

# Modernizing the National Spatial Reference System

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NOAA's National Geodetic Survey

[geodesy.noaa.gov](http://geodesy.noaa.gov)



**ASCE PIPELINES CONFERENCE**

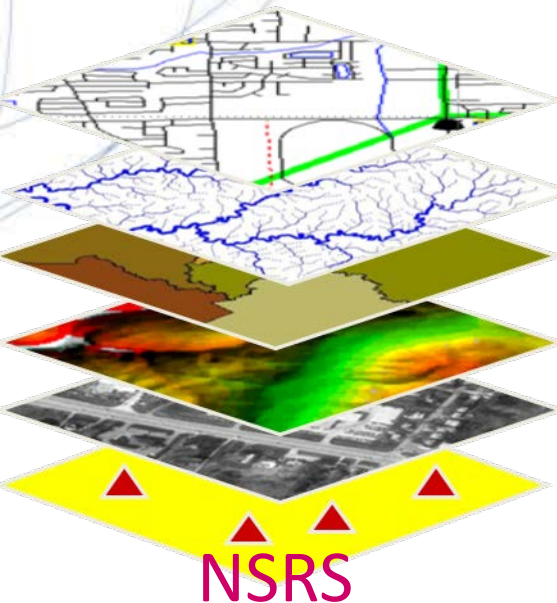
PHOENIX, ARIZONA | AUG 6-9, 2017

# U.S. Department of Commerce

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

### National Geodetic Survey

**Mission:** To define, maintain & provide access to the  
*National Spatial Reference System (NSRS)*  
to meet our Nation's economic, social & environmental needs



- Latitude
- Longitude
- Height
- Gravity
- Orientation
- Scale

*& their time variations*

(& National Shoreline, etc.)

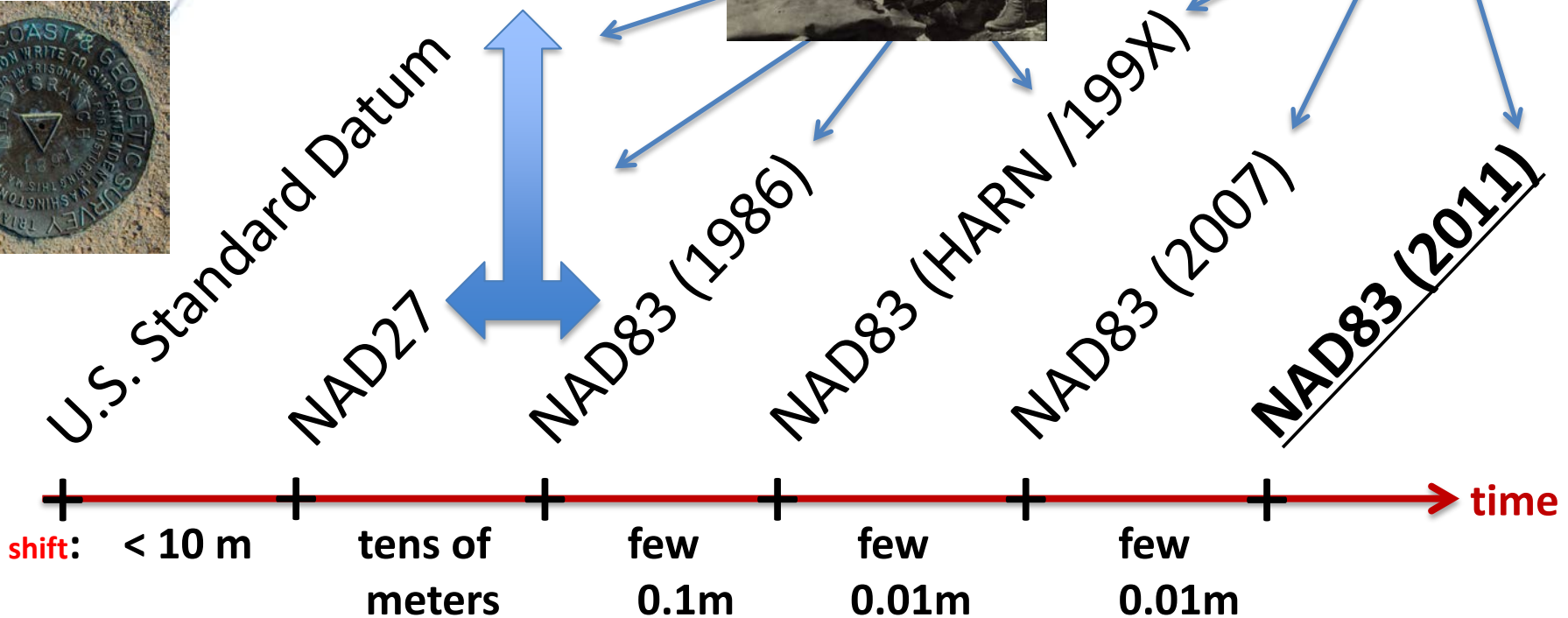
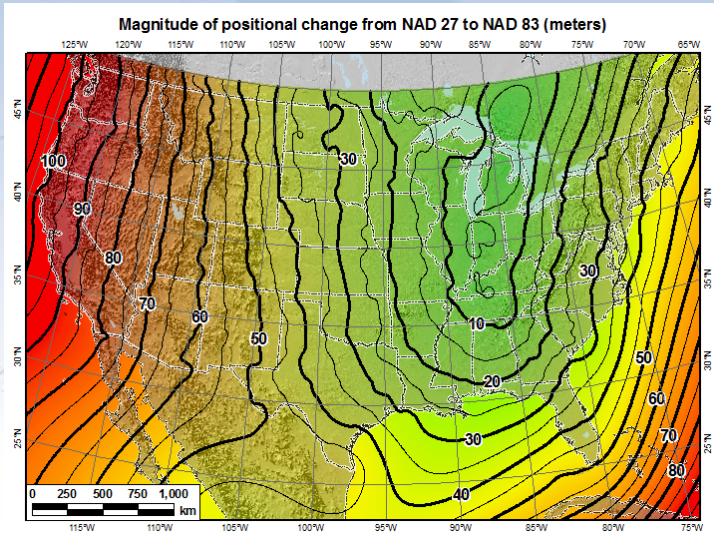
- North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)
- North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD88)

# *Accurate* positioning begins with *accurate* coordinates



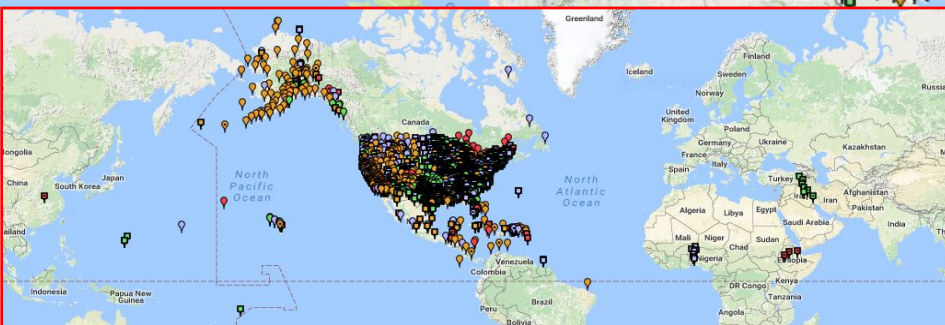
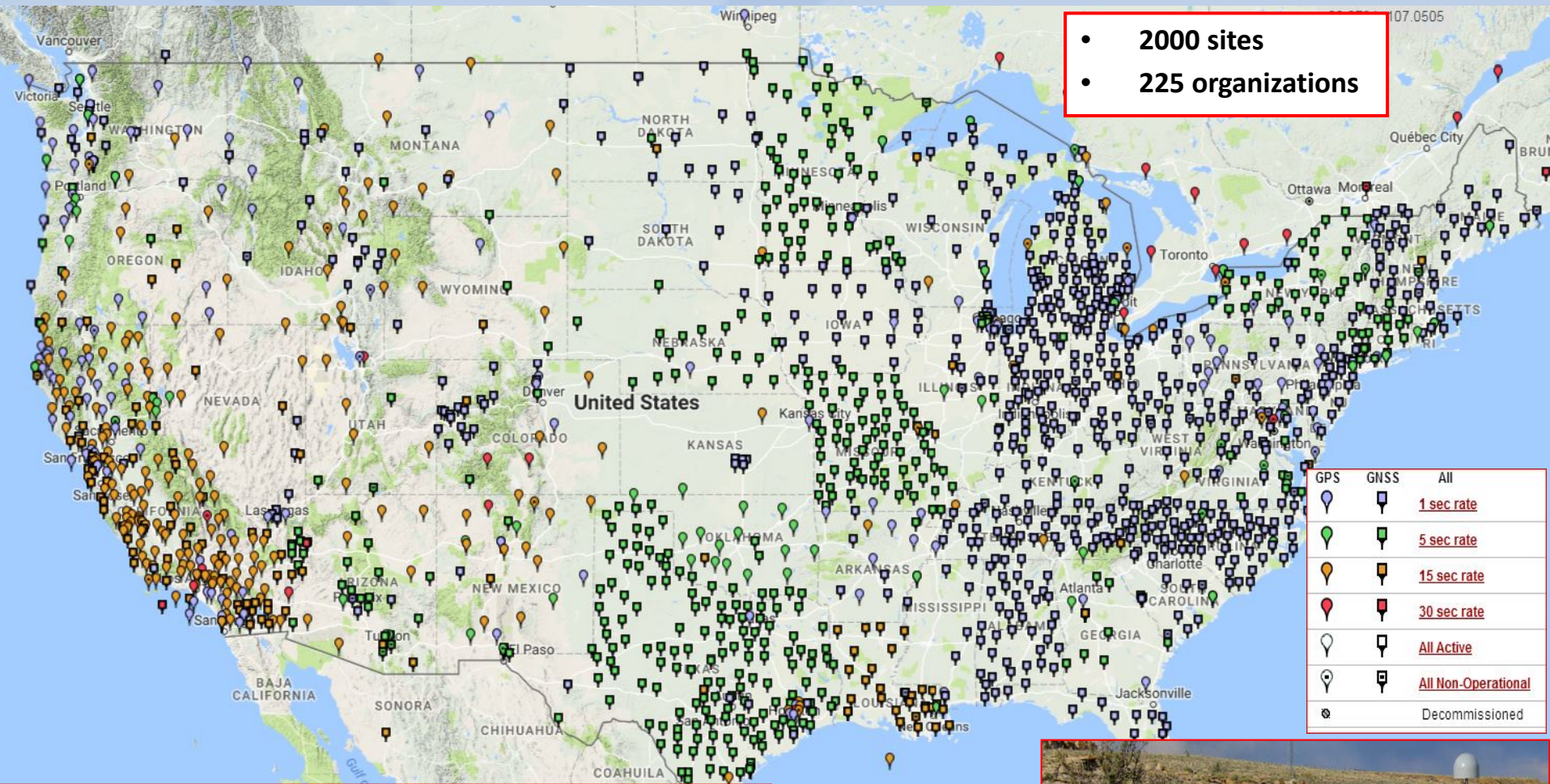
Source: Zurich-American Insurance Group

