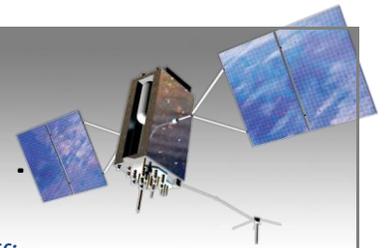


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Information for Policymakers from the National Coordination Office
for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)

February 2012

FCC Indefinitely Suspends LightSquared's Nationwide "4G" Broadband Plan



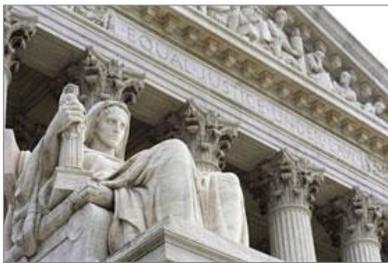
On February 14, the FCC's International Bureau formally proposed to "vacate the Conditional Waiver Order, and suspend indefinitely LightSquared's Ancillary Terrestrial Component authority." The decision came immediately after the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) concluded in a letter to the FCC that there is no practical way to mitigate potential interference with GPS services at this time. The NTIA also released three technical reports that focus on LightSquared effects on cellular, personal/general navigation, and aviation GPS receivers. A Public Notice seeking comment on NTIA's conclusions and the FCC's proposals has been sought. To view the FCC statement, NTIA letter and accompanying reports, visit <http://www.gps.gov/news/2012/02/lightsquared/>.

Aviation Subcommittee Hearing Highlights Need to Protect GPS Spectrum

On February 8, the House Aviation Subcommittee held a hearing on the public policy ramifications of protecting infrastructure to ensure transportation safety and efficiencies provided by GPS. GPS technology is essential to many aviation systems and programs, including NextGen. Recent developments involving LightSquared have raised congressional interest in protecting GPS from harmful interference. Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Porcari proposed that federal agencies work to draft new GPS spectrum interference standards to help inform future proposals for non-space, commercial uses in the bands adjacent to the GPS signals. Other witnesses included representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organization, Air Transport Association, Air Line Pilots Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Garmin, and the GWU Space Policy Institute. Hearing testimony is available at <http://www.gps.gov/congress/hearings/>.



Supreme Court Rules Against Warrantless GPS Tracking



Last month, the Supreme Court announced its unanimous decision in *United States v. Antoine Jones*, a case addressing the constitutional rights of American citizens in the face of modern surveillance systems. The Court ruled that law enforcement need a warrant before attaching a GPS device to a suspect's vehicle to monitor its movements. On behalf of the Court, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia stated that the government's installation of a GPS device to monitor this particular vehicle's movements constituted a "search," meaning a valid warrant had been required. Associate Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor offered separate opinions concurring with the majority, but questioned whether the long-term monitoring of citizens' movements violates their reasonable expectations of privacy. To learn more about this and other similar cases, visit <http://www.gps.gov/news/2012/01/supremecourt/>.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING
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