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## Case study: Collateral damage mapping

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## Case study: Collateral damage mapping

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### Case (for presentation to students)

A GISP working for a national security agency is tasked to create an analysis that delineates expected civilian casualties associated with a missile attack on the suspected urban headquarters of an alleged insurgent leader in a foreign country. Some of this research involves use of data from a variety of sources including analysis of the country's medical capacities.

### References

#### Print

Smith, N. (1992). History and philosophy of geography: real wars, theory wars. *Progress in Human Geography*, 16(2), 257-271.

Clark, M. J. (1998). GIS--democracy or delusion? *Environment and Planning A*, 30(2), 303-316.

#### Web

American Anthropological Association Code of Ethics  
<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>

Association of American Geographers Statement on Professional Ethics  
<http://www.aag.org/Publications/Other%20Pubs/Statement%20on%20Professional%20Ethics.pdf>

## Resources for teachers

### Suggested discussion points

1. How should the GISP present any personal or agency moral concerns? Who should they be presented to?
2. Does preparation of the analysis mean the GISP can separate her personal moral concerns?
3. How should scientific organization guidance on work for national defense be used to inform a moral decision, even if it is against agency policy?
4. Can the breaking down of the task into independent components (compartmentalization) be sufficient to address personal moral concerns of involved staff?

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