



Case study: Collateral Damage Mapping

A certified GIS professional employed as a geospatial intelligence analyst by a national security agency is tasked to predict civilian casualties likely to be caused a missile attack on the suspected urban headquarters of an alleged insurgent leader in a foreign country. Her analysis indicates that dozens if not hundreds of non-combatants are likely to be injured or killed as a result of the pre-emptive attack. As a certified professional, what ethical obligations should the analyst consider and what should she do to honor those obligations?

Resources for educators

Suggested discussion points, relevant GISCI Rules of Conduct, and further resources related to this case study are available on request. Send request to David DiBiase (dibiase@psu.edu) along with contact information (including your position and affiliation) and a brief description of how you plan to use the case.

Suggested citation: Harvey, Francis, David DiBiase and Dawn Wright (2009) Case Study: Collateral Damage Mapping. GIS Professional Ethics Project <http://gisethics.org>

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