

2013 Annual Report

Highlights from 2013 are provided below.

NISC formed as a Non-Profit Corporation

The NISC was incorporated as a non-stock, public benefit 501(c)(3) corporation and the Board of Directors held an organizational meeting and adopted the NISC Charter and Bylaws on February 5, 2013. The Bylaws were also revised and adopted by NISC Board of Directors on July 7, 2013 and again on August 6, 2013.

NISC Mission and Vision Established

Mission: As an independent consortium, the NISC strives to bring together data owners, custodians, and users involved in the fields of homeland security, public safety, emergency management and response to leverage efforts related to the governance, development, and sharing of technology, data processes, and best practices.

Vision:

- Common, shared situational awareness capabilities exist in every state, territory and the District of Columbia.
- Information is found, discovered and shared effortlessly across all levels of government.
- Every community across the nation will be resilient in the face of disaster or emergency.

NISC Board of Directors

Board of Directors (February 2013)

Six (6) Members

1. Sean McSpaden, Chair
2. Chris McIntosh, Vice Chair & Secretary
3. Jeff Dulin – Treasurer
4. Charles Werner
5. Scott Gregory
6. Brigadier General John Heltzel



Board of Directors (October 2013)

Thirteen (13) Members

1. Chris McIntosh, Chair - Virginia
2. Charles Werner, Vice Chair – Charlottesville, VA
3. Jeff Dulin – Treasurer – Charlotte, NC
4. Scott Gregory - California
5. Eddie Reyes – Alexandria, VA
6. Steve Proctor - Utah
7. Maj. General William Reddel – New Hampshire
8. Barney Krucoff - Maryland
9. Steve Pollakov – New York, NY
10. Fuzzy Fletcher – Snoqualmie Tribe - WA
11. Vacant (Nominations by 10/25/13)
12. Vacant (Nominations by 10/25/13)
13. Jack Pagotto – Canada’s Centre for Security Science International Liaison (non-voting member)

Find out more about the NISC’s current Leadership and full member directory at:
www.nisconsortium.org

NISC Adopts ArcGIS Online as a Virtual USA Technology Platform

June 2013 - The NISC partnered with Esri and DHS S&T FRG to adopt ArcGIS Online as a Virtual USA Technology Platform. The NISC rolled out the Virtual USA AGOL Portal which was (and remains) in use operationally and on a pilot basis in exercises like CAPSTONE 2014 in the CUSEC region. Lessons learned on the use of ArcGIS Online leading up to and during CAPSTONE 2014 were captured and shared following its completion in June 2014.

Virtual USA AGOL Portal



PRESS RELEASE
June 24, 2013

For Immediate Release
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NISC Adopts ArcGIS Online as a Virtual USA® Technology Platform

First Responders Gain Greater Information Sharing Capabilities Across Jurisdictions

Washington D.C.-June 24, 2013-The National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) has announced it is working with Esri, the world leader in geographic information systems (GIS), on deploying and configuring ArcGIS Online for Organizations (AGOL) to serve as a platform to support the Virtual USA® Program (vUSA). The First Responders Group (FRG) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate developed the vUSA Virtual Library and MyLibrary Widget technologies in 2009 to enable multi-jurisdictional and multi-discipline information sharing across all levels of the homeland security enterprise to provide decision makers the information they need in a timely fashion. The NISC has partnered with FRG to provide governance and administration of vUSA technologies.



NISC Strategic Plan

In July 2013, the NISC reached another key milestone – the adoption of its first strategic plan. The primary goals contained within the 2013 – 2017 strategy are listed below.

- Enhance national situational awareness capabilities
- Enhance and standardize national information sharing capabilities by maximizing access to and the use of available data
- Provide support to EMAC and mutual aid efforts across the nation
- Sustain the NISC as an independent consortium

Download the 2013-2017 NISC Strategic Plan at - www.nisconsortium.org

NISC - Key Activities

During this time, Virtual USA continued to be a primary area of focus for the NISC. From its founding, the NISC has been supported by and worked in partnership with DHS S&T FRG on a variety of topics including Governance and the deployment of new technologies – including the Virtual USA ArcGIS Online Portal.

In partnership with DHS S&T FRG, the NISC also began to explore the deployment of a public safety cloud computing environment (of which vUSA will be a part).

VIRTUAL USA®

- Governance in partnership with DHS FRG
- Pilot of ArcGIS Online as an information sharing platform through the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium’s CAPSTONE-14 exercise
- Exploration of a public safety cloud computing environment

Contact virtualusa@nisconsortium.org for more information



In addition, the NISC began to work on a variety of capacity building areas including the formation of:

- Incident Management Information Sharing (IMIS) Committee
 - Sub-committee - White House Information Sharing and Access Interagency Policy Committee
 - IMIS Capability Maturity Model (CMM) – – which will leverage components of the NSGIC GMM
- NISC Technology Interoperability Working Group
 - Expansion of the original vUSA Transition Working Group
 - Intended to play an integral role in defining requirements and an architecture for a public safety cloud computing environment
- Private Industry Advisory Council

NISC member activities/webinars

The NISC continued to conduct a series of member/partner driven webinars:

- January 17, 2013 - "Mutual Aid and EMAC: Automation and Integration": Brigadier General John Heltzel
- February 21, 2013 - Special Topic Discussion: "Concepts in Situational Awareness and Information/Geospatial Data Sharing": Charles Werner
- March 28, 2013 - "Situational Awareness for Non-Governmental Organizations": Greg Tune, American Red Cross
- April 25, 2013 - "Local to Global Information Sharing"- David Coggeshall, Program Director, Golden Gate Safety Network (GGSN)
- May 23, 2013 - "Maryland's OSPREY System"- Barney Krucoff, Geographic Information Officer, State of Maryland
- June 20, 2013 - "Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE II)"- Jack Pagotto and Philip Dawe, Canada Centre for Security Science General Defence Research and Development; and Dr. David Boyd, Science and Technology Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other panelists
- September 12, 2013 - Open Humanitarian Initiative (OHI)" Webinar- Gisli Olafsson, Emergency Response Director of NetHope, Inc.
- November 14, 2013 - National GeoCONOPS: What It Means for State and Local Officials" Webinar- David Alexander, Director, Geospatial Management Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of the Chief Information Officer
- December 12, 2013- "Tools and Technologies for School Emergency Response" Webinar- Sean R. Goodwin, GIS Administrator, Division of Emergency Services, New Hampshire Department of Safety; Jaysen Goodwin, CBAT Coordinator, Office of Infrastructure Protection, Protective Security Coordination Division, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Mary Schoenfeldt, Public Education Coordinator, Everett (WA) Office of Emergency Management; Michael O'Shea, Senior Law Enforcement Program Manager

Past NISC Events: <http://www.nisconsortium.org/nisc-events/past-events-and-presentations/>

NISC also began work on development and deployment of the NISC Member Portal

Cross Border Information Sharing Pilots

NISC Leadership continues to work on the planning and implementation of cross-border information sharing pilots with DHS S&T FRG and our partners in Canada.

Cross Border Information Sharing Pilots



Sharing tools and best practices to improve situational awareness and interoperability

Canada-U.S. Resiliency Experiments - <http://www.nisconsortium.org/partner-highlights/736-2/>