

GPS Technology Briefing on April 28

From: The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords

Sent By: wyatt.king@mail.house.gov

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Briefing on the Importance of GPS to U.S. Civilian and Economic Infrastructures

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
121 Cannon House Office Building**

Dear Colleague:

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology is everywhere today, from dashboards and cockpits to Blackberries and iPhones. It has grown far beyond its military roots to become a critical element of our national economic infrastructure, supporting industries as diverse as transportation, telecommunications, construction, agribusiness, oil exploration, and logistical supply chain management. GPS is also integral to public safety, scientific research, environmental stewardship, and homeland security.

As dependence on GPS grows, so does the government's responsibility to sustain and upgrade the constellation of satellites at the heart of these activities. Who operates the GPS satellites? What's being done to modernize the system for the 21st Century? Where is this technology leading us? I invite you to get answers to these and other questions at a special presentation on Tuesday, April 28, at 11:00 a.m., in 121 CHOB. Speakers will include:

Mr. Michael Shaw, Director, National Coordination Office for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing, who will explain the national policy regarding GPS and its augmentations, along with the ongoing GPS modernization program;

Capt. Joseph Burns, United Airlines, who will address the importance of GPS to efficient and safe air traffic management; and

Mr. Shekhar Somanath, QCT Product Manager, Qualcomm Incorporated, who will describe various commercial and consumer applications of GPS, including communications, transport tracking, and enhanced 911 services.

You will also have an opportunity to get your hands on a GPS receiver and embark on a quick GPS Challenge organized by the creators of the “GPS Adventures” science exhibit and volunteers from the Maryland Geocaching Society.

Should you have questions or would like to attend this event, please contact Wyatt King on my staff at x2542 or wyatt.king@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress
Chair, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics