

A CASE STUDY: ASSESSING SATELLITE OVERFLIGHT VULNERABILITY WITH AGI COMPONENTS

Department of National Defence Rapidly Builds Satellite Situational Awareness Tool

Solution | Space Situational Awareness

Challenge:

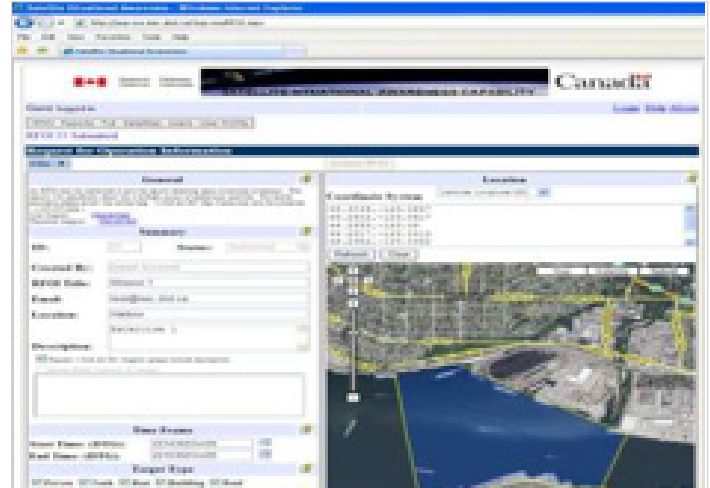
Commercial satellite imagery can image Canadian Forces on the ground, alerting unfriendly parties to deployed troops and facility locations.

Solution:

Quickly develop a satellite overflight vulnerability assessment tool detailing satellite coverage periods so that decision-makers can act accordingly.

Results:

Use AGI Components to build a user-friendly interface that allows staff not familiar with space systems or AGI software to obtain reports in near real-time over a secure network.



Referencing publically available commercial satellite imagery to view locations on Earth has become so commonplace that we often don't give a second thought to the implications. Canada's Department of National Defence (DND) has, however, and is taking action to reduce the risks inherent in unfriendly parties learning of Canadian Forces (CF) troop and facility locations.

The Joint Space Support Project (JSSP) of the DND's new online capability, Satellite Situational Awareness (SSA), was built using AGI Components software and is hosted on the Consolidated Secure Network Infrastructure (CSNI). Users specify the area of interest, types of satellite sensors, resolution and period of coverage and receive a report with near-real-time information detailing the period of satellite coverage and what the threat is at a given time.

Because AGI products are already in use in various agencies at DND, the organization decreased the time and risk of using an unproven solution or developing the capabilities themselves, while ensuring interoperability among users.

JSSP developers employed AGI's development libraries, AGI Components, on the CSNI to quickly create a user-friendly graphical user interface (GUI). Being on the CSNI also means those Component technologies can be made available to other applications, reducing development risk even further. SSA was first showcased at the Coalition Warfare Interoperability Demonstration (CWID) 2010.

SSA is filling a DND capability gap and bringing planning staff an easy-to-use tool that will ensure greater security for Canadian Forces and assets.



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