GISCorps Newsletter
GIS Professionals Volunteering for a Better World

November 2008

URISA

GISCorps Partner Agencies

EWB

GSDI

MMEX

UNDP

UNHCR

UNJLC

UNOSAT

iMMAP

Volunteers for Prosperity

Relief Agency Links

Relief Web
global hub for time-critical humanitarian information on Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters

A Message from the Core Committee

At each URISA International Conference, new members are welcomed to the Core Committee, and the terms of existing Core Committee members are either extended or completed. The GISCorps Core Committee held a meeting at the URISA International Conference in New Orleans in early October and we are very pleased to announce that Allen Ibaugh – a former URISA Board member – has joined the GISCorps Core Committee. And we are also pleased to announce that Shoreh Elhami – a co-founder of GISCorps - has agreed to extend her term on the Core Committee – and no arm-twisting was required!

We would like to bring to your attention that GISCorps' new website was launched in September 2008. As part of this launch, we endeavored to validate our volunteer database. To do this, we asked all GISCorps volunteers to visit the web site and update their profiles, thus indicating they were still committed to being a GISCorps volunteer. Since then, 100's of our volunteers have re-visited the site, updated their information and completed some of the additional information requested. It's critical to our operations that our volunteer database is as up-to-date as possible, since it is this database that we query to find volunteers suitable for deployment on a mission. If you have not yet updated your record, you can still do so by accessing your profile from **here**. If you need assistance regarding your login information, send an email to info@giscorps.org.

With the launch of our new website, and the dedication of our Core Committee and volunteers, we believe that GISCorps is getting better all the time in fulfilling its mission and that of the volunteer GIS professional in providing service to those in need.

GISCorps Core Committee,
Dianne Haley, Ingrid Bruce, Mark Salling, Shoreh Elhami, Allen Ibaugh

P.S. Please email info@giscorps.org if you want to be removed from this list.

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Deployment and Partnership News

Completed Missions:

- **Mission with Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) – Afghanistan:** In Spring of 2008, Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) requested an instructor to teach two ArcGIS courses (introductory and advanced) to their faculty. An email broadcast went out in early June and 11 volunteers expressed

interest in the mission. Following the recruitment process, Carl Kinkade of BearingPoint of Atlanta, GA was selected for the project. On July 3rd, 2008, Carl arrived in Kabul and started teaching on July 5th. He returned to US on July 16th.

- **Mission with iMMAP — Iraq:** This mission was in partnership with Information Management & Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) and was completed in October 08. Four GISCorps volunteers; Shane Bergman from Colorado, Clio Andris from South Carolina, Chris Van Nice from Texas, and Matthew Redmond from England worked on this project. The project involved reading various narratives from Iraq security reports dating from June 2003 and entering those events into spreadsheets to be eventually mapped.

- **Mission with HealthCare Volunteer (HCV):** GISCorps volunteer Tara Athan, from Alternatives to Invasive Species Inc. in California, volunteered for this project. HCV was interested in having their existing database geo-coded and published in an online application such as Google Earth. Tara created an OpenLayers **interface** and developed a webpage that allowed a new volunteer to perform the geocoding themselves, through Google or MapQuest, when they registered or updated their account. The first phase of the project was completed in October 2008 and the second phase will start shortly. Read more about the project in **here**.

New Missions in Progress:

- **Mission with COPAE — Guatemala**: On October 20th, GISCorps received a request from a group of volunteers who are assisting a Guatemalan NGO (COPAE) to monitor and diagnose damage to indigenous people's homes near the Merlin Mine in the vicinity of Sipcacapa, Guatemala. GISCorps volunteer, Lars Bromley of Washington D.C. was contacted for this project and is currently working with their team. Read more about the project in **here**.

- **Mission with (PRAD) and (FBR) — Myanmar (Burma):** This mission is in partnership with Partners Relief Development (PRAD) and Free Burma Rangers (FBR). The request was for one GIS instructor to teach an introductory ArcGIS course and also assist PRAD/FBR with database design and application development. Joe Forrest of North Carolina has been selected for this project and will be heading to Mae Sot, Thailand in early February 2009 for two weeks.

- **Mission with EnterpriseWorks VITA (EWV):** EWV requested GISCorps volunteers' assistance for developing a GIS model to assess the potential market for domestic rainwater harvesting in 20 countries around the world. Two volunteers, Marian Mitchell from Michigan and Melinda Laituri from Colorado State University were selected for this remote project and have been put in contact with the EWV project manager.

- **Mission with AAAS — Guatemala:** The Human Rights Division of American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS) requested one volunteer with expertise in cadastral mapping and also fluency in Spanish to help verify/resolve a land dispute for an indigenous group in Guatemala. Odra Cardenas of Washington State was recruited for this mission and has been put in contact with the AAAS project manager. Although this project has started as a remote mission, it may also require traveling to the region.

Read more about completed projects **here**.
Read more about projects in progress in **here**.

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URISA Announcements

Upcoming Conferences

- **URISA Leadership Academy**
  December 8-12, 2008 - Seattle, WA
- **13th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference - Program & Registration Online**
  February 8-11, 2009 - Charleston
- **URISA's GIS in Public Health Conference - Abstracts Submissions Due December 5**
  June 5-8, 2009 - Providence
- **URISA's URISA/NENA Addressing Conference - Abstracts Submissions Due January 12, 2009**
  August 4-6, 2009 - Providence
- **GIS in Transit Conference**
  November 10-12, 2009 - St Petersburg, FL

What's New

- 13th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference Registration Opens
- GISCorps Unveils New Website
- GIS Day 2008 Activities
- URISA Leadership Academy December 8-12 in Seattle - Register and make your hotel reservations by November 30
- URISA Announces Webinar Series
- URISA Annual Conference Highlights
- URISA Announces 2008 Student Paper Award Winners - Photos Just Added
- URISA Announces 2008 Exemplary Systems in Government Award Winners - Photos Just Added
- Check out the Latest Job Listings

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Shop for GISCorps Stuff!!

Do you find yourself in need of a new T-shirt, coffee mug, ball cap or tote bag? Do you want to advertise GISCorps and your association with the organization? Well, you are in luck! You can now find various GISCorps items at our online shop at: http://www.cafepress.com/giscorps

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ESRI's 28th User Conference

The 2008 ESRI User Conference was held in San Diego from August 4-8 where over 14,000 GIS professionals attended the event. You can view the photos taken at various GISCorps activities during that week from **here**.

46th URISA International Conference

The 46th URISA Annual Conference was held in New Orleans in October 2008. You can view the photos taken at various GISCorps activities during that week from **here**.

Featured Project

Kabul Polytechnic University Project

URISA GISCorps Teaches ArcGIS to Faculty at KPU

In Spring of 2008, Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) requested an instructor to teach two ArcGIS courses (introductory and advanced) to their faculty. An email broadcast went out in early June and 11 volunteers expressed interest in the mission. Following the recruitment process, Carl Kinkade of BearingPoint of Atlanta, GA was selected for the project.

On July 3rd, 2008, Carl arrived in Kabul and started teaching on July 5th. He returned to the US on July 16th. The following are several photos that Carl has sent to us.

An article on Carl's mission cannot truly describe his experiences in Afghanistan. From his challenges with technology and language differences, to his adventures in dining and travelling, Carl's story is truly interesting and informative for volunteers seeking the excitement of an on-site mission. For more details and Carl's daily posts, we encourage everyone to visit his BLOG.

A view of Kabul, Afghanistan

Entrance to KPU

Lecturing in the classroom

Carl Kinkade teaching the Intro to ArcGIS Course

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