



GISS Position Expectations

In this presentation we will discuss expectations of the Geographic Information Systems Specialist (GISS) position

Lesson Objectives

- **Position Expectations**



There are expectation for the GISS, but before we get into that lets review the expectations for the supervisor of the GISS, the SITL. Because understanding the role and expectations of your boss on the incident helps define and clarify yours.

Expectations for a SITL:

- Provide clear expectations.
- Provide a map product list and print count.
- Gathers intel and approves map edits.
- Provide support to meet workspace requirements.
- Use General Message Form-213 to document map requests signed by SITL.
- Ask what *you* need.



- A GISS can expect a good SITL to
- Provide clear expectations.
- Provide a product list and print count.

- Provide support to meet workspace requirements.
- Use General Message Form-213 to document map requests signed by SITL.

- Ask what *you* need.**

Expectations for a SITL (cont.):

- Monitor work/rest scheduling for GISS(s).
- Manage requests thus creating reasonable workloads.
- Manage distractions.
- Provide the big picture to help you anticipate needs.
- Track length of assignment and order replacements.
- Delegate to a Lead GISS when necessary



- Monitor work/rest scheduling for GISS(s).
- Manage requests to creating reasonable workloads.
- Manage distractions in your work area.
- Provide the big picture to help you anticipate needs.
- Track length of assignment and order replacements.
- Many SITL are not qualified to be a GISS or can get very busy with other duties. If this is the case the STIL should assign a lead GISS. Suggest this if you believe the situation warrants it.

Expectations for a GISS:

- **Work within ICS.**
- **Be competent with GIS.**
- **Use technology appropriately.**
- **Download GPS/Mobile Mapping Data.**
- **Provide clear communication.**
- **Provide reasonable time estimates.**



In turn, a SITL has expectations of a GISS to...

- **Work within ICS.**
- **Be competent with GIS technology and tools.**
- **Use technology appropriately.**
- **Download GPS/Mobile Mapping Data.**
- **Provide clear communication.**
- **Provide reasonable time estimates for processing and products.**
- **Follow directions**
- **Not interpret data on their own.**
- **Use standard symbology.**
- **Create accurate usable maps - on time.**
- **Anticipate needs.**
- **Provide supply requests in a timely manner.**
- **Organize documentation for transition.**

Expectations for a GISS (cont.):

- Follow directions and does NOT freelance
- Not interpret data.
- Use standard symbology.
- Create accurate usable maps on time.
- Anticipate needs.
- Provide supply requests in a timely manner.
- Organize documentation for transition.



In turn, a SITL has expectations of a GISS to...

- Work within ICS.
- Be competent with GIS technology and tools.
- Use technology appropriately.
- Download GPS/Mobile Mapping Data.
- Provide clear communication.
- Provide reasonable time estimates for processing and products.
- Follow directions
- Not interpret data on their own.
- Use standard symbology.
- Create accurate usable maps - on time.
- Anticipate needs.
- Provide supply requests in a timely manner.
- Organize documentation for transition.

Expectations for a GISS (cont.):

- **Provide the most current spatial information to the people on the ground.**
- **Automate the revision and production of digital maps and displays**
- **Gather and process digital data from incident staff**
- **Conduct GIS analysis as needed**



Map-making is the GISS's primary work responsibility. Maps are produced for each operational period (also called a shift). There will either be 1-2 operation periods per twenty-four hours.

Incident data will be created by on screen digitizing and GPS or mobile device data collection, or it may be given to you by other sources. The incident database is created by combining the information from multiple sources.

Calculating acres or line/perimeter length are both typical analysis requirements. Another analysis may be required as well, especially at incident management team transition or close out.

Lead GISS: The Crew Boss

- Large busy incidents have more than one GISS, thus a Crew Boss is necessary.
- The SITL will (or should) determine who the Lead GISS will be.
- The Lead GISS should delegate the workload, ensure completion and manage efficiencies.
- The Lead GISS should recognize various skills sets and assign tasks appropriately.



What is a Lead GISS?

- Large busy incidents have more than one GISS so a crew boss is necessary.
- A GISS Lead is NOT an official ICS position. In other words you can't complete a task book to become a GISS Lead. There are no protocols in determining who the Lead GISS will be.
 - The SITL has full discretion in making the determination.
 - Experience does not necessarily dictate the position
 - The decision may be made based on individual knowledge or experience or a combination of both
 - It may be made simply because an individual may have worked with that Team before.

The Lead GISS should delegate the workload, ensure completion and manage efficiencies.

The Lead GISS should recognize various skills sets and assign tasks appropriately.

Lead GISS Activities

- The main point of contact between the GISS staff, other members of the Sit Unit, and perhaps the Commercial Contract Trailer.
- Coordinate with local units/cooperators for additional GIS data.
- Works to instill consistency in map development.



The Lead duties vary from team to team and incident to incident but overall...

- The lead interfaces between the SITL, FOBS, IRIN, etc.
- Liaison role is most prominent when there is a contract trailer.
- The Lead GISS oversees the productivity and efficiency of the entire GIS staff (or those in which they are assigned) on an incident. This will include production, hardware, safety, work rest ratios etc.
- May manage GPS units and other data collection efforts or may be free to make non-standard or primary maps

Team Attached Lead

A team may have a GISS on roster, who goes out with the team. This person usually acts as the Lead GISS.



- Often a GISS on the Team Roster is the Lead
- The designation of Lead GISS on many incidents is not necessarily based on skill.
 - But “Skill” is not quantifiable and is subject to value judgment and personal interpretation.
 - Be prepared that you may encounter a situation where you disagree – Remain a Team Player.

Lesson Objectives

- **Position Expectations**



To review the lesson, I went over
the expectations of both the SITL and the GISS