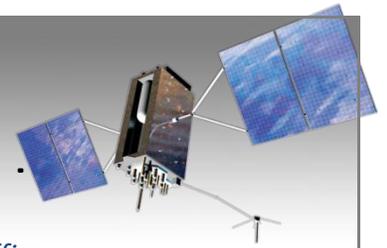


GPS

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Information for Policymakers from the National Coordination Office
for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)



November 2013

Amendment Proposes to Limit Foreign Satellite Navigation Stations in the U.S.

On November 19, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) filed an amendment (No. 2185) to the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1197) that would limit the construction of satellite positioning ground monitoring stations controlled by any foreign government on U.S. soil. Such construction would require certification by the Defense Secretary and Director of National Intelligence that the stations could not be used to gather intelligence or improve foreign weapons systems. A vote on this matter could occur at any moment.

GAO Recommends Increased Coordination and Risk Assessment of GPS Disruptions

On November 6, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its report reviewing the effects of GPS disruptions on the nation's critical infrastructure. The GAO concluded that efforts to assess risks to critical infrastructure and to coordinate agency actions should be enhanced.

The report recommends DHS improve its GPS risk assessment approach and establish a plan to measure effectiveness of mitigation efforts specific to critical infrastructure resilience. The report also encourages DOT and DHS to collaborate and better define their respective roles and responsibilities in this area under the U.S. Space-Based PNT Policy. GAO conducted this review at the request of Senator Susan Collins (R-ME). The full report is available online at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-15>.

GAO Delivers Independent Assessment of Air Force Report on Lower-Cost GPS Solutions

In a separate report released September 9, the GAO assessed the Air Force's April 2013 study of lower cost solutions for providing GPS capability. The GAO concluded that more information on key cost drivers and cost estimates, along with the engagement from the broader stakeholder community, would help guide future investment decisions. Those key cost drivers include dual launch capability, the development of smaller navigation satellites, and the nuclear detection capability. GAO also recommended the Air Force confirm the future size of the GPS constellation. Both reports were directed by Congress in the FY 2013 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 112-239). Read the GAO report at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-729>.

Court Says Warrant Needed for GPS Tracking of Suspects



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (Philadelphia) ruled on October 22 that law enforcement must have a warrant to use GPS-based vehicle trackers. This decision comes after the January 2012 Supreme Court ruling, which came to the same conclusion, but did not resolve the broader issue of whether the Fourth Amendment protects geolocation privacy rights. Learn more about relevant judicial rulings, proposed congressional legislation, and federal policies at <http://www.gps.gov/policy/privacy>.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING
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