# A (very) Brief History of U.S. Horizontal / Geometric Datums



# Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) Network

- 2000 sites
- 225 organizations



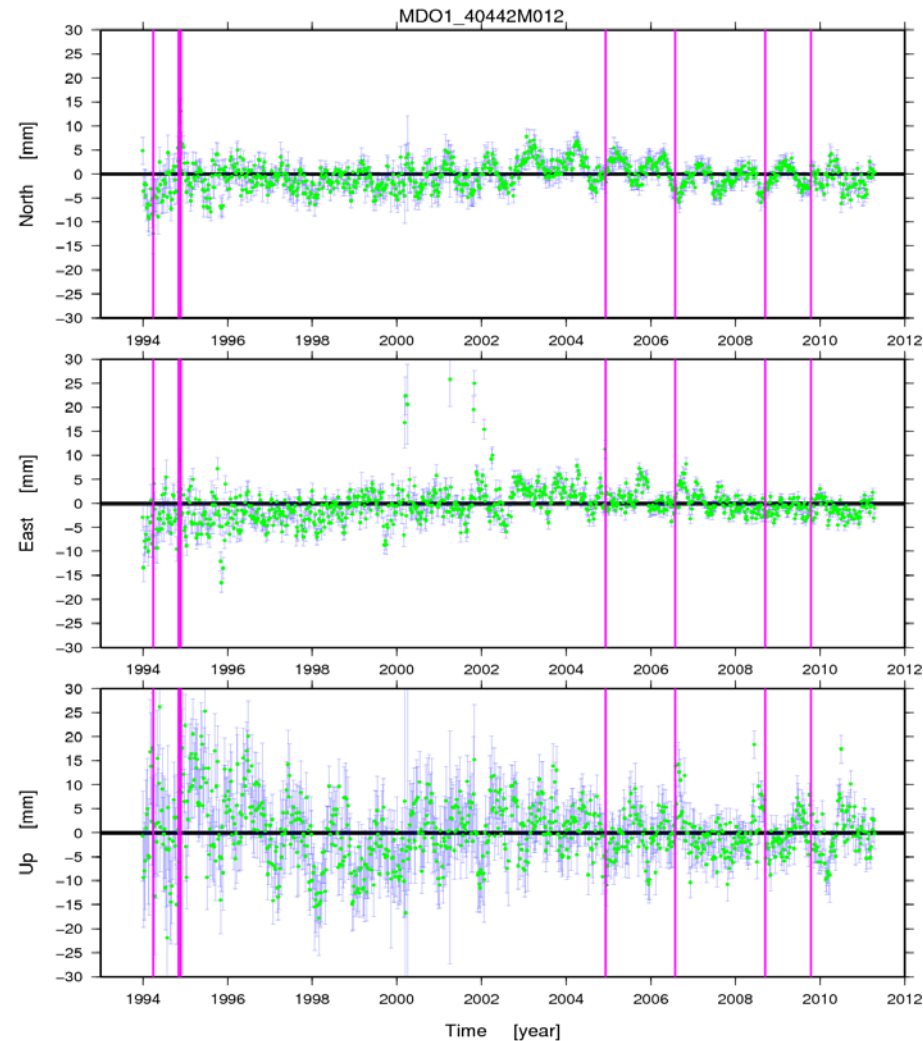
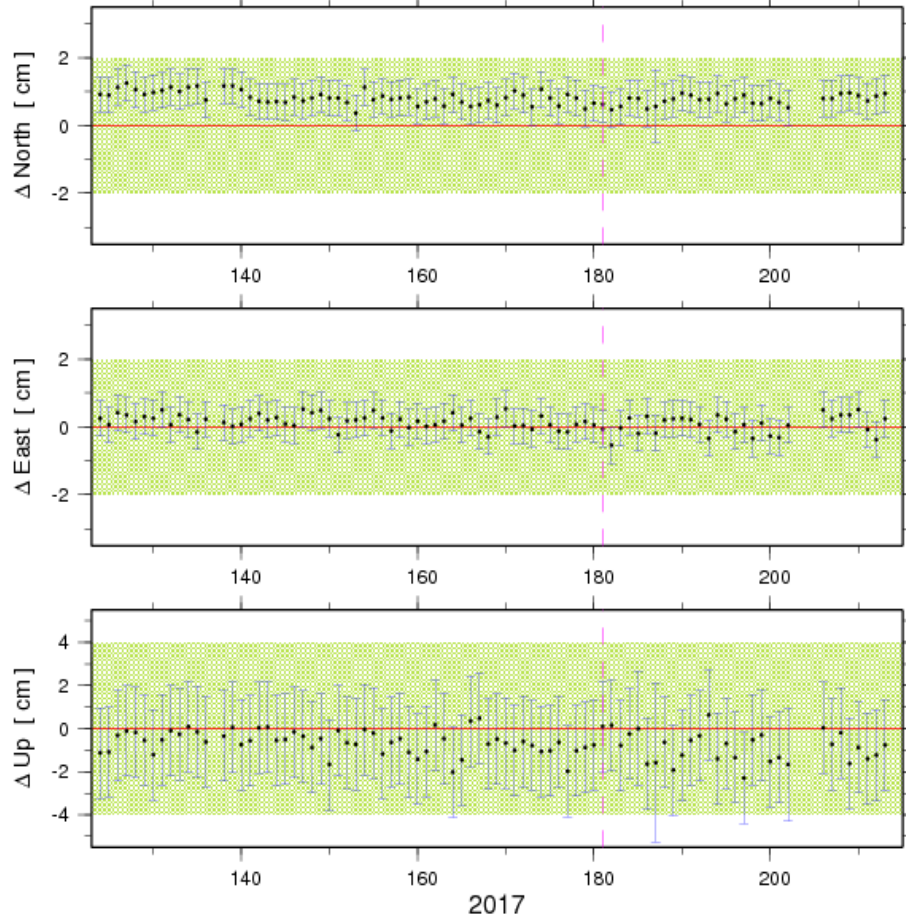
# CORS Time Series Plots

short-term

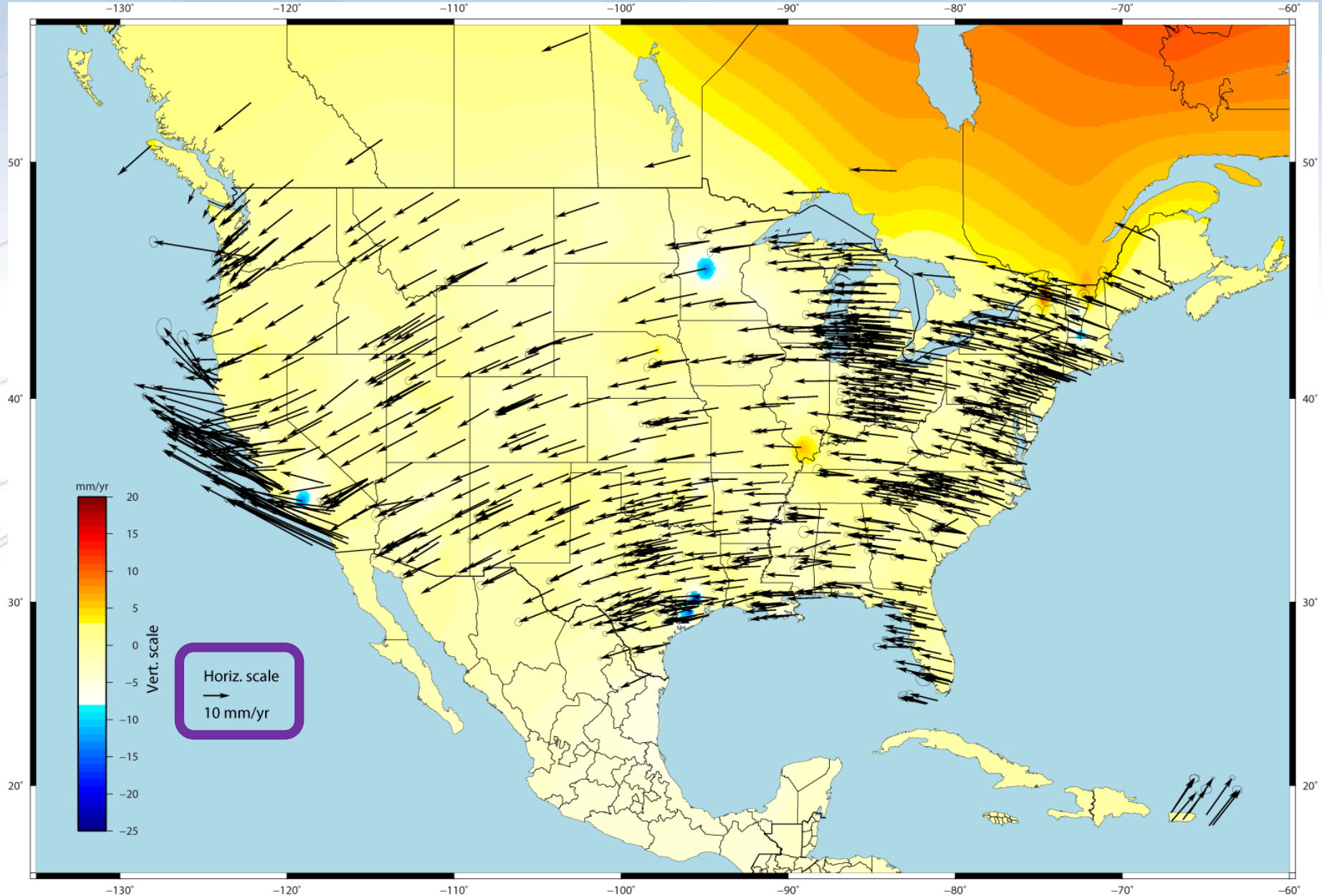
long-term

MDO1 in US-TX: Daily minus Published IGS08 Position

|        | Mean | STD  | RMS  |  | Mean   | STD  | RMS  |      | Mean | STD    | RMS   |      |      |
|--------|------|------|------|--|--------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|------|------|
| N [cm] | 0.81 | 0.19 | 0.83 |  | E [cm] | 0.13 | 0.23 | 0.27 |      | U [cm] | -0.70 | 0.61 | 0.93 |



# CORS Velocity Field – ITRF2008 (IGS08 epoch 2005.0)



# National Geodetic Survey Ten-Year Strategic Plan

- ❖ By 2022, reduce all definitional & access-related errors in geometric reference frame to 1 cm when using 15 min of GNSS data

