

Report Title

Visit to NGA Headquarter on September 11, 2015

ABSTRACT

On Friday, September 11, 2015, Professor Jerry Dobson and Graduate Research Assistant Taylor Tappan visited NGA headquarters in Springfield Virginia. Col. (Ret.) Dean Bland organized the session which was well attended by administrators and analysts in Human Geography. Doug Batson, a long term intellectual leader in NGA's Human Geography programs was present in person. Brian Hagan, NGA's national geospatial intelligence officer for geography and cartography teleconferenced with us from his office in St. Louis for the entire presentation and discussion afterward. He listened intently and spoke glowing praise afterward. He complimented Professor Dobson for his long term efforts through the American Geographical Society (especially Bowman Expeditions) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (where Dobson worked for 26 years before moving to the University of Kansas).

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Due to pure coincidence, we were there on 9/11 and happened to walk into the awesome main concourse just as Robert Cardillo led the tribute and salute, and we happened to be standing a little in front and beneath him. It was a highly moving experience.

Dobson and Professor Peter Herlihy first met Dean Bland when visited KU back when he was a colonel at AFRICOM. When Dobson was at State, he and Lee Schwartz visited Bland in Stuttgart. Dobson and Bland regularly meet at the Minerva annual meeting, and those discussions led to this opportunity.