

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration Is Cornerstone of UFAC

BY SCOTT ROBERTSON

NGA is an on-site component of the Underground Facilities Analysis Center (UFAC), which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

The UFAC is the national center dedicated to identifying, understanding and ultimately defeating the strategic and tactical use of underground facilities by adversarial states and organizations. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) established the UFAC in 1997 in response to a directive from the Director of Central Intelligence.

Before the UFAC's creation, the United States had no single authority to respond to the requirements generated by national decision-makers, military commanders or the weapons-acquisition community. Part of the solution resided in the Intelligence Community (IC), some in the operational targeting field, part in the nuclear defense arena, and some in the research and development establishments.

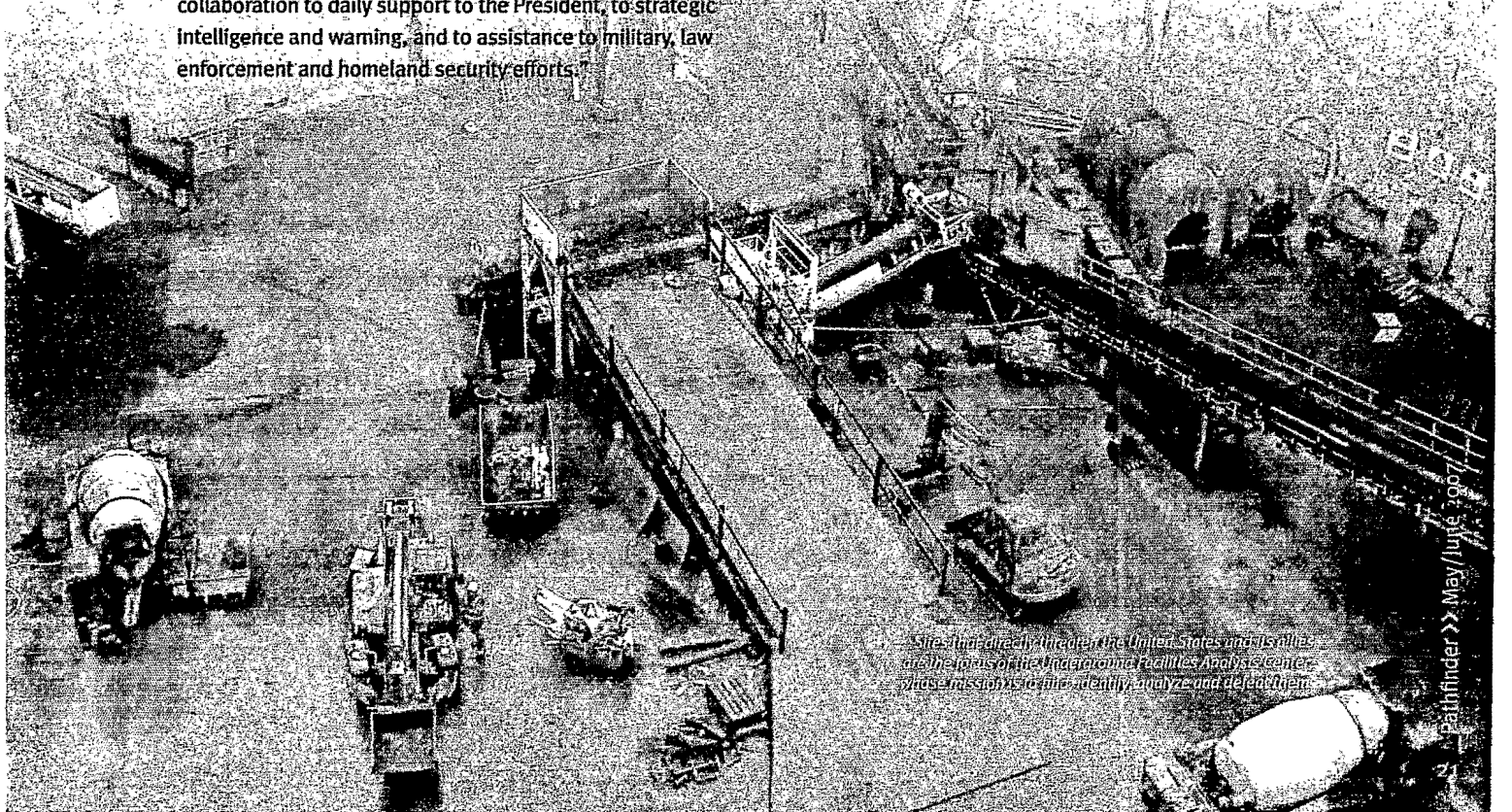
The establishment of the UFAC foreshadowed the Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction's call in 2005 for "more collaboration among analysts across the Intelligence Community—that is, to bring the benefits of collaboration to daily support to the President, to strategic intelligence and warning, and to assistance to military, law enforcement and homeland security efforts."