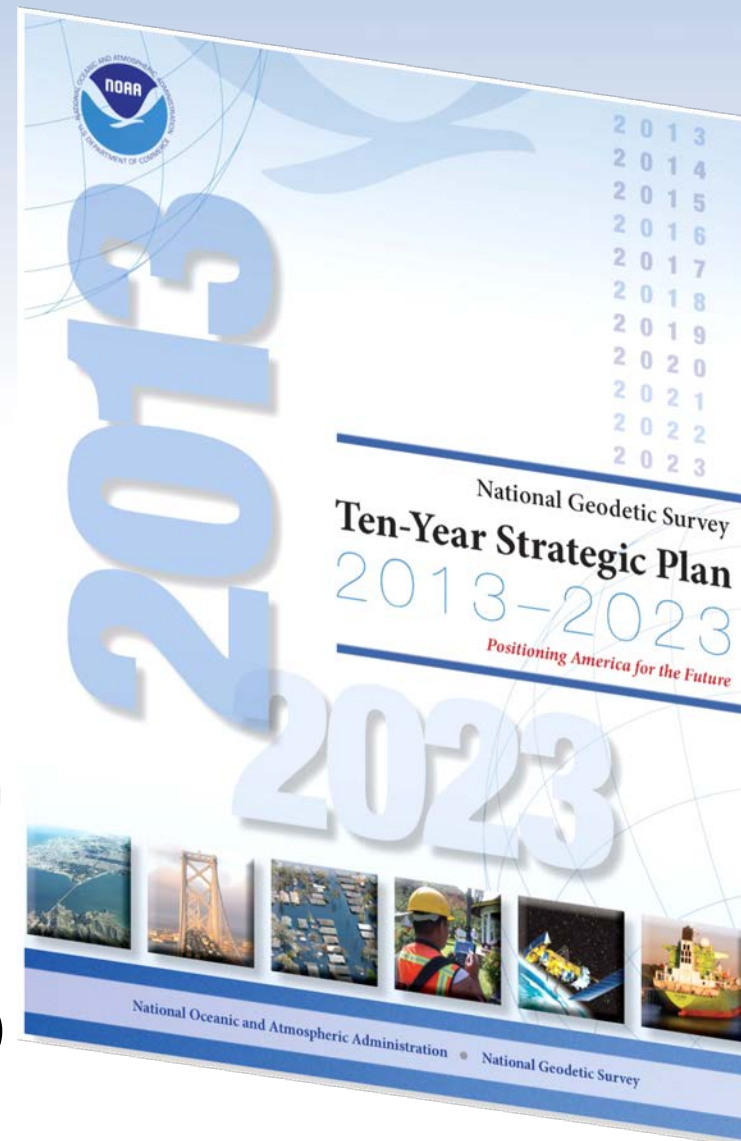
## **“Replace NAD83”**

*(NAD83 = North American Datum 1983)*

- ❖ By 2022, reduce all definitional & access-related errors in orthometric heights in geopotential datum to 2 cm when using 15 min of GNSS data

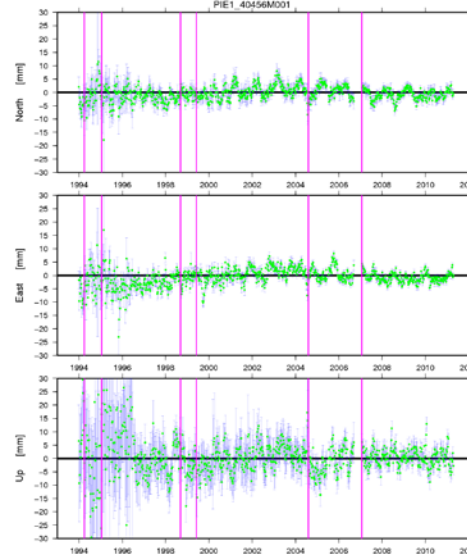
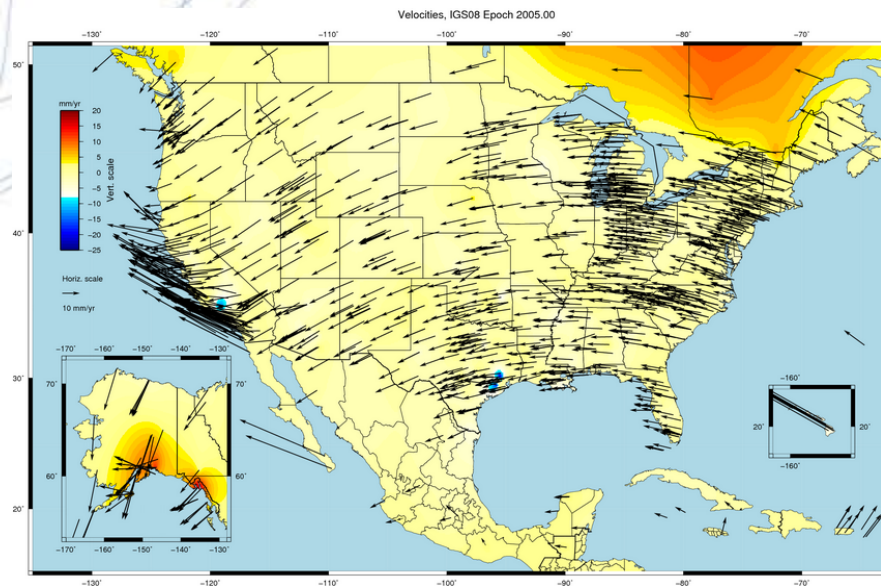
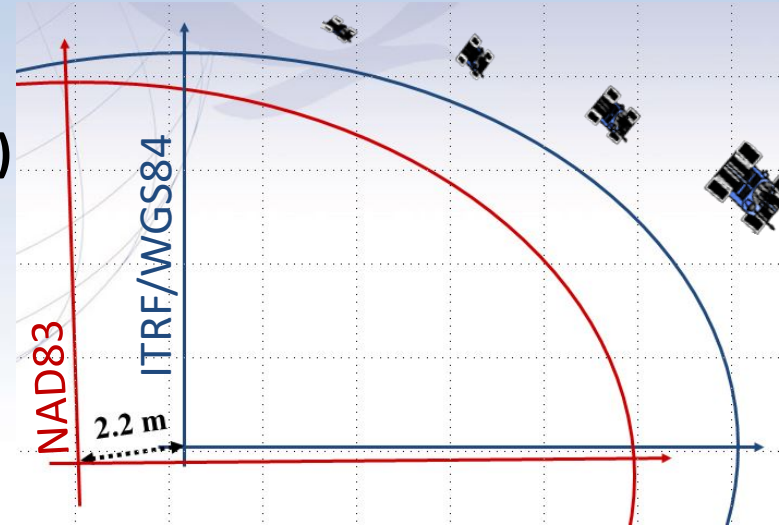
## **“Replace NAVD88”**

*(NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum 1988)*

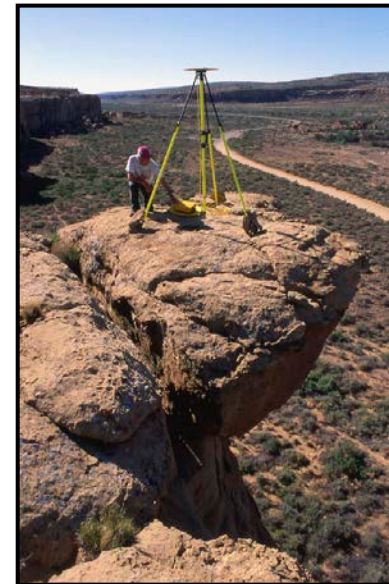


# NAD83 Shortcomings

- 2.2 m offset – NAD83 vs.
  - International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) [~ International GNSS Service (IGS)]
  - World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84)
- CORS <> passive network “disconnect”



VS.



# Future Geometric (3-D) Reference Frames

- replace NAD83 with new geometric reference frames – by 2022
- CORS-based, accessed via GNSS observations
- coordinates & velocities in global & new US reference frames
- passive control tied to new reference frame
- transformation tool will relate historical <> new US reference frames  
(NADCON 5.0)

# Introducing...

## North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022 (NATRF2022)

(& Pacific / Mariana / Caribbean Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022)  
(PATRF2022 / MATRF2022 / CATRF2022)

- 4 (essentially) tectonic-plate-fixed reference frames
- identical to IGSXX \*reference frame at TBD epoch (2022.0?)
- over time, will relate to IGSXX frame via Euler Pole Rotation
- CORS velocities deviating from rigid-plate (Euler) rotation will be captured in 3-D velocity model (a secondary product to transform to fixed epoch)

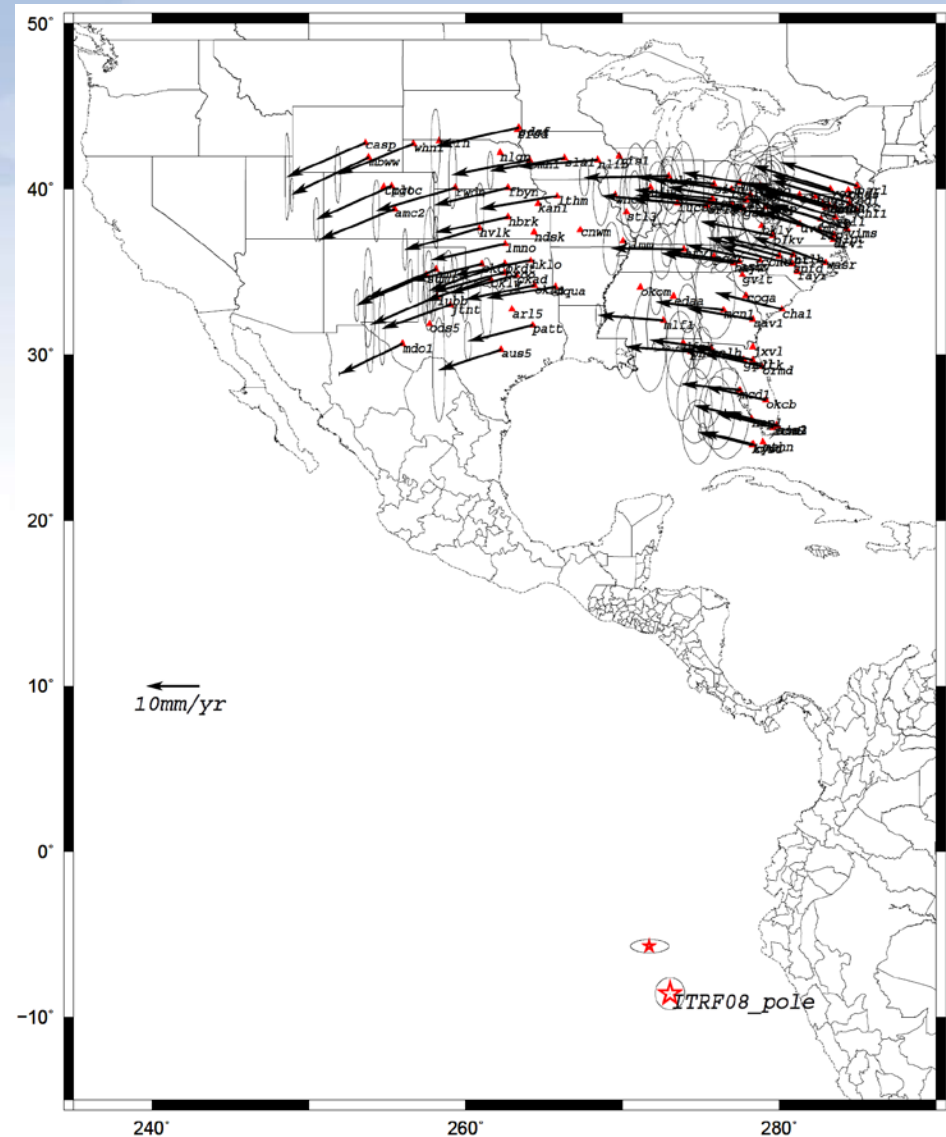
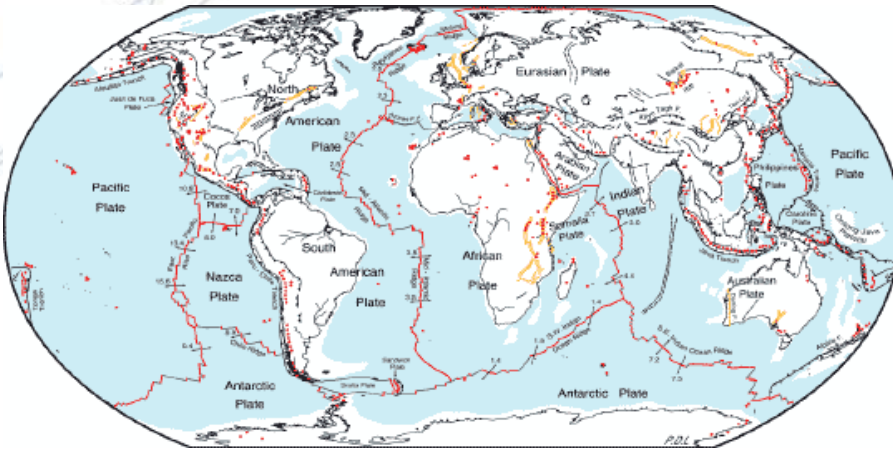
[e.g. IGS14 = International GNSS Service 2014]

