

University of Massachusetts Amherst
ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst

Ethics in Science and Engineering National
Clearinghouse

Science, Technology and Society Initiative

6-18-2008

Case study: Collateral damage mapping

Francis Harvey

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Dawn Wright

Oregon State University

David DiBiase

Penn State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/esence>

 Part of the [Geographic Information Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Harvey, Francis; Wright, Dawn; and DiBiase, David, "Case study: Collateral damage mapping" (2008). *Ethics in Science and Engineering National Clearinghouse*. 285.

Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/esence/285>

This Case Study is brought to you for free and open access by the Science, Technology and Society Initiative at ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ethics in Science and Engineering National Clearinghouse by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.



Case study: Collateral damage mapping

Version 0.1 • June 18, 2008

Authors: Francis Harvey (Department of Geography, University of Minnesota), Dawn Wright (Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University), and David DiBiase (Dutton e-Education Institute, Penn State University)

Reviewers: Michael Davis (Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions, Illinois Institute of Technology), Chuck Huff (Department of Psychology, St. Olaf College), and Matthew Keefer (Division of Educational Psychology, University of Missouri-St. Louis).

This work was supported by National Science Foundation grant # GEO-0734888. See below for terms of use.

Case (for presentation to students)

A GISP working for a national security agency is tasked to create an analysis that delineates expected civilian casualties associated with a missile attack on the suspected urban headquarters of an alleged insurgent leader in a foreign country. Some of this research involves use of data from a variety of sources including analysis of the country's medical capacities.

References

Print

Smith, N. (1992). History and philosophy of geography: real wars, theory wars. *Progress in Human Geography*, 16(2), 257-271.

Clark, M. J. (1998). GIS--democracy or delusion? *Environment and Planning A*, 30(2), 303-316.

Web

American Anthropological Association Code of Ethics
<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>

Association of American Geographers Statement on Professional Ethics
<http://www.aag.org/Publications/Other%20Pubs/Statement%20on%20Professional%20Ethics.pdf>

Resources for teachers

Suggested discussion points

1. How should the GISP present any personal or agency moral concerns? Who should they be presented to?
2. Does preparation of the analysis mean the GISP can separate her personal moral concerns?
3. How should scientific organization guidance on work for national defense be used to inform a moral decision, even if it is against agency policy?
4. Can the breaking down of the task into independent components (compartmentalization) be sufficient to address personal moral concerns of involved staff?

Relevant GISCI Rule of Conduct

Section I, Number 1 “GIS products and services should benefit society, and enhance the well-being of individuals and groups, within the constraints of existing law. Some applications of GIS products and services may harm individuals (directly or indirectly) while advancing government policies that some citizens regard as morally questionable. GIS professionals' (GISP) participation in such applications is a matter of individual conscience.”

Terms of use

Authors license this work under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA

