

Eastern Illinois University ROTC

Military Advancements Using GPS Technology

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- Military Handheld Devices
- Global War on Terrorism
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Overview

- The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a Department of Defense (DoD) developed, worldwide, satellite-based radio navigation system
- The NAVSTAR (NAVigation Satellite Timing And Ranging) constellation consists of over 30 operational satellites
- GPS is owned and operated by the United States Government as a national resource. DoD and the US Air Force operates and maintains GPS – *Free of charge to the public*
- DoD is required by law to:
 - “Maintain a Standard Positioning Service that will be available on a continuous, worldwide basis.”
 - “Develop measures to prevent hostile use of GPS and its augmentations without unduly disrupting or degrading civilian uses.”

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Components

The GPS consists of three major segments:

- **SPACE** segment consists of over 30 operational satellites in six orbital planes.
- **CONTROL** segment consists of:
 - Five Monitor Stations – Hawaii, Kwajalein, Ascension Island, Diego Garcia, Colorado Springs
 - Three Ground Antennas – Ascension Island, Diego Garcia, Kwajalein
 - Master Control Station (MCS) located at Schriever AFB in Colorado.
- **USER** segment consists of antennas and receiver-processors that provide positioning, velocity, and precise timing to the user.

The diagram illustrates the GPS system components. It shows three satellites in the 'SPACE SEGMENT' orbiting Earth. On the ground, the 'CONTROL SEGMENT' includes a 'Master Control Station (MCS)' and several 'Monitor Stations'. A 'User Segment' is shown with a person and a 'HAND-HELD RECEIVER'. Lines indicate communication between the satellites and the ground stations, and between the satellites and the user's receiver.

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Brief History

- Originally designed for military and intelligence applications at the height of the Cold War in the 1960s
- "Transit" was the first satellite system launched by the USA and tested by the US Navy in 1960
 - Five satellites orbiting the earth allowed ships to fix their position once every hour
- Transit was succeeded in 1967 by the "Timation" satellite
 - Demonstrated that highly accurate atomic clocks could be operated in space
- The first NAVSTAR satellite was launched in 1989 and the 24th satellite was launched in 1994

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Brief History (cont.)

- Reagan Administration opened GPS for civilian applications after USSR shot down a Korean passenger jet on September 1, 1983 after it strayed over 200 miles into Soviet territory
- The Gulf War from 1990 to 1991 was the first conflict in which GPS was widely used; 16 NAVSTAR satellites were in orbit providing coverage lasting about 19 hours per day
- Initial Operational Capability (IOC) achieved in December 1993, indicating a full constellation (24 satellites) was available and providing the Standard Positioning Service (SPS)
- Full Operational Capability (FOC) was declared in April 1995, signifying full availability of the military's secure Precise Positioning Service (PPS)

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Selective Availability

- GPS provides two levels of service:
 - The Standard Positioning Service (SPS) is available to all GPS users on a continuous, worldwide basis with no direct charge.
 - Precise Positioning Service (PPS) is a highly accurate military positioning, velocity and timing service which will be available on a continuous, worldwide basis to users authorized
- Initially, the highest quality signal was reserved for military use, and the signal available for civilian use was intentionally degraded
- President Clinton ordered Selective Availability turned off at midnight May 1, 2000; civilian GPS accuracy increased from 100 meters to 10 meters
- Department of Defense retains the capability to degrade capability for civilian use based on National Security

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Military Handheld Devices

Small Lightweight GPS Receiver (SLGR)

- Approximately 6,000 procured in the early 1990s
- Only operated using the SPS signal
- Satisfied the urgent need of the military in Desert Shield / Desert Storm




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Military Handheld Devices

Precision Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR)

- Acquisition started in 1993
- Operated using the PPS signal
- Satisfied the need to have encrypted "military only" signal




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Military Handheld Devices

Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGR)

- Production began in 2004
- Operates using the PPS signal
- Smaller and lightweight; incorporates a graphical screen



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Military Handheld Devices

Micro Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGR)

- Currently in production to replace PLGR and DAGR
- Color touch screen technology; similar to COTS systems
- Smaller and lightweight; can be carried and stored easily





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Global War on Terrorism



- Positioning
- Navigation
- Precision Munitions
- Mapping
- Accurate time for systems





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 **EIU ROTC Land Navigation Training** 

- 9-mile range
- Track up to 10 individuals at a time
- Advanced mapping with satellite imagery and TOPO maps

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 **References** 

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