# Euler Pole

Each reference frame will get:

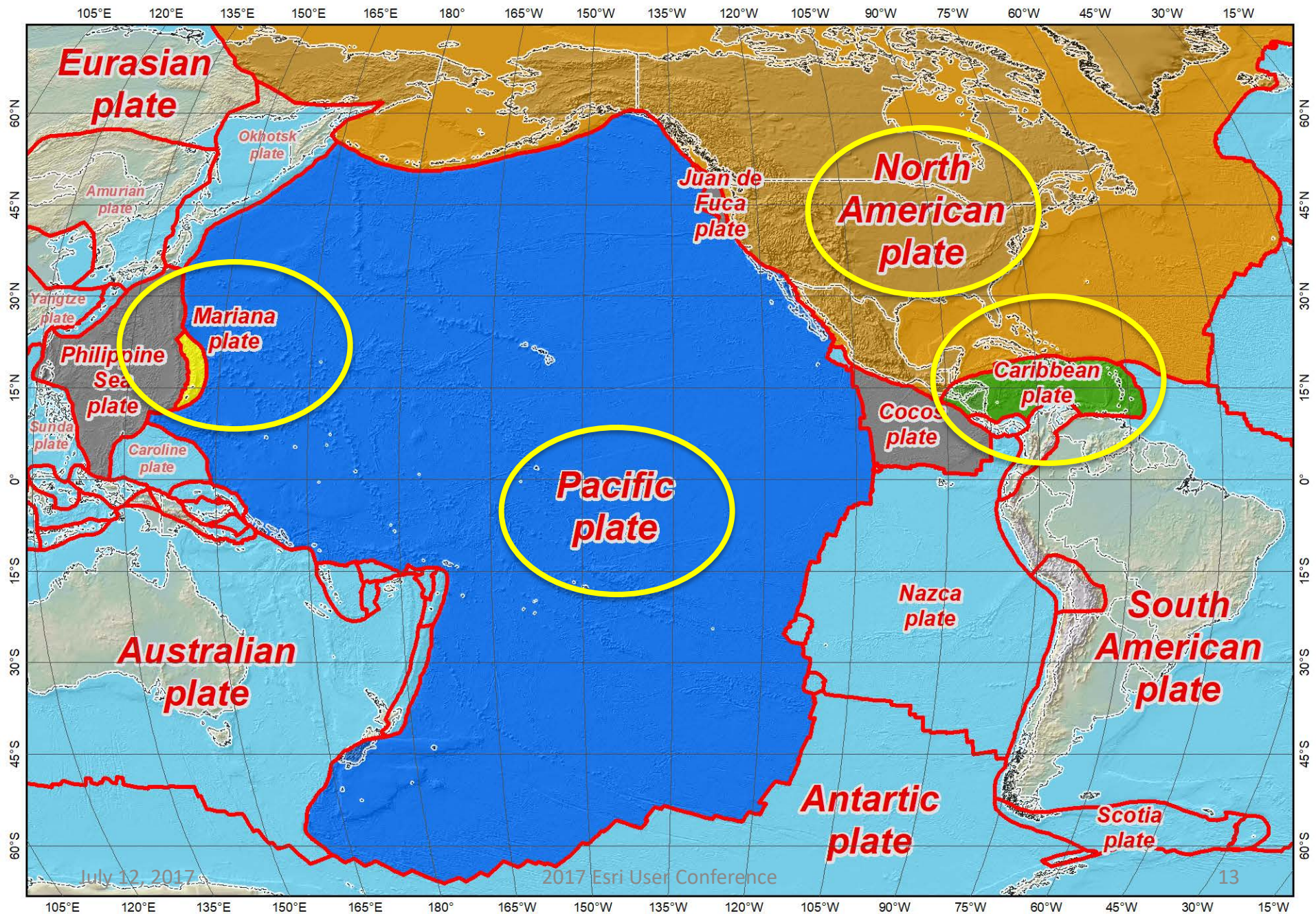
- Euler Pole Latitude/Longitude
- Rotation rate (radians/year)

Used to compute time-dependent TRF2022 coordinates from time-dependent global (IGS) coordinates



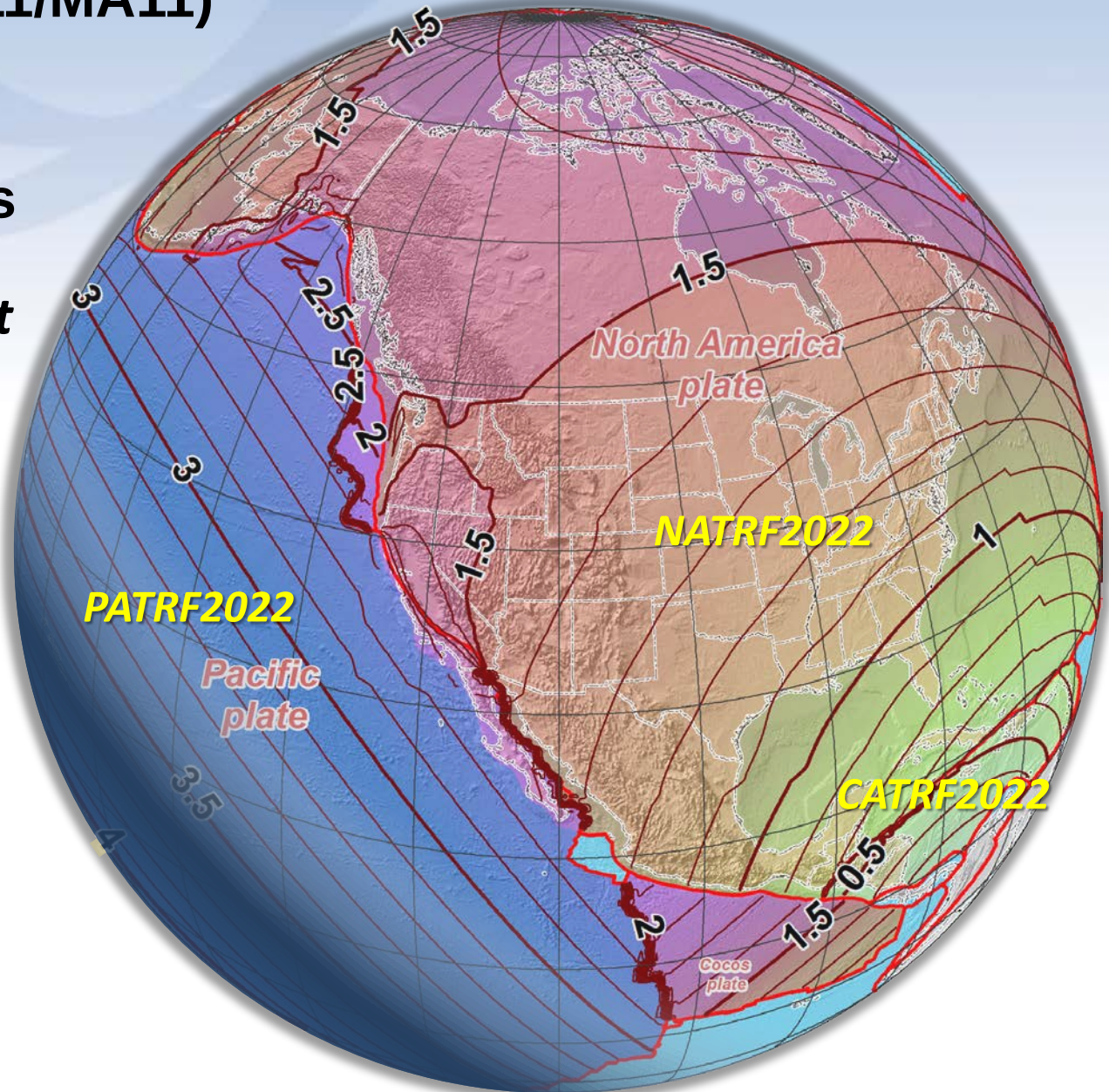
Euler's fixed point theorem states: any motion of a rigid body on the surface of a sphere may be represented as a rotation about an appropriately chosen rotation pole ("Euler Pole")

