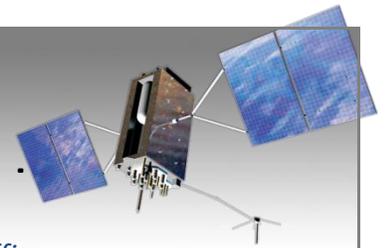


GPS

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

October 2012



Air Force Successfully Launches Third GPS IIF Satellite into Orbit

On October 4, a Delta IV rocket successfully launched the GPS IIF-3 satellite into orbit from Cape Canaveral, Florida. It is the third of twelve GPS Block IIF satellites being built by Boeing to support GPS modernization. The IIF series adds a third civilian GPS signal for increased reliability and accuracy, especially for NextGen and other transportation safety applications. GPS IIF is also essential to constellation sustainment, as many current GPS satellites have greatly exceeded their design life spans. To learn more about GPS IIF and other generations of GPS satellites, visit <http://www.gps.gov/systems/gps/space>.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Presses FCC on LightSquared Decision

The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee held a September 21 hearing to investigate the process and decision-making leading up to the FCC's grant of a conditional waiver to 4G wireless carrier LightSquared Subsidiary LLC in January 2011. Two FCC witnesses argued that the commission acted responsibly since learning of the GPS community's concerns about harmful interference from the LightSquared terrestrial network. The officials said the FCC initially issued a conditional waiver to prevent LightSquared from deploying commercial service in the L-band next to GPS until it resolved the concerns.



Chairman Cliff Stearns (R-FL) questioned if the interference issue could have been prevented and argued that this matter raises important implications for spectrum policy going forward. For more information about the LightSquared-GPS interference matter, go to <http://www.gps.gov/spectrum/lightquared/>.

GAO Report: Aerial Drones Susceptible to GPS Jamming and Spoofing

A September 14 GAO report found, among other things, that jamming an unmanned aircraft system's GPS signal could degrade its ability to determine its location, altitude, and heading. GAO suggested that this vulnerability could be mitigated with secondary or redundant navigation systems. GAO also identified GPS signal counterfeiting, or spoofing, as an emerging issue for domestic drones and suggested encrypting the civil GPS signals. To view the full report, visit <http://www.gao.gov/assets/650/648348.pdf>.

Senator Schumer Calls for National GPS Standards for Commercial Trucks



Recently, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) sent a letter to the Department of Transportation calling for an investigation into low bridge strikes by commercial trucks. To prevent such accidents, he suggested establishing federal standards for the use of GPS technology in commercial truck travel. Most consumer-grade GPS devices are not suitable for use on commercial trucks because they do not warn of low bridges, prohibited roads, and other similar restrictions.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING
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