At the UFAC, collaboration is a cornerstone of our daily business. In fact, in many ways we are one of a kind. How many elements or centers within the IC combine both intelligence and non-intelligence organizations to find, identify, analyze and defeat sites that directly threaten the United States or our allies with weapons of mass destruction?

UFAC Has Diverse Team

A diverse team of all-source analysts, engineers, geologists, modelers, imagery analysts, geospatial analysts, research and development scientists, collection strategists and collection managers constitutes the UFAC. On-site components include the DIA, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, NGA and National Security Agency (NSA). We have extensive reach-back to DIA, NGA and NSA, as well as collaboration with the CIA, National Reconnaissance Office and U.S. Geological Survey. We also partner with the Department of Energy, combatant commands, national laboratories, industry, academia and U.S. allies.

Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) plays a critical role in the analysis of underground facilities and UFAC's success.



Site that directly threaten the United States and its allies are the focus of the Underground Facilities Analysis Center whose mission is to find, identify, analyze and defeat them.

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The key to defeating hardened and deeply buried targets is multi-intelligence collaboration. The NGA element embedded with the UFAC provides dedicated geospatial intelligence on site.

The NGA element embedded with the UFAC provides dedicated on-site GEOINT, including searching for, assessing, and monitoring undergrounds. Two branches at NGA also provide key analysis to the underground issue. Each branch has a complementary approach to the daunting task of analyzing undergrounds. Other NGA elements contribute to the UFAC via collection, data integration, broad-area search programs, the development and evaluation of tools and methodologies, and reach-back to the functional and regional offices. The geologists, geospatial analysts, imagery analysts and imagery scientists work together to help the UFAC satisfy its many customers.

Today, the Director of National Intelligence sponsors the center, with its charter to:

- » establish and sustain a coordinated, collaborative approach for the detailed understanding of the essential features of adversarial underground facilities throughout the world
- » build and maintain effective analytical capability with the Center using on-site and off-site components from DIA and other agencies

» foster partnerships with operational customers and supporting U.S. national decision-makers, weapons developers, and U.S. and combined operational forces to ensure the threats posed by the functions concealed in underground facilities are neutralized or minimized.

Although DIA is the Executive Agent of the Center, the UFAC also receives oversight from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. This guidance comes through the Underground Facility Senior Steering Group, co-chaired by Dr. Larry Gershwin, National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology, and Thomas Behling, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Preparation and Warning in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. This direction shows the reliance that senior intelligence officials and senior defense officials have on the UFAC's analyses and products.

Rigorous Training Offered

Analyzing underground facilities is complex and complicated. Our adversaries constantly improve their techniques and capabilities for constructing, engineering and protecting these hard and deeply buried targets. A rigorous internal training program enables the UFAC to keep pace with these developments. Courses range from a high-level orientation seminar to a weeklong comprehensive analysis and production class that includes imagery analysis, signals intelligence, engineering characterization, collection management, human intelligence, a national systems overview, and a writing seminar. Our "school house" also offers five days of in-depth training on facility databases. And for the really ambitious students, we offer a five-day comprehensive engineering course on characterizing and exploiting the vulnerabilities of underground facilities.

Plans are under way to celebrate the UFAC's 10th anniversary with a conference and Dining Out later this year. P

