

SOLID TERRAIN MODELING COMPLETES 3-D GETTYSBURG MODEL FOR U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Model to be used in GIS, Military History and Military Geography Courses

FILLMORE, CA -- January 7, 2003 -- Solid Terrain Modeling (STM), manufacturer of the world's most accurate 3-D solid terrain models, has completed a new model for the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. The model was purchased for the Geospatial Information Science Program at the USMA.

Dr. John Brockhaus, associate professor and director, Geospatial Information Science Program, USMA, said, "The model was produced from a combination of 30-meter digital elevation model data, acquired from the United States Geological Survey's National Elevation Data set, and IKONOS 4-meter multispectral imagery, acquired from Space Imaging Inc." He said that the model will be used in several courses within the GIS program, as well as military history and military geography courses at the USMA.

Instructors teaching computer cartography plan on using the model as an example of a new and innovative method for three-dimensional visualization of battlespace. The "Introduction to Remote Sensing" course will use the model in discussions regarding the integration of data collected from space-based remote sensing assets with other types of spatial information. The class will also discuss the technology used to produce the model. Students in the "Advanced Remote Sensing" course will use the digital data provided to STM in the development of "Fly Thrus" and virtual tours of the battlefield using ERDAS Imagine. In the military history and military geography courses, the model will be used as a visual aid when analyzing the Battle of Gettysburg.

Lawrence Faulkner, president of STM, stated, "The USMA applications exemplify the use of our physical models as unique and highly contributive training aids. We have shipped a significant number of models to government agencies for this purpose."

ABOUT STM MODELS

Lawrence Faulkner and Mark Fisher spent 10 years developing a revolutionary, patent-pending technology to produce the world's most accurate, full-color, 3-D solid models of geographic terrain. In August 2000, they founded Solid Terrain Modeling Inc. (STM) to bring their spectacular models to the marketplace.

STM models provide a level of comprehension not found in any other mapping technology. People can gather around an STM model and view it from any angle. They can discuss it, touch it, and point to specific features on it. As they do, everyone in the group "gets" it -- the scale, distances, terrain, coloration, points of view, sight lines and more.

To produce a model, STM uses digital elevation and imagery data for the selected geographic area. The digital elevation data controls STM's highly calibrated cutting machine as it carves the model into high-density plastic foam. Then STM's printing machine applies the image data directly onto the model's surface. Other images, such as maps, photos, graphics, and text can also be printed on a model. The result is an exact replica of the geographic area -- in breathtaking detail, and in brilliant color.

STM models can be any size -- and can range in subject from the topography of a single hillside to the geography of an entire country, continent or ocean. They are extraordinarily useful for any application that requires an understanding of geographic terrain. And, because both cutting and printing are computer-controlled, a 4-foot by 8-foot model can be completed and shipped in three days.

Seventeen STM models are now on display at the National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall museum in Washington, DC. Currently, STM models are used by law firms; emergency response groups (fire, police, search and rescue); land management offices (construction, civil engineering, real estate, recreation); developers; transportation agencies; utilities (oil, gas, hydro); architects; museums; military, federal, state and municipal agencies; the U.S. Department of Defense and others. However, potential uses are limited only by the imagination.

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