After Action Review **Date: February 13, 2008**
Agency Coordination Working Group

Topics

- ❑ Remote Sensing Resource Request Procedures
- ❑ Remote Sensing and GIS Coordination (operations)
- ❑ Data Sharing
- ❑ Federal Participation
- ❑ Damage Assessment

Focus – The focus of this working group was to discuss agency coordination during the fire siege, identify areas for future improvement, and refer specific action recommendations to the conference.

Recap

- » Remote Sensing Resource Request Procedures
  - o Discussion:
    - ▪ Standardized Resource Typing for Remote Sensing and GIS
      - The initial typing framework briefed by the National Infrared Operations Group (NIROPS) would be an excellent step in improving resource request procedures.
      - The typing framework needs to be extended to include descriptions of capability, data formats and types, and dissemination.
      - The framework should allow for addition of local resources so that regions can include federal, state, local, and available commercial providers.
    - ▪ Utilize Standardized Resource Typing as a foundation for training
      - The resource typing structure can be included in the Fireline Handbook and the California Field Operations Guide.
  - o Recommendation: Standardize resource typing of remote sensing and GIS capabilities to develop a common understanding of ordering procedures, support capabilities, and employment considerations across all level of fire operations.
    - ▪ Adopt and extend the initial NIROPS developed framework.
    - ▪ Include this as an action item within the newly created FIRESCOPE Situational Awareness Initiative.
    - ▪ Link FIRESCOPE Initiative with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) in order to extend framework across all regions and agencies involved in fire operations.
- » Remote Sensing and GIS Coordination (operations)
  - o Discussion:
    - ▪ The coordination of remote sensing and GIS operations at the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) and Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group levels is required during large, multi-agency operations but currently exceeds capabilities, training, and doctrine within the GACCs.

        - The Sit Stat Cell operations in South Ops provided a good foundation for potential operational functions to be performed within GACCs.
    - Recommendation: Need to define and standardize the functions to be performed within GACCs and develop doctrine/training that can be extended to all GACCs.
        - Define baseline functions to be performed within GACCs/MACS for remote sensing and GIS coordination (resource ordering, prioritization, coordination).
        - Include this as an action item within the newly created FIRESCOPE Situational Awareness Initiative.
        - Link FIRESCOPE Initiative with NWCG in order to extend framework across all regions and agencies involved in fire operations.

» Data Sharing
    - Discussion:
        - Remote sensing and GIS data sharing during fire suppression operations and recovery operations was ad-hoc and based on personalities and community knowledge.
        - Within the state and across support agencies, there was no single framework for data sharing. Each agency (and system) had their own data dissemination system or process.
        - Although a single system would be the most efficient way to address this, the group recognized that each state has a responsibility for data sharing and dissemination, along with each region.
    - Recommendation: Provide feedback to state and federal agencies on the need for a robust emergency response data sharing framework.
        - Provide feedback to California Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and Office of Emergency Services (OES) on the need for a state-wide framework.
        - Provide feedback to federal support agencies on the need for flexible dissemination systems, formats, and structures to support operations as they grow from local to state and federal events.

» Federal Participation
    - Discussion:
        - There was some confusion across the group on the timeline and structure of federal participation during this event (and potential future events). Federal wildland fire agencies were involved almost immediately through mutual aid agreements and direct protection responsibilities while FEMA-led support was initiated through the National Response Framework. Agency participating in one or other of these support frameworks demonstrated some confusion or lack of understanding of the other.
        - The structure and response of federal agencies specifically in the area of remote sensing and GIS has become more complex with the introduction of NORTHCOM and military support.
        - The group reviewed existing reference documentation (National Response Plan (NRP), National Response Framework (NRF), Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) roles).

- Recommendation: Highlight to state OES and federal emergency response personnel that local and state understanding of the flow of resources and assets may not be consistent.

» Damage Assessment
- Discussion:
  - Several different agencies performed damage assessment support at the same time, for different purposes (San Diego County Assessment, CAL FIRE and OES, FEMA, Federal Fire Agencies, United States Geologic Survey, and National Geospatial Intelligence Agency) with little awareness and data sharing across the enterprise.
  - There is no standard damage awareness product or framework to encourage sharing of assessments.
- Recommendation: Develop a community awareness of damage assessment activities during recovery portion of an event.
  - Develop and publish a framework for FEMA-level damage assessment to encourage data sharing and coordination during events that include state and federal efforts.
  - Standardize federal damage awareness products to be used by decision makers and explore potential adoption by regional and state agencies.
  - Educate the damage assessment community on remote sensing and GIS resources (Resource Typing) and local, state, and federal activities that may be available to support.