

Army Newswatch Lead Sheet

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GIS Technology helps ITAM coordinators in USAREUR

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LEAD:

MORE AND MORE THE ARMY IS USING GRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS OR G-I-S TO MANAGE IT'S LANDS? AT THE CLICK OF A MOUSE THESE SYSTEMS PROVIDE CLEAR, VISUAL INFORMATION -- IN REAL TIME. ENVIRONMENTAL CORRESPONDENT JAVIER HERNANDEZ SHOWS HOW LAND MANAGERS, IN USAEUR, ARE USING THESE SYSTEMS.

Fonts:

Locator – Graffenwoehr, Germany

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Credits:

Additional Notes:

FOR ARMY LAND MANAGERS LIKE NATHANIEL WHALEN G-I-S OR GRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS IS A VITAL TOOL. THESE SYSTEMS CAN CONVEY ALMOST ANY DATA IN A VISUAL WAY.

“That’s our communication tool. That’s the way we understand what their plans are...” – Nathaniel Whalen, USAEUR ITAM Program Manager

THOSE PLANS BELONG WHALEN’S PARTNERS THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. TOGETHER THEY KEEP GERMANY’S GRAFFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA, HEALTHY AND READY FOR TRAINING YEAR ROUND.

“We work with a lot of GIS operators from the German government as well. We make sure we’re reading of the same music”- Whalen

FOR INSTANCE, GERMAN FENCE LINES IDENTIFY AREAS THAT ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO TROOPS FOR TRAINING. WHALEN USES GIS TO MAP THESE AREAS AND CREATES AN INFORMATIONAL DATABASE.

“If the fence line was put up 20 years ago to protect a tree and now the tree is full grown, why is the fence still there?” - Whalen

THE PROJECT HELPS RANGE OPERATORS STEER TRAINING AWAY FROM THESE OBSTICALS.

ANOTHER G-I-S PROJECT USES ARIAL PHOTOS OF GRAFFENWOEHR. EVERY TEN YEARS THE ARMY RECORDS THE ENTIRE TRAINING AREA.

“The end product from this study will be trend maps, all the way from the 1940’s, looking at forest cover then to now and it will help us understand changes in the training area.”- Whalen

... AND IF, AND HOW TRAINING HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THOSE CHANGES. UNITS DEPLOYING TO GRAFFENWOEHR ALSO USE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS, VIA A WEB SITE DEVELOPED BY WHALEN’S TEAM.

“With this site they can get a visual image of a given area and plan their training scenarios before they leave their installation.” - Whalen

ARMY OFFICIALS SAY SOON MOST DOD PERSONNEL WILL USE SOME FORM OF G-I-S- IN THEIR DAY TO DAY DUTIES, JAVIER HERNANDEZ, GRAFFENWOEHR, GERMANY.

