

NGA's GIS Portals: Web GIS for Government Collaboration

What are NGA's GIS Portals?

The NGA GIS Portals are web-based map-centric collaborative content management systems. This technology is NGA's implementation of Esri's Portal for ArcGIS® supplied to the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense as a Service of Common Concern. NGA's GIS Portals provide a web GIS experience within the disconnected environments that permit controlled information to be processed and distributed in a single system.



NGA NIPR GIS Portal home page. This Portal allows access-controlled collaboration that includes LINDIS and FOUO marked data and information.

What can you do with the GIS Portal?

The NGA GIS Portals connect users with current content including ready-to-use apps, maps, and layers to build useful information products that can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

NGA's GIS Portals:

- ✓ Provide a central location to share and collaborate with geospatial information
- ✓ Allow for the control, discovery, and use of sensitive geospatial information
- ✓ Enable self-service mapping
- ✓ Deliver web app development without writing any code, such as delivering content through Story Map templates
- ✓ Easy creation and deploy custom web app templates and tools with Web AppBuilder Developer Edition, and provisioning of the ArcGIS JavaScript API



NGA ArcGIS Online home page. This WWW page allows for collaboration, support, and dissemination to outside agencies and the general public.

How can users access the GIS Portal?

NGA has GIS Portals available on JWICS, SIPR, NIPR, and a presence on ArcGIS Online on the WWW.

- JWICS: <https://portal.geo.cloud.ic.gov/portal/home>
- SIPR: <https://portal.geo.nga.smil.mil/portal/home>
- NIPR: <https://portal.geo.nga.mil/portal/home>
- WWW: <https://nga.maps.arcgis.com>

Capabilities, workflows, and usage questions can be directed to the GIS Portal Mission Support Team at the following email addresses:

- JWICS: GISPortalMissionSupport@coe.ic.gov
- SIPR: GISPortalMissionSupport@nga.smil.mil
- NIPR/WWW: GISPortalMissionSupport@nga.mil



The Story Map web application that showcases NGA's Arctic Support. Available on the WWW.

Portal Talking Points:

What is it?

A web-based GIS environment providing geospatial capabilities to analysts.

Who uses it?

The Portals supports a range of users, including GIS experts with desktop workflows and all-source analysts using web-based capabilities for the first time. Our user community on IC ITE spans over 75,000 users from over 55 different agencies.

What's in it?

The ICGIS Portal is the largest implementation the Federal Government has ever fielded. So far there are over 38,000 items registered, including over 6,500 web applications created by analysts to serve their missions.

What makes it unique?

The IC GIS Portal is a lightly governed space where the emphasis is on providing GIS capabilities to all analysts to use in their work, use to collaborate, and spur grass-roots innovation.

What makes it successful?

Focus: Previous portals all had an agency-centric, data discovery focus. The IC GIS Portal approached the implementation differently and focused on getting more capabilities online, and in the hands of more analysts.

Pace: The IC GIS Portal strives to keep pace with the rapid evolution of our commercial partner. A year ago, we were excited to shorten the update cycle to 6 months after commercial release. Our latest upgrade was on par with the commercial release for the first time.

Scope: A community-wide user base opened up the potential for contributions from more agencies than ever before. The available volume and variety of data is important to analysts and the IC GIS Portal has increased the discovery and use of not only foundation data, but analyst created content as well.

Collaboration: The recent IC GIS Portal upgrade also allows for collaboration between Portals which will increase discovery and sharing by leveraging automated workflows using the platform's native groups. The sharing of groups in multiple portals can be uni- or bidirectional, and will increase flexibility for multi-agency missions, crisis and special event support, and data sharing.

Sharing: In addition to data sharing, the IC GIS Portal Team has embraced the GEOINT Services model of sharing code. All customizations, widgets, and tools like the Portal Classification Tool, are made available to other Federal agencies to use and adapt to their needs. We also share advice on setups, governance, upgrades, best practices, and lessons learned across the IC/DoD, Federal Agencies, the ASG, and partners like NATO.

NGA Portal users – In their own words:

State uses NGA's GIS Portal to Support IC Facilities and Logistics: On Tuesday June 13, the State Department representative on the IC Facilities and Logistics Strategic Planning Tiger Team demonstrated a new app he created with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) IC GIS Portal. One of the objectives of the Tiger Team's draft strategic plan is to create a Common Operating Picture (COP), and the app's interactive map shows State Department facilities around the world and the logistics chains that connect them. The same app can be used to visualize the facilities and logistics chains for all agencies in the IC so that ODNI can get the COP it needs. – John Brandt, Chief of Diplomatic Pouch, US Department of State

“Although the 517th GPC [Geospatial Planning Cell] primarily uses Army systems and software to create and service enable their data, they don't have a good way to visualize and disseminate their data. As they create their services, they almost exclusively leverage the GIS portal on the SIPRnet as their data dissemination method. The GIS portal on SIPRnet is a great solution that has made the 517th GPC's data more discoverable and accessible to the intelligence and DoD community. Continuing to support this program would certainly benefit our operations here with USARAF”. – Robert Miller, NGA Analyst embedded with US Army Africa (USARAF).

