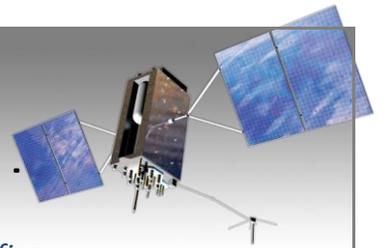


GPS

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

March 2012

President's FY 2013 Budget Request Includes \$1.26B for Air Force GPS Program



The Administration has requested a total of \$1.2637 billion for the Air Force GPS program, including \$558.8 million in procurement and \$704.9 million in development. This is roughly \$200 million below the FY 2012 request. General William Shelton, Commander of Air Force Space Command, testified before the House Armed Services Committee on March 8 to present the budget request for GPS and other national security space activities. In his testimony, he stated the Air Force "will strive to

ensure it [GPS] remains the gold standard for global timing and navigation." For detailed budget request information, visit <http://www.gps.gov/policy/funding/2013>.

DOT Requests \$40M for Civil GPS Requirements

The President's budget includes \$40 million in FAA funds to add new, civil-unique capabilities to the GPS program, including a fourth civilian signal for global interoperability. In FY 2012, Congress funded this line item at \$19 million versus the President's request of \$50.3 million.

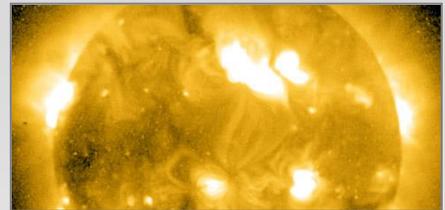
The FY 2013 request also includes \$96 million for the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS), \$3 million for the Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS), and \$5.6 million for the inland part of the Nationwide Differential GPS System (NDGPS). The request added a new funding line of \$4 million for the development of Alternate Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (APNT) systems for aviation.

Sen. Roberts Touts GPS at Kansas Museum Exhibit

On February 19, Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) held an event at Exploration Place in Wichita, Kansas, to promote and recognize practical applications of GPS technology and its importance to the Kansas economy. Also speaking at the event were representatives from Garmin, Kansas State University, and the Kansas Farm Bureau explaining the importance of GPS to their respective industries.

Exploration Place is currently hosting the GPS Adventures exhibit until April 15. The National Coordination Office is a cosponsor of the exhibit, which introduces visitors to GPS through geocaching – a family-friendly treasure hunting game enjoyed by more than 3 million people around the world. To learn more about the GPS Adventures exhibit, visit <http://www.gps.gov/multimedia/exhibits/adventures/>.

GPS Users Largely Unaffected By Most Recent Solar Storm



The solar storm in early March disrupted satellite communications and forced airlines to reroute some flights. But so far, no major GPS problems have been reported as a result of the event.

Intense solar activity can distort or overwhelm the GPS signals, causing accuracy errors or outages. Solar events may also impact GPS satellite operations, although that did not occur this time. GPS spacecraft are built to withstand high levels of radiation since they fly in a fairly intense region of the Earth's Van Allen radiation belts.

More solar storms are likely to occur over the next two years as the Sun reaches its "solar max" period. GPS users should keep this in mind and always keep a secondary means of navigation or timing.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING
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