



# News From USACE

## Army Geospatial Center Launches New Online Version of Common Map Background

**T**he U.S. Army Geospatial Center launched a faster, feature-rich version of Common Map Background (CMB) Online earlier this year. CMB Online is a geospatial data discovery and ordering program that allows customers to search, download, and order geospatial data using a simple, Web-based “shopping cart” interface. A common access card is required to access the data at [https://agcwfs.agc.army.mil/CMB\\_Online/default.aspx](https://agcwfs.agc.army.mil/CMB_Online/default.aspx).

The latest version of CMB Online performs faster than the previous iteration and offers several new features to users, including additional easy-to-change map bases, a scale display, and a coordinate display via latitude/longitude decimal degrees and the Military Grid Reference System. U.S. Army Geospatial Center officials say that CMB Online dramatically reduces the time and expense required for field users to acquire, manage, and load or import compact discs of geospatial data pertinent to their areas of operations.

Products available range from map and image datasets of small areas of interest to larger country or command datasets. Customers can place requests through the Web site; by e-mail at [DLL-AGC-cmb@usace.army.mil](mailto:DLL-AGC-cmb@usace.army.mil), [theresa.h.rasmussen@usace.army.mil](mailto:theresa.h.rasmussen@usace.army.mil), or [cmb@tec.army.smil.mil](mailto:cmb@tec.army.smil.mil); or by telephone at commercial (703) 428-7889 or DSN 364-7889. CMB analysts receive requests from a multitude of agencies, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district offices, Army topographic units overseas, and troops preparing for deployment. For more information about the CMB program, visit [http://www.agc.army.mil/fact\\_sheet/CMB.pdf](http://www.agc.army.mil/fact_sheet/CMB.pdf).

The U.S. Army Geospatial Center coordinates, integrates, and synchronizes geospatial information requirements and standards across the Army, develops and fields geospatial enterprise-enabled systems and capabilities to the Army and Department of Defense, and provides direct geospatial support and products to warfighters. To learn more about the center, visit [www.agc.army.mil](http://www.agc.army.mil).

## Terror in Afghanistan Map Published

**A** map by a U.S. Army Geospatial Center cartographer is featured in the annual “Map Book” published by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Incorporated.® The book is dedicated to acknowledging the accomplishments of geographic information system users around the world.

Mr. Stephen Benzek’s two-page map examines civilian casualties due to acts of terrorism in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2009. Its style was derived from newspaper and propaganda maps from the 1930s and early 1940s. The author was inspired to use geographic information system software to simulate these old styles in depicting a contemporary conflict after browsing old maps at the Library of Congress. The diverse terrain of Afghanistan is represented in a hand-drawn style by applying dots to contour lines that are easily created from digital elevation data.

Benzek said he decided to create a map of civilian casualties in Afghanistan rather than Iraq because military operations in Iraq were beginning to wind down, while operations in Afghanistan had just ramped up in 2010. He said that a future map might compare reported civilian terrorism casualties in both countries over time to see how they differ, particularly when compared to the tempo of ongoing military operations.

To view the map, go to [http://www.esri.com/mapmuseum/mapbook\\_gallery/volume26/defense-and-military/defense-and-military-2.html](http://www.esri.com/mapmuseum/mapbook_gallery/volume26/defense-and-military/defense-and-military-2.html).