# The four tectonic plates “fixed” for the 2022 terrestrial reference frames



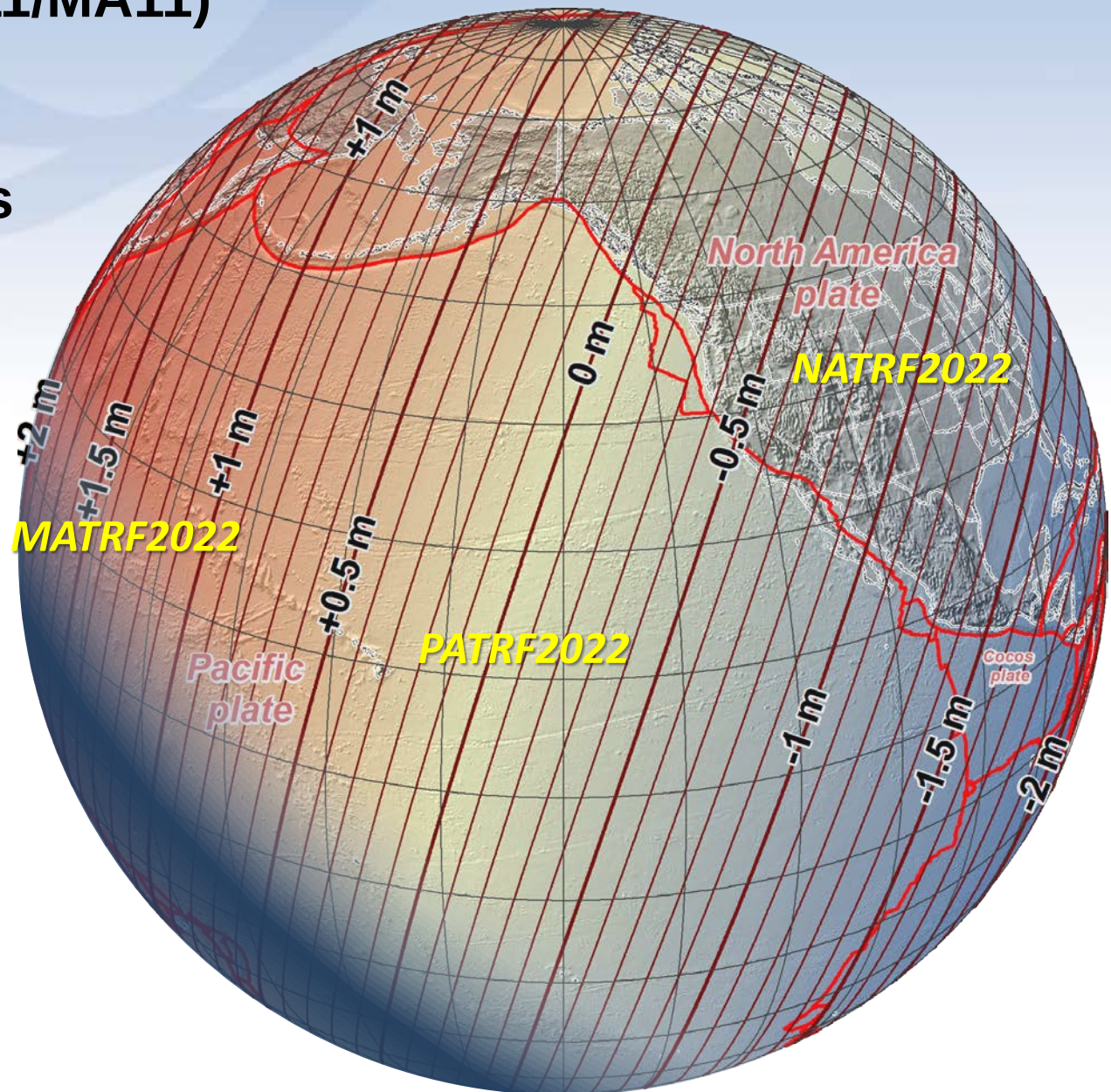
# NAD 83 (2011/PA11/MA11) epoch 2010.00 → 2022 Terrestrial Reference Frames

*Horizontal change at  
epoch 2022.00  
(contours in meters)*

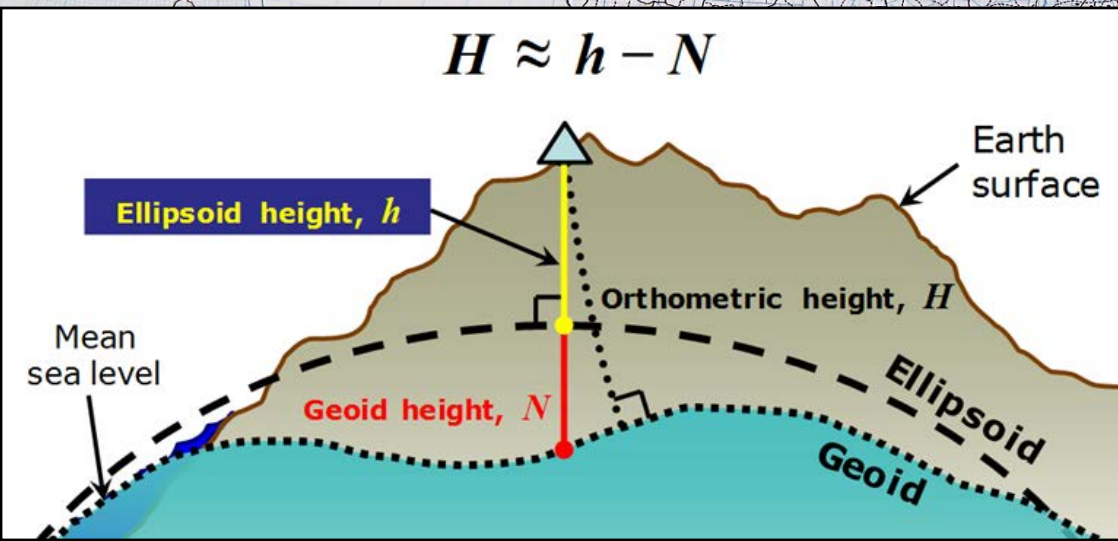
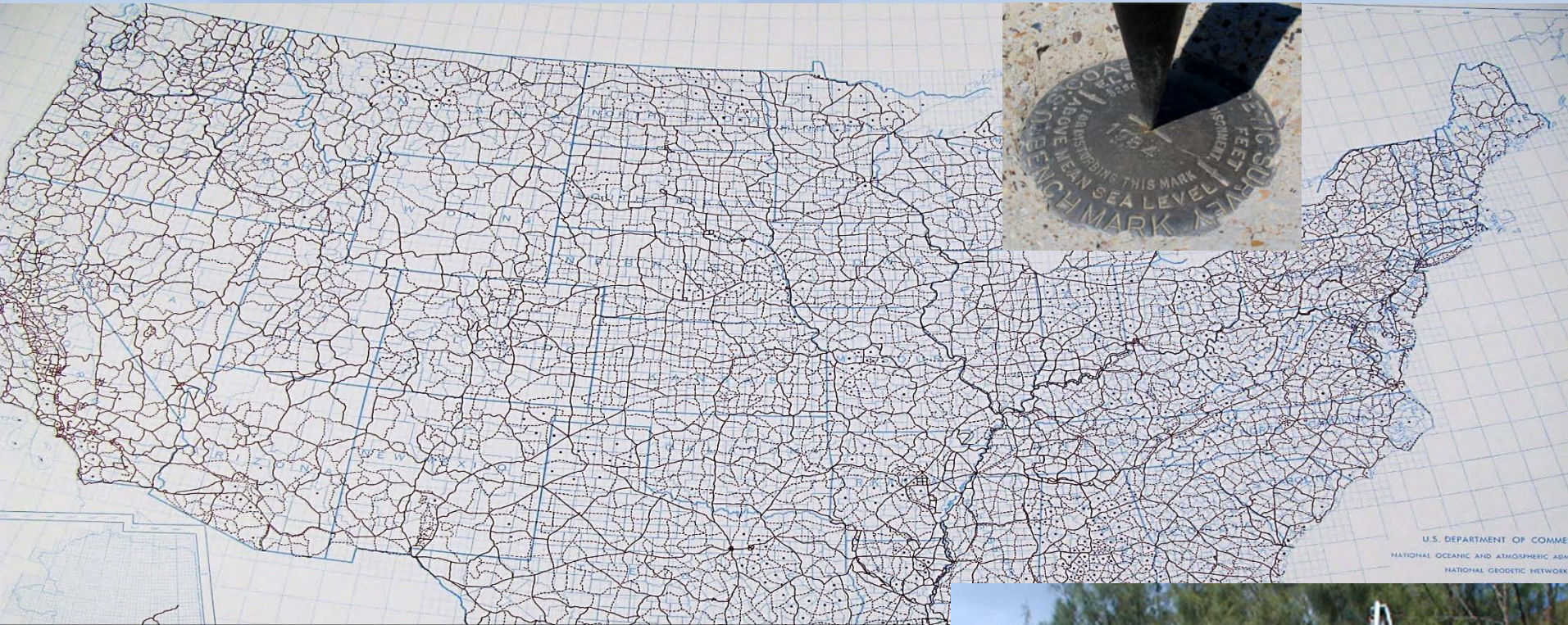


