on Terrorism. They demonstrated dedication in precisely positioning 341 border crossing points and accurately portraying Afghanistan's international borders. The team supplied current commercial imagery and feature data to military customers as well as a web page to host tables of information and links to image products and textual descriptions.

MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT

Captain Chip Carr, U.S. Army Reserve

As an Army Reservist assigned to NGA, Captain Chip Carr volunteered to deploy with Special Operations Command to Iraq as Geospatial Analyst and Team Lead for a Joint Task Force. Captain Carr served as the Team Lead for the first NGA team at this site and as such was charged with introducing GEOINT into the team's established intelligence cycles. Captain Carr produced, delegated, and managed hundreds of short suspense, classified GEOINT products in support of the Task Force, where no two products were the same nor did the data come form the same sources. It required Captain Carr's knowledge of systems at NGA, DIA, CIA and commercial sources to find the appropriate data for the situation.

INDUSTRY ACHIEVEMENT

Mark Ingersoll and Todd Ham
Harris Corporation

The Harris Corporation Team of Mr. Mark Ingersoll and Mr. Todd Ham developed a prototype streaming imager capability to enable unclassified imagery to be sent outside the continental U.S. over limited Internet communications paths and applied it to the Hurricane Katrina crisis. Ingersoll and Ham also developed a classified system known as the Consolidated Systems Initiative for providing an easy to use web-based interface for users on JWICS to create and view 38+ imagery-derived MASINT products seamlessly integrating a wide variety of systems.