

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY
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BEFORE THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

May 7, 2009

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon, Chairman Tierney, Congressman Flake, and Members of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Subcommittee. I am Dr. Steve Huybrechts, the Principal Director, Command, Control, Communications, Space and Spectrum representing the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/Department of Defense Chief Information Officer. I am pleased to appear before the Subcommittee to discuss the Global Positioning System.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Command, Control, Communications, (C3), Space and Spectrum reports to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration (ASD/NII).

The ASD(NII)/DoD CIO is the principal staff assistant and advisor to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense on non-intelligence space matters including space-based positioning, navigation and timing, satellite communications, space based information integration, space control, operationally responsive space, space access, satellite control, , environmental sensing, and space launch ranges. ASD(NII) also oversees space Milestone Decision Acquisition Program (MDAP) activities of the DOD Executive Agent for Space and develops and implements PNT policy.

The recent GAO report, Global Positioning System: “Significant Challenges in Sustaining and Upgrading Widely Used Capabilities,” recommends

that the Secretary of Defense appoint a single authority to oversee the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS), including space, ground, and user assets, to ensure that the program is well executed and resourced and that potential disruptions are minimized. The Department concurs with that recommendation.

The Department has recognized the importance of centralizing authority to oversee the continuing synchronized evolution of the GPS. To that end, Deputy Secretary of Defense Lynn has reaffirmed that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration (ASD(NII)) is the Department's Principal Staff Assistant to oversee Positioning, Navigation, and Timing, and, specifically, is designated with authority and responsibility for all aspects of the Global Position System (GPS).

Further, under oversight of the ASD(NII), the U.S. Air Force is the single acquisition agent with responsibility for synchronized modernization of GPS space, ground control, and military user equipment. The Air Force acquires the GPS space and control segments, and provides the fundamental system design and security requirements necessary for acquisition of GPS user equipment and applications in support of diverse missions across the Department. The Joint Functional Component Command Space, under the authority of US Strategic Command, exercises operational control of the on-orbit GPS constellation.

Given the diversity of platforms, and equipment form factors involved, it is impossible for the Air Force to unilaterally produce a “one-size-fits-all” solution applicable to all DoD missions.

The GAO also recommends that the Secretary of Defense, as one of the Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Executive Committee co-chairs, address, if weaknesses are found, civil agency concerns for developing requirements and determine mechanisms for improving collaboration and decision making and strengthening civil agency participation. The Department agrees with that recommendation as well.

The Department is aware that we employ a rigorous requirements process in support of our extensive operational and acquisition responsibilities and that the process is a source of frustration for civil agencies without similar processes in place. In an effort to address the issue, we have worked with the civil agencies to put in place a GPS Interagency Requirements Plan, jointly approved by the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is in charge of our process, and the Department of Transportation (DOT), acting on behalf of all civil agencies. Further, we are now in the process of jointly coordinating an updated Charter for an Interagency Forum for Operational Requirements (IFOR) to provide meeting venues to identify, discuss, and validate civil or dual use GPS requirements for inclusion in the DoD GPS acquisition process. Finally, we sponsor educational outreach opportunities for civil agencies to become more fully acquainted with the DoD requirements process, including a day-long “Requirements Process Summit”

jointly conducted by the Joint Staff and Department of Transportation on April 29, 2008. We will continue to seek ways to improve civil agency understanding of the DoD requirements process and work to strengthen civil agency participation.

Summary

The Global Positioning System is critical to the conduct of military operations and the US military's superiority is dependent on it. DoD provides location, navigation and timing through the GPS System to precise/autonomous weapons and forces. I look forward to answering your questions.