# NAD 83 (2011/PA11/MA11) epoch 2010.00 → 2022 Terrestrial Reference Frames

*Change in ellipsoid  
heights at epoch  
2022.00  
(contours in meters)*

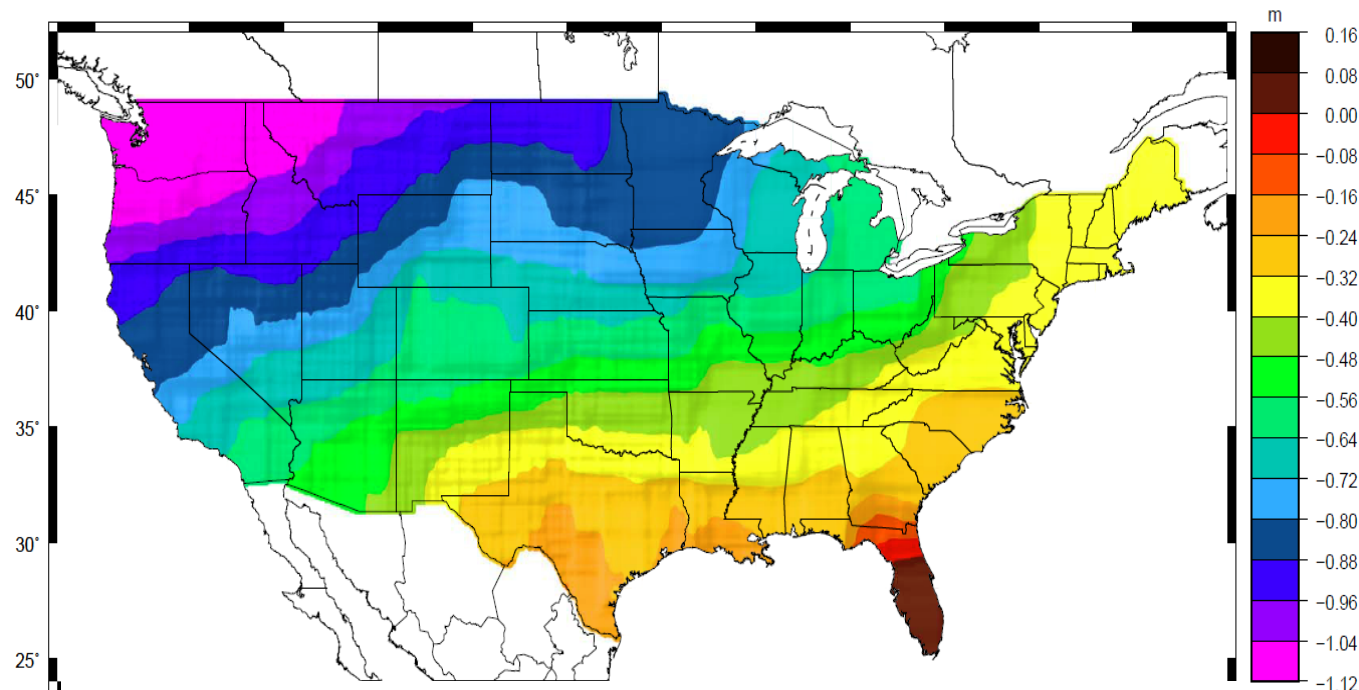


# NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM 1988 (NAVD88)



# North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD88) Shortcomings

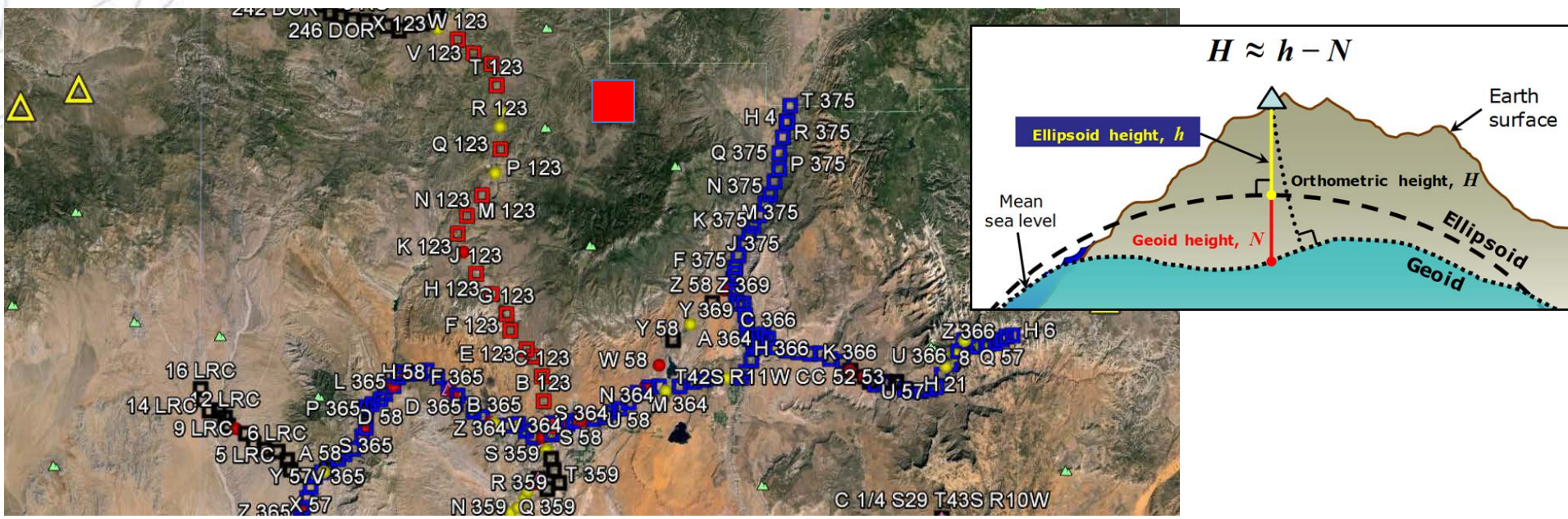
- o Cross-country errors (1-m tilt)
- o 0.5 m bias in reference surface vs. global mean sea level
- o Subsidence, uplift, freeze/thaw invalidate BM elevations
- o LIMITED AVAILABILITY / ACCESS



Approximate Geoid Mismatch in the NAVD88 H=0 surface



- replace NAVD88, etc. – by 2022
- accessed by GNSS & gravimetric geoid
- monitor time-varying nature of gravity field
- most accurate continental gravimetric geoid model ever built: 1 cm (goal)



# Current Vertical Datums / Models

Orthometric  
Heights

NAVD 88

PRVD 02

VI

Normal  
Orthometric  
Heights

ASVD 02

NAVVD 03

GUVVD 04

Dynamic  
Heights  
Gravity

IGLD 85

IGSN71

Geoid Heights

GEOID12B

Deflections of  
the Vertical

DEFLEC12B

one vertical datum  
pole-to-equator



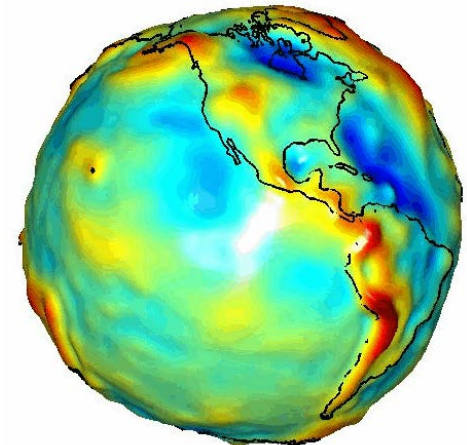
# Introducing...

## North American-Pacific Geopotential Datum of 2022 (NAPGD2022)

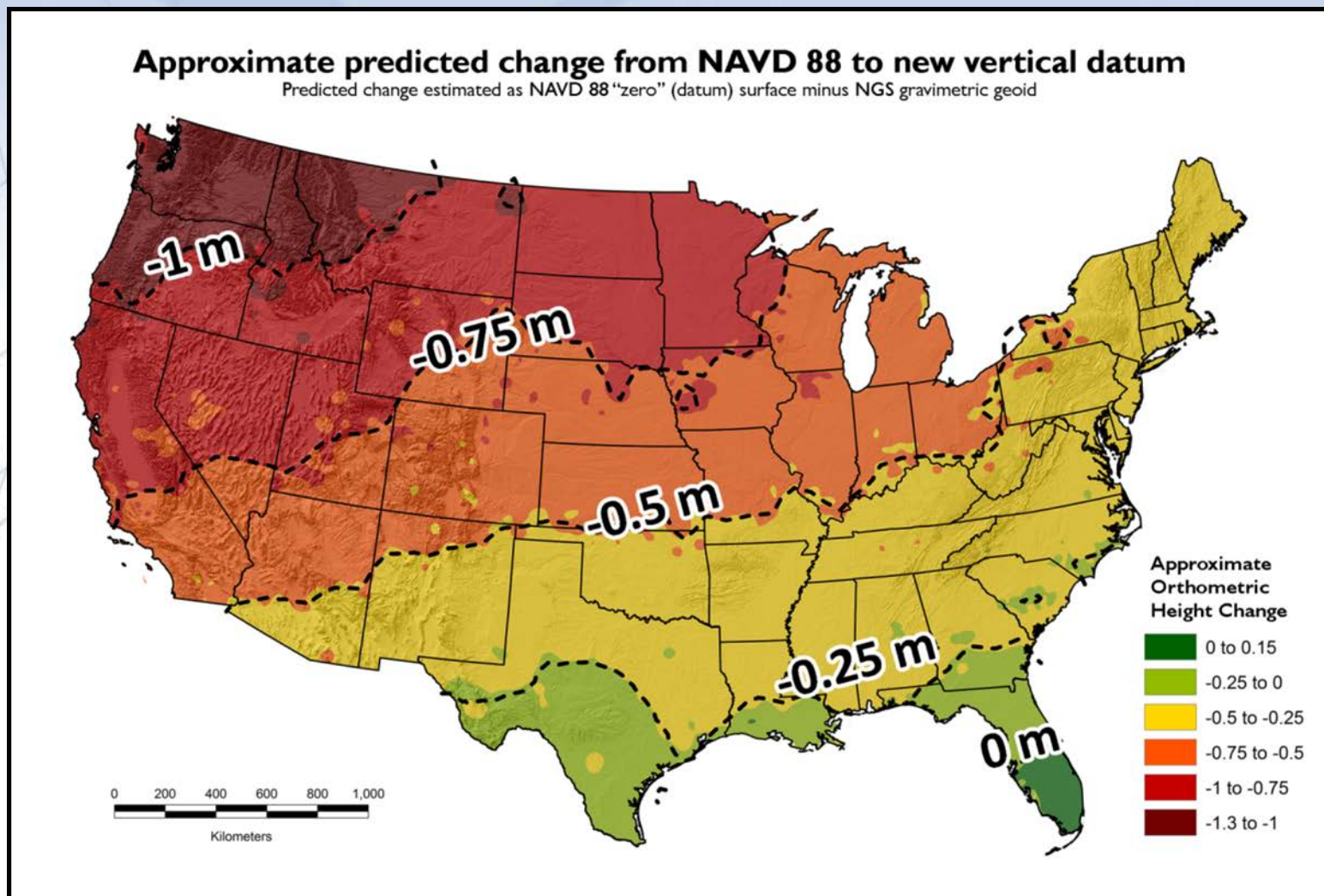
### &

## GEOID2022 (gravimetric geoid)

- NAPGD2022 will contain information for:
  - Orthometric heights
  - Geoid undulations
  - Gravity anomalies
  - Deflections of the vertical
  - & other gravity field information
- GEOID2022 will be time-dependent

