

The Certification of Photogrammetrists

(Reprinted from March, 1972, issue "Photogrammetric Engineering")

This resume of the Society's progress toward the certification of those members who apply the theory and techniques of photogrammetry to their professional practice is provided in response to an expressed interest by many members.

Historically, the Society has promoted the use of photogrammetric theory and encouraged its application by topographers, land surveyors, geodesists, geologists, hydrographers, agronomists, foresters, highway engineers, structural engineers, city planners, and other professionals. Society members, therefore, represent many scientific disciplines, but their common interest is the acquisition of remote-sensor imagery and/or the utilization of the imagery for measurement and interpretation. By virtue of being a member of the American Society of Photogrammetry, one may enjoy a degree of professional acceptance in some circles even though he is not required by the Society to meet any specified standards.

If the Society aspires to have its members universally recognized as photogrammetrists, it can no longer assume their competence unless they are required to meet certain standards. In general, the Society has not been successful in its attempt to convince existing regulatory authorities that they should assume responsibility for testing, evaluating, or certifying to the technical ability of those who apply photogrammetry to their profession. For this reason, the Society is now undertaking to establish specific requirements and standards for certifying to the competence and proficiency of those members who request certification and meet such standards. Only members of the Society would be eligible for certification. This award would leave the status of Student, Cooperate, Emeritus, Honorary and Sustaining Members unaffected.

At present, the Society has under study a code of ethics, a definition of a photogrammetrist, and a description of work that illustrates professional activities. The Implementing Committee is reviewing these documents. A Code of Ethics was approved by the Board of Direction at its September, 1971, meeting. The Committee will continue to work in the second

area by testing qualification standards referred to above. It has established, within its structure, working groups for this purpose.

The heads of the working groups assigned this task are: Prof. Arthur J. McNair for educational and intraining requirements; Capt. Lawrence W. Swanson for the experience requirements for public employment as may be related to civil service recognition; Mr. Eldon D. Sewell for the specialized experience requirements related to private employment; Mr. Jon S. Beazley for the requirements to practice topographic mapping and land surveying; Mr. W. A. Fischer and Dr. Robert N. Colwell for the need to certify professionals practicing in areas other than topographic mapping and land surveying. The heads of these working groups are soliciting appropriate assistance and establishing liaison with institutions, societies, state boards of registration, commissions, and other organizations or authorities, including the Photogrammetric Classifications and Professional Activities Committees of ASP.

All of the above activities are based on the assumption that the Society's end purpose would be to establish that it had done everything within its power to assure:

- That those it certifies are qualified to perform such services and will conform to the Society's Code of Ethics; and
- That the Society will be able to respond to and act upon evidence submitted regarding alleged lack of compliance with the Society's requirements and Code of Ethics.

In accordance with this assumption, the Implementing Committee will not attempt to devise policies or procedures directed toward the economic welfare of those awarded certification. This is based on the opinion that such individual, or corporate interest, can be best served by a trade organization, a lobby, a union, or other such group whose prime interest is the economic rather than professional welfare of its members. Based on these assumptions as to the Society's purpose, the Committee will limit its energies to the revision of the Code of

Ethics, the development of standards for certification, the devising of means for measuring qualifications, and for observing competence, integrity and the performance of those to whom the Society chooses to award certification.

The Committee will submit its work to the Board of Direction for consideration and ultimate disposal. If these studies prove that adherence to specified standards of practice is needed to protect a client and the general public from malpractice, the Society must accept and deal with this broad responsibility.



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to certain classes of land surveys undertaken by private surveyors.

In summary, it is recommended that: Federal Authorities undertake the development of a National Surveying and Mapping Code.

Working Groups representing all of the disciplines involved be established in each Province to develop the basic concept and guidelines for the development of Integrated Surveying and Mapping Systems, their implementation by Legislation and Regulations and their administration and co-ordination by a single Authority.

(The next issue of the quarterly will carry a paper on Legislation for Urban Surveying and Mapping presented at the Second National Conference on Urban Surveying and Mapping by R. A. Smith, OLS, Chief Surveyor for Metro Toronto's Roads and Traffic Department.)