FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   Release 07-11
Contact: (703) 808-5050   June 9, 2011

Satellite Imagery Only an App Away

One of the challenges facing service members on foot-patrol in the streets of Afghanistan, Iraq, or other parts of the world is having the latest picture of the environment around them. Events can alter the security in an area hours after pre-patrol briefings occur. A remedy to this situation are new applications developed by the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) providing service members and others operating in the field immediate situational awareness.

The NRO's Enhanced Quality Imagery Search (EQUIS) Mobile applications, iEQUIS for Apple's iPhone operating system devices and EQUIS Droid for Google's Android operating system devices, allows smart phones and other personal devices to access and download commercial satellite imagery from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) unclassified image library.

Built in partnership with the NGA, and in response to Department of Defense and other Federal Agencies' demand for smart-phone applications, the NRO's Rapid Capability Office modeled EQUIS Mobile on its previously developed EQUIS architecture.

"EQUIS is an easy-to-use web application that combines discovery, display, and dissemination of national, airborne and commercial imagery directly to a user's desktop," said Michael Udell, project manager for EQUIS. EQUIS is available on all three internal computer networks, runs on any computer operating system, and does not require additional software.

EQUIS Mobile is building upon this foundation as it works to deliver the next evolution of NRO products with its capability to deliver intelligence to a hand-held device.

"We are following in our tradition of making imagery more readily available to support users' missions," said Bill Molloy, project manager for EQUIS Mobile.

EQUIS Mobile received extremely favorable reviews since its premier in November 2010. "We were able to demonstrate EQUIS Mobile at last year's GEOINT Symposium and users were really impressed with it," said Lt. Col. Bogdan "Boggi" Chomicki. "As a result of the feedback we received, we have been able to improve upon it."

Since the premier of EQUIS, Intelligence Community members have conducted demonstrations of the app to see how it can be another tool in their toolbox in performing their missions.

The NRO is a joint Department of Defense-Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America's signals, imagery, and communications satellites to meet the needs of our nation.

–NRO–