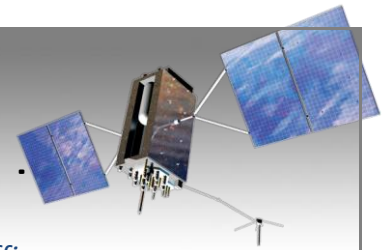


GPS

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

May 2011

House Version of Defense Authorization Bill Includes Full Funding for GPS Program

On May 12, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (H.R. 1540). The committee recommended full funding for each of the Department of Defense line items related to the GPS program. The total amount for FY 2012 is \$1.462 billion. For a detailed list of the GPS program line items in President Obama's budget request, please visit <http://www.gps.gov/policy/funding/2012/>.

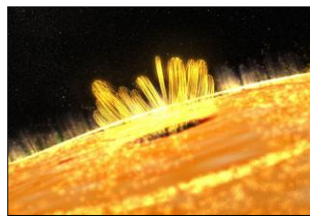
Defense Bill Highlights GPS Interference Concerns



Section 911 of H.R. 1540 directs the Secretary of Defense to notify Congress if he determines a commercial communications service will cause widespread harmful interference to military GPS receivers. The language stems from concerns about the proposed LightSquared broadband wireless network designed to transmit in bands next to the GPS signal. The HASC report to accompany H.R. 1540 expresses deep concerns about potential GPS interference and suggests, "the FCC should indefinitely postpone final decision [on whether to authorize LightSquared operations] until the harmful interference issue has been resolved, with the full coordination and approval of the Department of Defense." Testing is ongoing to determine how LightSquared will impact military and civilian GPS users, with the test results due to the FCC by June 15. To learn more about the LightSquared issue, visit <http://www.pnt.gov/interference/lightquared/>.

Report Addresses GPS Vulnerability to Space Weather

A new report by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) highlights the vulnerability of GPS-dependent critical infrastructures to disruptions caused by solar flares and other space weather events. Space weather is the largest source of accuracy errors for most GPS users, and the next solar maximum is expected to occur in 2013. The report recommends a series of assessments and actions to improve the robustness of the GPS service and user applications. It also recommends R&D investments to improve our understanding of space weather and enable timely space weather warnings. AMS plans to brief Hill staff on the report during the week of June 21. It is available online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/spacewxGPS.html>.



Supreme Court Asked to Review GPS Surveillance



Last month, the Department of Justice asked the Supreme Court to overturn a November 2010 decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that law enforcement must have a warrant before attaching a GPS tracking device to a suspect's vehicle. In that case, the appellate court voided a defendant's life sentence for conspiracy to distribute drugs, since the conviction was based on "evidence procured in violation of the Fourth Amendment."

The decision is at odds with two other U.S. appellate court rulings that upheld similar convictions. Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal said the November decision was not faithful to a previous Supreme Court ruling that people have no expectation of privacy on public streets. It is uncertain whether the Supreme Court will add this case to the docket for its upcoming session.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING
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