

COMPASS 2021: GEOBASE INNOVATION

By Julio Toala, Tracy Maxwell and Martha Ferris

Another year, another successful Compass event hosted by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Geospatial Integration Office!

"Thanks to everyone. A lot of great presentations this year! I know it was switched from in-person to virtual very quickly but it's still outstanding," said Karen Hastings, AFCENT geospatial support analyst.

Held virtually Oct. 25-28, Compass provided over 180 civil engineering community members and Air and Space Force geospatial community teammates with an unparalleled opportunity to participate in geospatial training, spanning four days of presentations. Compass 2021 provided Airman and Guardian a resource for keeping up to date on combat support geospatial information and services to meet Air Force Geospatial requirements.

Compass is normally held annually and in person, but due to fluctuating travel and gathering restrictions, the AFCEC GIO team quickly and efficiently transitioned this event to a virtual MS Teams live event Air Force-wide. AFCEC GIO received exceptional, timely support from the Air Force Materiel Command's AFLCMC/HNIP during this critical transition.

During the event, Air Force Capt. Gregory B. Cox presented a session on BioEnvironmental Engineering Geospatial Integration and Visualization, demonstrating GeoBase's innovative web applications and operational dashboards designed to better assist with geospatial analysis, including ground-water contamination. Attendee Karen Witsell GIO with Buckley AFB, Colorado, said, "My family was greatly impacted by the Camp LeJeune (North Carolina) water contamination exposure that happened. I greatly appreciate the work you are doing!" Mark Jacob, Deputy Flight Commander, Financial Analysis, Mountain Home AFB added "Awesome work, Capt. Cox! I hope BEE only grows and grows!"

Compass showcased the proven effectiveness of integrating geospatial installation data with external data sources utilizing examples such as Airfield Pavement Evaluation data and GeoBase, and real property authoritative datasets, demonstrating AFCEC GIO's collaboration with Air Force Civil Engineer Center COAP and the Airfield Pavement Evaluation team. The Airfield Pavement Evaluation Team provides direct installation support for assessing airfield pavement's structural integrity, surface condition, runway surface friction characteristics, and anchor testing across the Air Force. These partnerships enable mission success by providing installations with the most accurate and mission-critical data.

Compass also provided a platform for CE mission partners and builds on working relationships needed to achieve the CE mission.

The AFCEC Environmental Directorate provided updates on its programs and AFCEC's Asset Visibility division geospatial analysts provided insight into a tool that will aid subAMP managers in recalculating the Utility Condition Index. The Utility Condition Index affects the management of utilities on an installation. Additionally, representatives from communications presented on the big Cyberspace Infrastructure Planning System.

"Thanks for this presentation - these are going to be super helpful," said Tricia Knox, geospatial analyst at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

In addition to facilitating programmatic updates, Compass creates opportunities for geospatial analysts across the Air Force enterprise to share solutions that have enabled local installation success.

For example, community members from F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and Tyndall AFB, Florida, showcased samples of solutions utilizing ArcGIS dashboards, Python tools and GeoSlam. These engaging presentations included links to the respective resources that allow attendees to leverage these solutions for their local missions. These examples of innovation and collaboration are intrinsic to the GeoBase and CE communities.

AFCEC GIO's priority is to continuously support partnerships with the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, AFCEC directorates, installation GIOs and the civil engineering community through Compass. For those that were unable to participate this year, AFCEC GIO has created a repository for all Airmen and Guardians to watch presentations on demand. All resources are shared via U.S. Air Force GeoBase milSuite page, on the GeoBase WGIO – AF GeoBase Education & Training page. It's also a site where Airmen and Guardians can keep up to date on combat geospatial information and services activities and capabilities.

Through coordination and innovation, AFCEC GIO continues to provide the entire civil engineering community with a broad spectrum of education, building a culture of data-driven decision-making, accelerating the Air and Space Force's ability to fly, fight, and win.

At the end of this year's event, Tammy O'Neill, chief of AFCEC's Requirements Identification and Development Division, said, "Great job GIO team & presenters!"

If you enjoy an in-person experience, Compass 2022 will be held May 2nd-5th in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. In response to the rapidly evolving pandemic and DoD guidance, Compass 2022 may be presented virtually this year. Please join the AFCEC GIO Workflow (AFCEC.GIO.Workflow@us.af.mil) for the latest on Compass 2022 and more. To stay connected on Compass updates, email the AFCEC GIO Service Desk at GeoBaseSupport@di2e.net.

When Location Matters - GeoBase!

USAF GeoBase milSuite:

<https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/usaf-geobase>

GeoBase Compass 2021 Virtual Workshop:
milsuite.mil/book/groups/wgio-afcec-gio-training

GeoHub
<https://portal.afcec.hedc.af.mil/CP/GeoHub/SitePages/Home.aspx>

(Editor's Note: Toala is the AFCEC Planning and Integration Directorate Geospatial Operations manager and Maxwell is an AFCEC technical writer and application analyst)