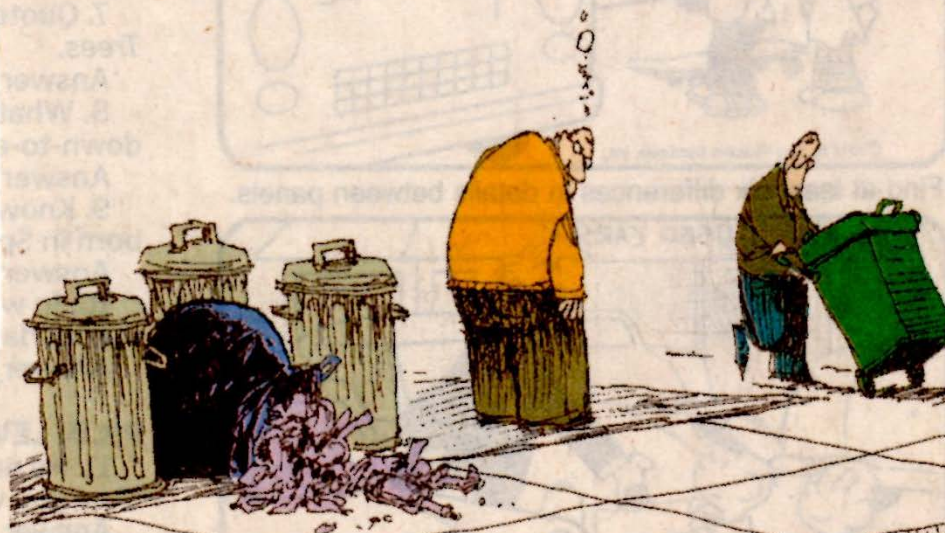


# Predicted Change – NAVD88 to NAPGD2022



## NON SEQUITUR

REAL LIFE PHYSICS  
TODAY'S LESSON: GRAVITY

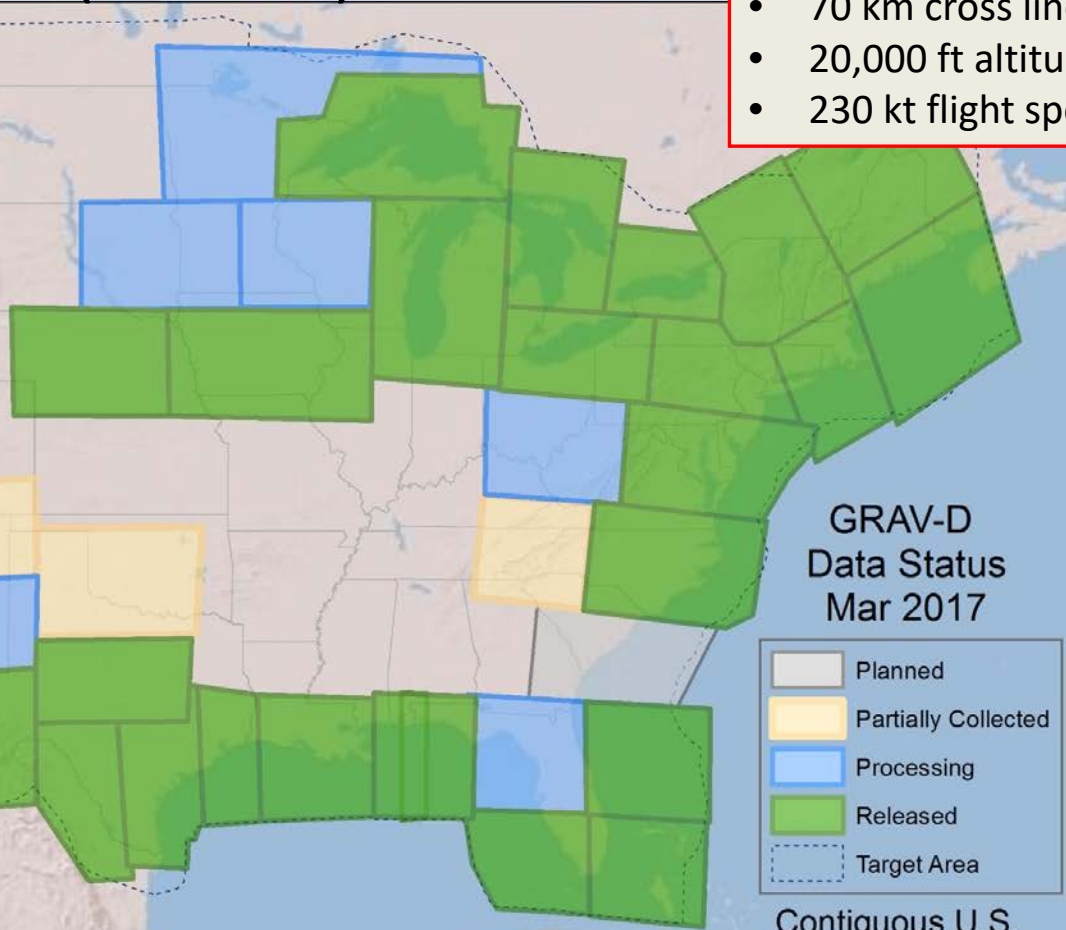


NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU TURN A  
TRASH BAG TO PREVENT IT FROM FALLING  
OVER, YOU'LL BE WRONG

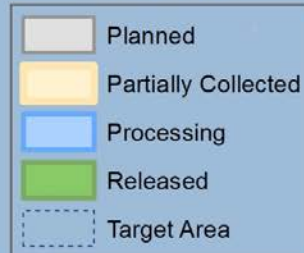


# Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D)

- 10 km data lines
- 70 km cross lines
- 20,000 ft altitude
- 230 kt flight speed



GRAV-D  
Data Status  
Mar 2017



Contiguous U.S.  
and Puerto Rico



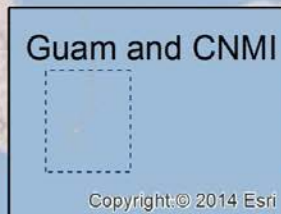
Alaska

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Hawaii

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Guam and CNMI

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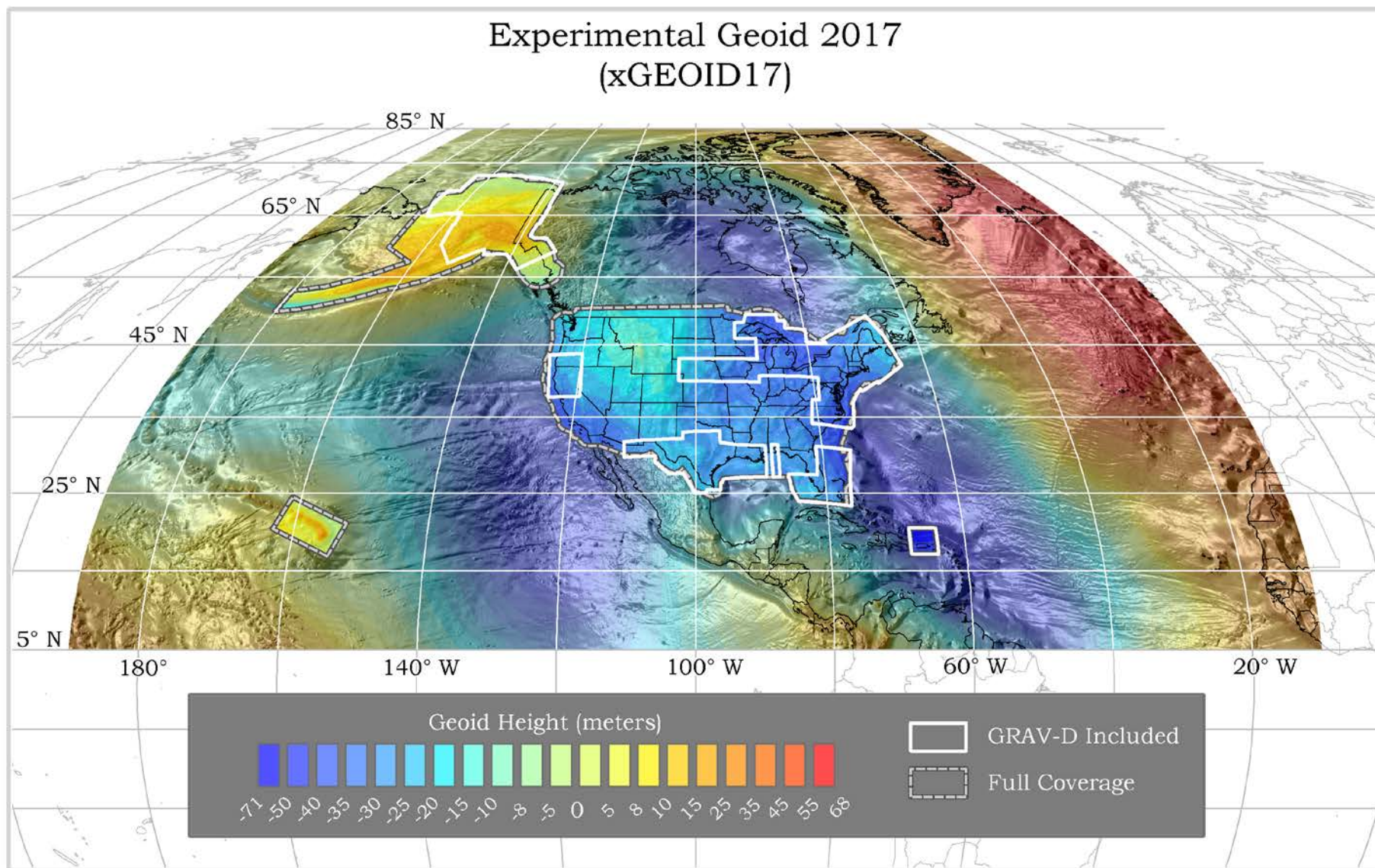


