



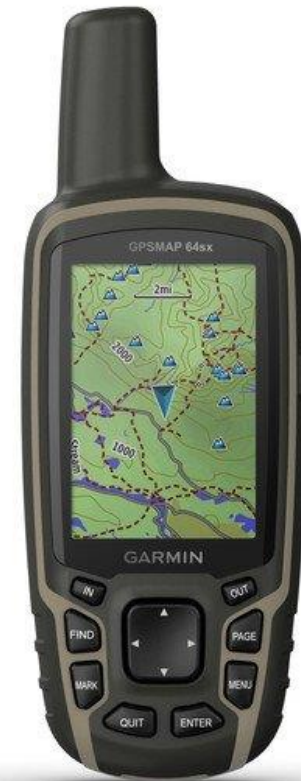
Global Positioning System

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What?

- The Global Positioning System (GPS) a satellite-based radionavigation system owned by the United States government



Why?

- In the early 1970's, the Department of Defense (DoD) wanted to ensure a robust, stable satellite navigation system would be available. Embracing previous ideas from Navy scientists, the DoD decided to use satellites to support their proposed navigation system.

When?

- Started by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1973
- First prototype spacecraft launched in 1978 and the full constellation of 24 satellites operational in 1993
- Civilian use allowed from 1980's

Where?

- USA
- A meeting of about twelve military officers at the Pentagon discussed the creation of a Defense Navigation Satellite System (DNSS). It was at this meeting that the real synthesis that became GPS was created.



Who?

- Roger L. Easton, Ivan A. Getting, and Bradford Parkinson are credited with inventing it.



How?

- It was realized that a superior system could be developed by synthesizing the best technologies from 621B, Transit, Timation, and SECOR in a multi-service program.

