How To Obtain Aerial Photographs

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains an informational data base of aerial photographic coverage of the United States and its territories that dates back to the 1940’s.

This information describes photographic projects from the USGS, other Federal, State, and local government agencies, and commercial firms.

In this part of the original 9 x 9 inch photograph, at a scale of 1:40,000,1 inch on the photograph represents 3333 feet on the ground. The original photograph is from NAPPW Roll 6860, Frame 59.

In this 2X (18 x 18 inch) enlargement of the same photograph, at a scale of 1:20,000, 1 inch on the photograph represents 1666 feet on the ground.

In this 4X (36 x 36 inch) enlargement of the same photograph, at a scale of 1:10,000, 1 inch on the photograph represents 833 feet on the ground.

The pictures on this page show a part of a standard 9- by 9-inch photograph and the results obtained by enlarging the original photograph two and four times. Compare the size of the Qualcomm Stadium, Jack Murphy Field, in San Diego, Calif, and the adjacent parking lot and freeways shown at the different scales.

USGS Earth Science Information Center (ESIC) representatives will assist you in locating and ordering photographs. Please submit the completed checklist and a marked map showing your area of interest to any ESIC.

Information

For information on these and other USGS products and services, call 1-888-ASK-USGS, use the Ask.USGS fax-on-demand system, which is available 24 hours a day at 703-648-4888, or visit the general interest publications Web site on mapping, geography, and related topics at http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/products/mappubs.html.

Please visit the USGS home page at http://www.usgs.gov/.
# Checklist for Obtaining Aerial Photographs

1. If you know the project, roll, and frame number of the photographs you want, contact your nearest ESIC for ordering assistance.

2. If you do not know the precise aerial photograph you need, complete this form and return it with your **marked map showing your area of interest**, to any ESIC. A researcher will provide information about available photographs that match your requirements. Please include your daytime telephone number. If you have any questions, call 1-888-ASK-USGS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (first, middle initial, last)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company or agency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State, and ZIP code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific area to be shown** (enclose a detailed marked map)

- State:  
- County:  
- Town:  
- USGS quadrangle map name (if known):  
- Township, range, and section (if known):  
- Latitude and longitude (if known):  
- Specific feature (crossroads, neighborhood, or farm) you want to see:  

**Please describe your intended use** (to assist the researcher):

- Film type
  - Black and white
  - Color infrared
  - Color (limited availability)
  - No preference
  
  Most aerial photographs on record were taken with black-and-white film. Color-infrared photographs are available for the entire country. For detailed information about color infrared, refer to the publication “Understanding Color-Infrared Photographs” available free from any ESIC.

- Date of photograph
  - Most recent
  - Oldest
  
  Specific year or range of years:  
  Season of year, if you have a preference:  

**Comments:**  

-  
-  
-