<u>**Interview Ministry of Defense**</u>

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Activities

GeoInt is an « inside-inside » service, so it won't be very interesting for a case study. But they have had contacts with Commandant X that was involved in Wildfire Fighting case study. They only offer external e-services when they have as client the government.

They experience a lot of problems that are specific to the military domain → They use Cartography but must be able to work with new technologies.

The big advantage of military is its hierarchical aspect : they use the format from NATO that are developed by technical committee (with representatives from countries). Their main focus is Effectiveness (Security of people), Efficiency (less standard oriented to be more oriented) and Interoperability. They add an extra-layer on already well-defined maps.

End goal : that all stakeholders have an integrated and normalized set of maps. For now, they apply the NATO standards for geospatial data.

NATO is collaborating with DIGI, OGC on an ambitions interoperability plan because they aim at being interoperable with the civil society

Presentation from GeoInt

Helios : they receive their image directly here from this satellite imagery. A number of countries are involved in this system (France, Germany, Italy,…). They pay cheaper thanks to the involvement of BELSPO. All that is done through Helios is done for governmental eyes only (part of the agreement with other countries). They can show it to partners but not give the access. However they can modify their imagery in order to be able to show it.

From this data, they analyze images (IMINT for annotation of image), archive it and provide geo-services (GIS-GeoInt). Their e-services are mainly based for the planning phase of intervention (even though it can also be "ex-post" for disasters) and they adapt them in function of the needs and are open for collaboration (with the NGI for example).

- IMINT : on basis on shape of products and orientation of → They can extract knowledge from this in order to determine danger zones for airplanes, … This analysis cannot be automated (existing software that identify features but a lot of errors).
- GEOINT-GIS : Information with geospatial added value (where to put the snipers, etc..).

Challenges

The SIG support remains a challenge because of lack of staff. They pay heavily the ArcGIS licenses but don't exploit it as much as possible. They would like to have more satellites to have more coverage but impossible with current budget. They are always surprised because they buy the same products. The federal level should have a leverage on NESRI to have lower prices → Need for sharing of products, licenses,…

Data storage : they have a good infrastructure but it does not meet completely their need. The hardware layer is not always mature at all levels. he big data analysis also becomes a challenge as they don't know on which media to store their archive: deterioration of CD, ,demagnetization of hard drives,…. It will help them to work with the cloud but for security issues it is not possible. Therefore, they have to pay the "hard" infrastructure accordingly. They don't store everything as they have a quality check. One system that muse handle terabytes of data.

Competition with civil society : the lambda soldier has had Google Earth in the hand and wait for similar e-service. This service prefers to give less "user-friendly" products but more accurate one (data up to data and not 2 years old such as Google Earth).

Difference of age in this service and general ministry of defense : less used with technology, use of traditional maps, e-services too difficult to use. They need to balance the needs of "young" users and "old" users.

They rely on secure, non-distorted or manipulated information → That is why they can't rely on commercial partners.

Open Data: not pressure to open their data due to specificity of their domain. They have decided to blur the military infrastructure. They also go to other providers of geospatial information to ask them to blur this information.

Relations with other Stakeholders

The main focus of data for this service : zone where they have troops but not in Belgium (better other service such as IGN than this one).

Partners at federal niveau : NGI is an important partner, NATO, EU, Ministry of foreign affairs

Relation with FEDICT : they have their own ICT teams due to the specificity of the work here. The security criteria would not be applicable .

Exchange of data : raw data go directly to determined clients (BELSPO, Military,…), for other products case by case.

Ongoing projects

Adaptation of workflows to new systems. All tools necessary to manage the different steps of work (from image to final product) fundamentally change the traditional workflows.

They also try to re-activate to give an overview of their e-services online via a GIS (selection of IMINT, GEMINT on a card). A lot of tools exist but the implementation and full use of these tools is a problem.

Best Adress : GeoInt would be interested in this project and be a potential users.