Analysis: What Could Happen to GPS Funding Under a Continuing Resolution?

As Congress returns from recess, they prepare to finalize the legislation necessary to fund the government in FY 2015. With the end of the fiscal year approaching on September 30, it has been widely reported that the most likely outcome will be a short term continuing resolution. In previous newsletters, we have shown the funding marks approved for GPS in the House and Senate appropriations bills. Under a continuing resolution scenario, GPS program elements would be funded at the same levels enacted in FY 2014. As illustrated in the graphic to the right, this would lead to major variances from the budget request. For more details on the FY 2015 budget, visit www.gps.gov/policy/funding/2015.

Report to Congress on GPS Multi-Year Procurement

In April, the Air Force submitted a report to Congress titled, “Global Positioning System III Space Segment Suitability for Multi-Year Procurement.” The report was directed by the Senate Armed Services Committee. At this time, analysis indicates that multi-year procurement contracting for GPS III is not feasible until at least FY 2016. The report does not constitute an Air Force position, but rather one option the Air Force is evaluating for procuring future GPS III satellites at a reduced unit price. To read the report, visit www.gps.gov/congress/reports.

GPS Facts: Constellation Size

GPS was originally designed to have 24 satellites in six equally-spaced orbital planes around Earth, ensuring access to at least four satellites from virtually anywhere. Since 2011, the Air Force has flown GPS in an expanded configuration with at least 27 satellites for improved coverage in most parts of the world. Learn more at www.gps.gov/systems/gps/space.