American Samoa

Copyright:© 2014 Esri

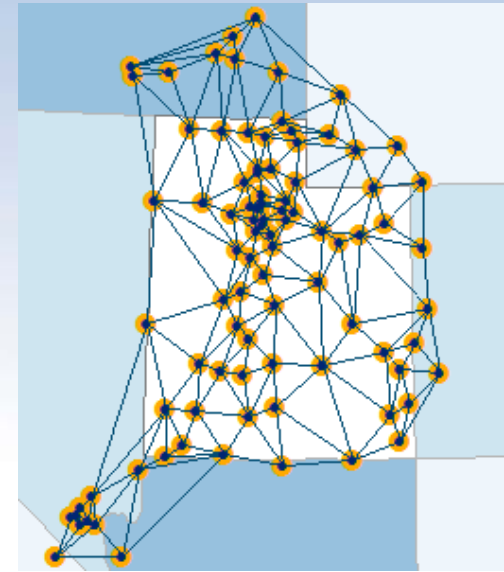
2017-Q2:  
62% complete

# Annual Experimental Geoids



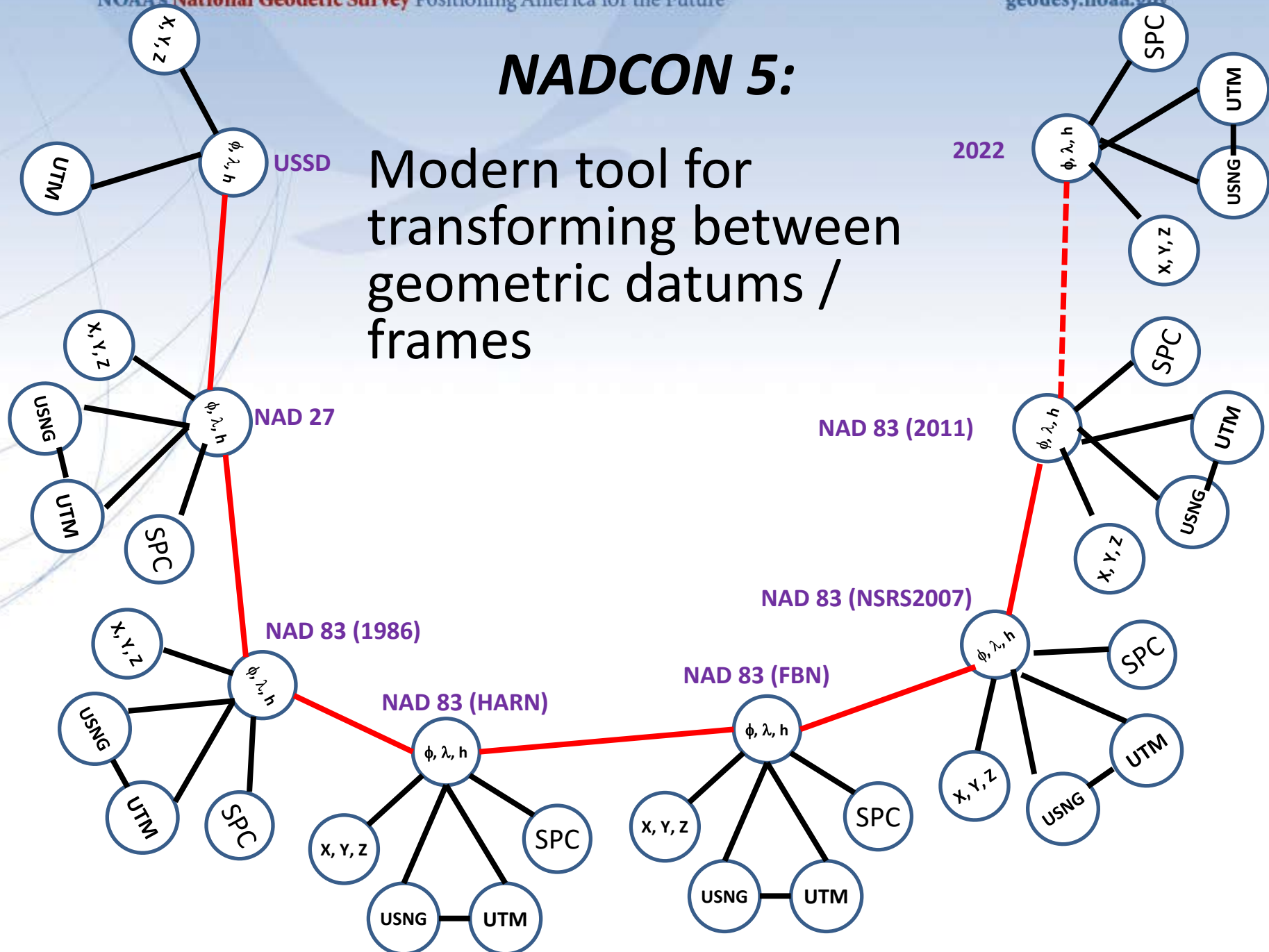
# How to Plan for 2022

- **Move to NAD 83(2011) epoch 2010.00**
  - via surveys (or *possibly* via NADCON)
- **Move to NAVD 88**
  - via surveys (or *possibly* via VERTCON)
- **Move from reliance on passive marks to GNSS infrastructure**
  - utilize CORS, OPUS, real-time networks, etc.
- **Use OPUS-Share/Database for GPSBMs & NAD83(2011) ties**
  - improve next geoid model & relationship with new datum
- **METADATA!!!!**



# NADCON 5:

Modern tool for transforming between geometric datums / frames



geodesy.noaa.gov



## National Geodetic Survey

Positioning America for the Future

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Coming  
in 2022:

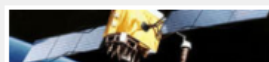
**New  
Datums!**

[Learn more..](#)

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) provides the framework for all positioning activities in the Nation. The foundational elements of latitude, longitude, elevation, shoreline information impact a wide range of important activities.

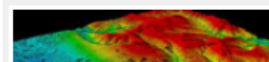
Learn more about:

- [Data and tools we provide](#)
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- [Applications of geodesy](#)



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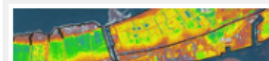
### Geodesy

NGS works closely with the global researchers advancing geodetic science.

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### Training & Education

Classes and educational resources on scientific topics relating to geodesy.

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### Datums & Transformations

NGS defines datums to help align data and tools to transform coordinates.

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## Looking for Bench Marks?

### Notices

**Beta Release:**  
[NADCON 5](#)

**Beta Release:** [CORS](#)  
& [OPUS Share Maps](#)

[Previous Notices](#)

### In the News

**06/22/2017** - NGS  
Recognized at Boulder,  
CO, Public Art  
Dedication

**06/15/2017** -  
'Foundations of Global  
Navigation Satellite  
Systems' Online  
Lesson

**06/08/2017** - New Tool  
for Easy, Consistent  
Coordinate  
Transformations

**06/01/2017** - NGS  
Participates in the  
International  
Federation of  
Surveyors Conference  
in Helsinki, Finland

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# National Geodetic Survey

Positioning America for the Future

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## New Datums

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## Events

[2017 Summit](#)[2015 Summit](#)[2010 Summit](#)

## New Datums: Replacing NAVD 88 and NAD 83

NAD 83 and NAVD 88 will be replaced in 2022, and there are many related projects to make sure the transition goes smoothly. Read the **NGS Ten-Year Plan** to learn more and continue to visit this web-page for more information.

[What to Expect](#)[Get Prepared](#)[Track our Progress](#)[Naming Convention](#)[Watch Videos](#)[Related Projects](#)

## Why is NGS replacing NAD 83 and NAVD 88?

NAD 83 and NAVD 88, although still the official horizontal and vertical datums of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), have been identified as having shortcomings that are best addressed through defining new horizontal and vertical datums.



**NGS  
2017  
Geospatial  
Summit**

**April 24-25**



<https://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/>



Issue 8, July 2017

# NSRS Modernization News

For all issues of **NSRS Modernization News**, visit:  
[geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml](http://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml)

## Acronyms

We have received substantial stakeholder requests to change the official acronyms of the new terrestrial reference frames, originally announced in January 2017 as NATRF2022, PTRF2022, MTRF2022 and CTRF2022. The requests focused primarily on easier pronunciation and consistent character length. After careful consideration, and in agreement with the Canadian Geodetic Survey, we are pleased to announce the official acronyms have been changed to:

### NATRF2022

North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

### PATRF2022

Pacific Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

### MATRF2022

Mariana Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

### CTRF2022

Caribbean Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022

## Blueprints

We are finalizing NOAA Technical Report NOS NGS 64, "Blueprint for 2022, Part 2: Geopotential Coordinates," for an August 2017 release. The document describes the year 2022 replacement of all vertical datums and other NSRS geopotential quantities. It will serve as a companion document to NOAA Technical Report NOS NGS 62, "Blueprint for 2022, Part 1: Geometric Coordinates," released in March of this year. Work has begun on Part 3 to address the re-invention of Bluebooking.

## New Projects

We continue to initiate new projects for completion prior to 2022 as part of the rollout of the modernized NSRS. Details on the four latest projects are below.

## Euler Poles

**Project Manager:** Dr. Daniel Roman

To determine the Euler Pole Parameters that define the angular rotation, relative to the IGS frame, of the four tectonic plates associated with each of the four 2022 NSRS terrestrial reference frames.

## Scoping study for Intra-frame Velocity Models

**Project Manager:** Dr. Daniel Roman

This one-year effort will investigate how various methods may be used to provide Intra-frame Velocity Models for each terrestrial reference frame. The goal is to determine a recommended way forward by addressing accuracy needs, methodologies, capabilities, and budget.

## VERTCON 3

**Project Manager:** Dr. Dru Smith

To improve and replace VERTCON 2.1 and DYN\_HT, as well as to prepare for the roll-out of the **North American-Pacific Geopotential Datum of 2022 (NAPGD2022)**.

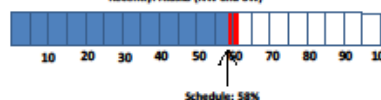
## Comprehensive Toolkit Improvements

**Project Manager:** Dr. Dru Smith

A five-year effort to overhaul the entire Geodetic Toolkit, improving, replacing, and (where possible) integrating all code into more modern tools, and focusing on improved customer interaction and the removal of duplicate functions residing in multiple tools.

**GRAV-D progress last quarter: up 2.3% to 61.9%**  
**Ahead of Schedule!**

Recently: Alaska (NW and SW)





## NOAA Technical Report NOS NGS 62

### Blueprint for 2022, Part 1: Geometric Coordinates

and ... coming soon:

## Blueprint for 2022, Part 2: Geopotential Coordinates

$$[\widetilde{R}_2^a]^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha & 0 \\ -\alpha & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha & 0 \\ -\alpha & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = (I + A) \quad (39)$$

Where the tilde is used to indicate "approximation". The reason for splitting the matrix into  $I$  and  $A$  components will be obvious soon.

Applying equation 39 to 35:

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}^{-1} &= [R_1^{\lambda_0}]^{-1} [R_2^{\theta_0}]^{-1} [\widetilde{R}_2^a]^{-1} R_2^{\theta_0} R_1^{\lambda_0} = [R_1^{\lambda_0}]^{-1} [R_2^{\theta_0}]^{-1} (I + A) R_2^{\theta_0} R_1^{\lambda_0} \\ &= [R_1^{\lambda_0}]^{-1} [R_2^{\theta_0}]^{-1} (I) R_2^{\theta_0} R_1^{\lambda_0} + [R_1^{\lambda_0}]^{-1} [R_2^{\theta_0}]^{-1} (A) R_2^{\theta_0} R_1^{\lambda_0} \\ &= I + \alpha(t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cos\theta_0 & -\sin\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \\ -\cos\theta_0 & 0 & \cos\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \\ \sin\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 & -\cos\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (40) \end{aligned}$$

See now that by splitting into  $I$  and  $A$ , the  $I$  portion of the equation collapses into another  $I$ , while the  $A$  component collapses into a simple skew symmetric matrix.

Acknowledging that the effect of the total rotation,  $\alpha(t)$  must be split into rotations among the three axes of the ideal frame, and since  $\alpha(t)$  is "small", it can be concluded that the axial rotations must also be small. Thus, matrix  $R_{ZYX}$  reduces to:

$$\widetilde{R}_{ZYX} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \omega_Z & -\omega_Y \\ -\omega_Z & 1 & \omega_X \\ \omega_Y & -\omega_X & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (41)$$

Now equate the approximations of  $M^{-1}$  and  $R_{ZYX}$  to one another (applying equations 39 and 40 to equation 34):

$$I + \alpha(t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cos\theta_0 & -\sin\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \\ -\cos\theta_0 & 0 & \cos\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \\ \sin\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 & -\cos\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \omega_Z & -\omega_Y \\ -\omega_Z & 1 & \omega_X \\ \omega_Y & -\omega_X & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (42)$$

Equation 42 allows for an easy solution to the three axial rotations in terms of the Euler Pole's location and angular velocity:

$$\omega_X = \alpha(t) \cos\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \quad (43)$$

$$\omega_Y = \alpha(t) \sin\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \quad (44)$$

$$\omega_Z = \alpha(t) \cos\theta_0 \quad (45)$$

Recall, however, that the  $\omega_X$ ,  $\omega_Y$  and  $\omega_Z$  values are time-dependent (see equation 27). Applying equation 27 and also applying the expansion of  $\alpha(t)$  into its components, yields:

$$\omega_X(t_0) + (\Delta t)\dot{\omega}_X = [\dot{\omega}_0 \Delta t] \cos\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \quad (46)$$

$$\omega_Y(t_0) + (\Delta t)\dot{\omega}_Y = [\dot{\omega}_0 \Delta t] \sin\lambda_0 \sin\theta_0 \quad (47)$$

$$\omega_Z(t_0) + (\Delta t)\dot{\omega}_Z = [\dot{\omega}_0 \Delta t] \cos\theta_0 \quad (48)$$

# National Geodetic Survey – Regional Geodetic Advisors

