

Randall E. Flynn

Biographical Sketch

Mr. Flynn serves as the Geographer of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, a position he assumed in 1993.

Mr. Flynn holds the degrees of Master of Arts (1977) and Bachelor of Arts (1975) in Slavic Languages and Literature from the University of Virginia, and has also studied at Indiana University and as an exchange student at Leningrad State University (now Saint Petersburg State University, Russia). Through the Defense Mapping Agency's Long-Term Full-Time Training Program, he participated in the graduate-level program in Geodetic Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, with a concentration in estimation theory (1985).

Mr. Flynn joined the Defense Mapping Agency in 1979 as a geographic names and boundary analyst and has since served in numerous capacities at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and its predecessor organizations. From 1993 until 2005 he also served as the Executive Secretary for Foreign Names with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. In 2005 he was appointed the principal Department of Defense member to the Board.

He has lectured on geographic names database design and national names standardization at the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping in Beijing, China, the Main Administration for Geodesy, Cartography, and Cadastre in Kiev, Ukraine, the National Land Board in Riga, Latvia, and other national and international venues. He is a U.S. delegate to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), and is the UNGEGN liaison with the International Hydrographic Organization. Within UNGEGN, he has served as the convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers. He has been an instructor in the annual PAIGH course on applied toponymy, having taught courses on geographic names in Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru. He is a member of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Subcommittee on International Boundary and Sovereignty Data.

Mr. Flynn resides in Oakton, Virginia.