

## **Capturing Hurricane Katrina Data for Analysis and Lessons-Learned Research**

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### **Abstract**

The Southeast Region Research Initiative (SERRI) has been established to develop and demonstrate the Homeland Security benefits of leveraging Homeland Security-related research, operational and economic development capabilities within a region of the United States. Because of its diverse and representative infrastructure makeup, the state of Mississippi was chosen as the location for initial implementation of the SERRI.

MSU is sought to create a national resource for conducting “lessons-learned” research associated with the application of geospatial information technologies to disaster management in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This resource will be used by MSU scientists and will also be available for other researchers nationally, to access data, geospatial analysis procedures and the social context under which the technologies were employed during the weeks following landfall of Hurricane Katrina. Knowledge gained through this project will assist the Department of Homeland Security in understanding the intricacies of the deployment of geospatial information technologies at local, state and federal levels during natural and terrorist-induced disasters, and in enhancing preparedness for future natural and willful disasters. The use of geospatial information is not part of the strategy-oriented DHS National Incident Management System or the underlying procedure-oriented Incident Command System. No geospatial standards for emergency management have been defined within the geospatial community despite the importance of location-based information to every emergency support function. This resource will provide a forum for the geospatial community and the emergency management community to define best-practices and the role of geospatial information in disaster preparation, response, and recovery.

Research initiatives on the applications of geospatial information technologies for disaster management can be facilitated through the development of a national repository of data, procedures and products developed or generated during the search, rescue and recovery stages following Hurricane Katrina. The virtual research center would also maintain ancillary resources (e.g., discussion forum, relevant bibliographic citations) to assist research efforts. The tasks below outline this effort.

### **Research Team**

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