

# **U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**

Hearing called by the Subcommittee on National  
Security and Foreign Affairs

“GPS: Can we Avoid a Gap in Service”

May 7, 2009

# Hearing Objective

- Review the findings of a GAO report that identifies challenges within GPS capabilities and timing and quality of planned upgrades. Also review history of GPS procurement and reliance across industries and government.

# Two Panels Called

## Panel 1

- Christina Chaplain, GAO
- Major General William McCasland, USAF
- Dr. Steve Huybrechts, Office of Asst. Secretary of Defense

## Panel 2

- Lt. General Larry James, USAF
- Karen Van Dyke, DOT
- Michael Swiek, US GPS Industry Council
- Chet Huber, OnStar

# My Testimony

## OnStar Scale

- 6 million subscribers
- Over 2,200 employees
- Monthly service delivery
  - 2,000 crash responses
  - 10,000 emergency events
  - 500 stolen vehicles now using slow down technology
  - 1 million turn-by-turn routes
  - 3.4 million diagnostic emails

# Three Recommendations

1. Address health of current constellation
2. Formally commit to preserve signal and backward compatibility for legacy applications with no loss of performance from current levels
3. Commit to maintaining the current PRN code as satellites are replaced in primary orbital slots

# Questions/Tone

- Concerned about cost over runs and schedule delays
- Growing awareness of importance of GPS to the private sector