Practical experience of satellite support

Benefits from using space for civil protection in Poland

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★ Dedicated system developed in close cooperation with users

★ System integrates commercial, off-the-shelf products









Goals

★ Increased situational awareness

Common operation picture shared by different services involved







Goals

Increased situational awareness <u>Common operation picture shared by different</u> <u>actors involved</u>































Conclusions - system architecture

- ★ Ability to track all units/groups participating in operation (belonging to different services and structures) and visualise their location on satellite map greatly enhances situational awareness.
- ★ Ability to access exactly the same data in different locations results in a common operational picture for all actors involved, both different services and authorities supervising them.
- ★ Both abovementioned factors allow for significantly better coordination of common operations.
- ★ Automatic transmission of status information together with position information may provide for much clearer situational picture.





Conclusions – operational procedures

- ★ Satellite support team physically present in headquarter is a very effective method to ensure efficient use of available space technologies.
- ★ Geospatial products (satellite maps and analytical products) should use standardised marking (e.g. NATO standard symbols) to make them easily readable for users.
- ★ Standards for such products made available electronically are also necessary.
- ★ Users (commanding officers) require certain time (several hours) to get accustomed to new capabilities, understand them and use effectively.





Operational demonstration is a very effective method to validate crisis management systems' concepts and to convince users about their usefulness







Flood 2010

Poland



In may 2010 heavy rains raised the level of major rivers resulting in two flood waves



Information

- Timeframe: May/June 2010
- Location: South of Poland Vistula, Odra and Warta rivers regions
- Situation:
 - Due to heavy rains, the level of main rivers increased quickly
 - The most struck regions were located in the Southern part of Poland
 - All National Reserve of the rescue forces of the State Fire Service were alerted and mobilized
 - Daily rainfall was equal to the average cumulative rainfall for two months
 - Two flood waves hit the interested regions
 - The first wave was higher than the century-old water (probability of such level of water is one in 100 years)
 - Heavy rains persisted over the same area during the second wave
- Consequences: damages in infrastructure, properties, casualties, long term process for revitalisation

During the first wave the gauges on the VISTULA river registered historical highest levels





EU Safer activation

- ★ At least 22* different institutional users of data, including:
 - Central level: Civil Protection HQ
 - Central level: Government Security Centre
 - Regional level: Crisis management centres
 - Regional level: Firefighters command centres
 - Administration: collecting data for post-flood analysis and optimal infrastructure reconstruction
 - Military units providing support in the field
 - * 22 users were in direct contact with National Focal Point. They actively identified needs for additional acquisitions and requested data analysis.

Products distributed

- Information were distributed through dedicated national web page
 - Safer situation maps
 - Vector flood extent data in kmz for easy use in GoogleEarth
 - Geoinformation in GeoTiff format for professional GIS systems
- More than 40 000 visits encountered during the flood





Additional products

 Operational recommendations for water removal (including hydro- and geological analysis)

★ Digital elevation model analysis of flooded areas

★ Simulations of flood risk









National Focal Point

- ★A close link between crisis coordination centres and satellite support team
- Products developed ad-hoc in response to arising needs
- ★ Form and usefulness of products was evaluated by users before their release



Recommendations for water removal – phases of analysis



From the perspective of the Polish Civil Protection:

Preliminary conclusions

- SAFER mechanism have been activated by Poland for the very first time
- 30 SAFER products were delivered for the one of the biggest rescue operations on the territory of Poland (satellite imagery for Bielsko-Biała, Kraków, Mielec, Sandomierz, Głogów, Tarnów, Kielce, Wrocław, Wilków, Świniary, Szczurowa; relevant GIS layers)
- Relevant products such as drainage recommendations were made for the regions of Sandomierz, Wilków, Świniary, Połaniec, Kamienna,
- All the satellite and relevant products were very supportive and efficient for rescuers, crisis management and civil protection agencies in the whole chain of decision making process (evacuation, relocation and mobilizing forces, drainage, humanitarian assistance, damage assessment)

From the perspective of the Polish Civil Protection:

★ Value Added

- Recommendations for pumping (location of the most adequate places for effective pumping)
- Implementation in the Decision Support chain (e.g. applications like CECIS)
- Possibility to trigger the service for non-operational issues
- GIS products availability
- Possibility to obtain pre-processed data (time of delivery crucial)
- Free of charge

★ Shortcomings

- Delivery of semi-finished or not completed products to accelerate the support such as archive data
- Limitations due to inappropriate weather conditions such as clouds over AOI and problems with taking optical images for assessment of damages in infrastructure

Challenges of today

- ★ Increasing number of pre-operational services providing satellite imaginary in case of a large-scale disasters.
 - Potential users are not aware of such possibilities, do not have access to the products or are unable to effectively use them
 - Providers do not receive feedback during the crisis, limited knowledge about evolving needs
- Available geospatial information is dispersed and not shared effectively
 - There is no Common Operational Picture among institutions involved in crisis/humanitarian operations
- ★ Growing number of GNSS-based (satellite positioning) tracking systems in use by emergency services
 - There is no interoperability standard to exchange location information and simple GIS information







Logic of events related to space surrounding the Polish EU Presidency in the field of civil protection

- ★ 5-6 of May the ESPI workshop on "Space for Civil Protection"
- ★ 18-20 of July the Civil Protection Workshop
- ★ 13-16 of September EU CARPATHEX 2011 international exercise
- ★ 20-21 of September the Security Research Conference (EU Framework Programme)
- ★ 22-23 of November Lessons Learned Conference after EU CARPATHEX 2011
- ★ the Conclusions of the EU Home Affairs Council
- ★ first half of 2012 GMES Operational Capacity Workshop in Warsaw







EU CARPATHEX 2011

- Two trains crash: one full with football funs with the goods train with chemical substances PLATFORM
- Forest Fire sparks from the breaks system of the train light up the forest due to the weather the fire spreads quickly. Additionally hooligans ignite the forest in different locations - FOREST
- Leakage of water from the cooling system (big tank) in the chemical factory nearby – flooding of the local village - WATER
- Explosion and chemicals leakage in the chemical plant due to the cooling system break down - PLANT





Common GIS environment



Satellite maps (GMES/SAFER)



Deployable GIS team









Satellite-based access to shared GIS environment



Mobile robots in CBRN operations









Space = more safety for us all