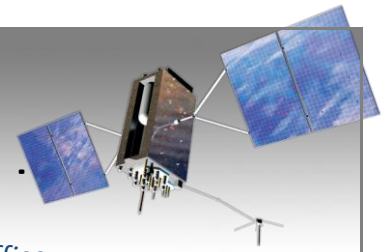


# GPS

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

April 2011

## Final FY 2011 Spending Bill Funds Air Force GPS Program at \$1.032 Billion

The Department of Defense and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 112-10), signed on April 15, allocates \$1.032 billion in Air Force funds for the core GPS program. This is \$25 million short of the President's request, with the cut taken from the Next Generation Operational Control Segment (OCX). For details, visit [www.pnt.gov/policy/legislation/funding/2011.shtml](http://www.pnt.gov/policy/legislation/funding/2011.shtml).

## Senators Call for Protection of GPS from Interference by LightSquared Broadband Network

On April 14, Senators Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Ben Nelson (D-NE) issued a Dear Colleague letter raising concerns about potential widespread interference to GPS from LightSquared Subsidiary LLC. On January 26, the FCC authorized the company to build out a broadband wireless network using high-power signals in frequencies immediately adjacent to the GPS signals. The letter stresses how vital GPS is to U.S. economic, safety, and security interests, and encourages other members to ask the FCC to take all necessary steps to protect GPS.

## LightSquared Interference Testing Ongoing

The GPS community is actively engaged in a series of tests to assess the potential interference effects of the LightSquared network on GPS users. The testing must be completed by May 31 to comply with FCC orders. Tests are taking place under two separate but related working groups, one co-chaired by both LightSquared and the U.S. GPS Industry Council and the other involving only government personnel. To learn more, visit <http://www.pnt.gov/interference/lightsquared/>.

## Introducing the New, Improved GPS.gov Website



The National Coordination Office for Space-Based PNT and the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center recently launched a major overhaul to the GPS.gov website. The upgrade includes new content and features to better serve the public, targeting various audiences including congressional staff. Visit the revamped website at [www.gps.gov](http://www.gps.gov).

## GPS Data Shows Planetary Shift from Earthquake



According to NASA models, the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Japan last month was so powerful it may have sped up the Earth's rotation by 1.8 microseconds a day and shifted the planet's normal "wobble" by 17 cm.

Scientists are working to verify this theoretical shift using data from high-precision GPS reference stations spread around the world. Within Japan, a network of over 1,200 GPS sites revealed that northern parts of the country moved an incredible three meters to the east.

GPS reference networks are so precise they can detect tectonic plate motion at the millimeter level. Their measurements help scientists understand and model earthquakes, so communities can better prepare for future disasters.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING  
NAVIGATION & TIMING  
NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE

[WWW.PNT.GOV](http://WWW.PNT.GOV)

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