



NEWS RELEASE

AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND

Directorate of Public Affairs, 150 Vandenberg St, Suite 1105, Peterson AFB, CO 80914-4500 Phone (719) 554-3731

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Number: 05-09-10

September 19, 2005

GPS Launches a New Era

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. -- The launch of the first “modernized” GPS Block IIR satellite from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station will take place [September 21 at approximately 11:53 pm EST.](#)

The Block IIR contractor, Lockheed Martin, has delivered 21 Block IIR GPS satellites to the government. Twelve Block IIR satellites have been successfully launched and are on-orbit. The first Block IIR, unfortunately, was destroyed during a launch failure of a solid rocket motor on the booster in 1997. GPS IIR-14(M) will be the first in the remaining eight IIRs series being modernized with a new military and civil signal.

The additional features on the Block IIR-M include the second civil signal (L2C) and the new military code (M-Code) signal. The L2C capability will provide dual frequency capability to all equipped civil users, allowing correction of ionospheric transmission errors, which improves resistance to interference and increases accuracy. The M-Code signal will provide warfighters with a more robust jam-resistant signal, enabling effective munitions targeting in stressed environments. These added features will contribute to improved accuracy for our military and civil users worldwide.

“Ultimately, it’s all about how we continuously improve service for the military and civilian users around the world,” said Col Allan Ballenger, Navstar GPS Joint Program Office system program director. “Sustainment of the GPS constellation is essential, as is modernization of the current and future systems and capabilities.”

The health of the GPS constellation is excellent. The new military and civil signals are the first new signals since the GPS constellation achieved full operational capability in April 1995, and launch a new era of improved GPS services for all users.

"The Global Positioning System is a household utility," said General Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command Commander. "With increased reliance on GPS it's imperative Air Force Space Command launch an upgraded system with the GPS Block IIR-M. Both civilian and military users will benefit from us maintaining the most robust and capable Global Positioning System."

Media needing more information can contact Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs at (310) 363-2056.