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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

UNITED NATIONS AND COUNTRY REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE THIRTEENTH UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Status of cartographic activities in the United States of America

Paper submitted by the United States of America**

Summary

Since the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, United States cartographic activities have expanded to include advances in computer technology, remote sensing, geospatial geographic information systems, and inertial and satellite positioning systems.

All mapping and charting activities in the United States have been influenced by the development of automated cartographic techniques and equipment. Computers are applied to a broad spectrum of cartographic activities, including compilation, revision, maintenance, and production of topographic, orthophotographic, and image maps and aeronautical and nautical charts.

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** Prepared by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Ocean Service, and the United States Geological Survey.

Advances in computer technology over the last decade have prompted Federal mapping and charting agencies to build digital data bases that are useful to the study of geology, soils, hydrology, land use, and land cover. A major achievement since 1987 has been the development of standards for digital cartographic data throughout the cartographic community.

The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) of the United States Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for the preparation of maps, charts and geodetic products on a worldwide (international) basis to meet national defence requirements and for the preparation of nautical and aeronautical products to support the safety of navigation. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) has the national responsibility for preparing and making available multi-purpose maps and base cartographic data in a variety of forms. In recent years, the USGS has concentrated on digitizing base categories of data on topographic maps, such as hypsography, hydrography, and transportation systems, to create a National Digital Cartographic Data Base (NDCDB). Other Federal agencies are responsible for collecting additional map data of public value. The National Ocean Service (NOS) monitors, assesses, and forecasts conditions in the coastal and oceanic environment to support effective management, promoting a healthy, safe, and economically productive coastal and oceanic environment for present and future generations. NOS is the primary civil agency within the United States Federal Government responsible for the health and safety of the nation's coastal and oceanic environment. As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Ocean Service provides a wide range of products and services, established on the best scientific basis, for the protection of life, property, and the environment.

Recent activities are discussed under the following headings:

- Geodesy and Geophysics
- Topographic Mapping
- Hydrography and Oceanography
- Aeronautical Charting
- Geographic Names
- Digital Cartography
- Remote Sensing/Imagery Processing
- Global Change
- Other Projects
