Extent

39 folders, approximately 2,434 pages

Summary

This collection consists of National Security Council records related to Presidential Decision Directive, National Science and Technology Council 6 (PDD/NSTC-6), “U.S. Global Positioning System Policy.” The records in this collection date from 1987 to 2000 and include memos, drafts, and emails related to the drafting of PDD/NSTC-6. The collection contains briefing papers, reports, and presentations related to GPS, Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), and Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS).

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2015-0369-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2015-0369-F was for records of the National Security Council from April 1995 to April 1996 related to Presidential Decision Directive, National Science and Technology Council 6 (PDD/NSTC-6). This collection includes memos, drafts, and emails related to the drafting of PDD/NSTC-6. It includes briefing papers, reports, and presentations related to GPS, Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), and Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS). Much of the conversation focuses on Selective Availability (SA). Due to the fact that Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, the collection dates from 1987 to 2000. Knowing where you are located on the earth is the entire point of navigation. Once you’ve established your location you can plot your course. Global Positioning System, or GPS, allows a person to know within one to three meters where they are located on the earth. The system of thirty-one satellites, combined with ground antenna and relay stations, provides real-time, accurate information to both military and civilian customers. The foundation of GPS was a series of radio

navigation aids. Long Range Aid to Navigation, or LORAN, allowed navigators to pick up and triangulate radio signals when out of view of the shore. Satellites first played a role in the United States Navy's navigation system called Transit. Transit used the known orbit of satellites to calculate locations. Transit was first made available to civilian users in 1967. Transit served as a proof of concept and the Department of Defense began actively planning and designing a satellite based, all weather, continuously available, highly accurate navigation system in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Navy, Army, and Air Force each had their own systems in development. In April 1973, the Department of Defense named the Air Force as the lead with a Joint Production Office (JPO) for development of the NAVSTAR system. Through the middle-to-late 1970s the military combined the parts of the Navy, Army, and Air Force systems and added additional functions to the satellite system. JPO planned for a 24 satellite system on a 12 hour cycle. GPS was being built as a military system with limited civilian use. Then the Russians shot down Korean Airlines flight 007 and President Reagan announced that GPS would be available for free to all civilian aircraft when the system became operational. GPS was now a dual use technology. At the beginning of the Clinton Administration the GPS system was very close to operational. In December 1993, the Department of Defense declared the system fully operational with twenty-four satellites in orbit. The system was capable of 100 meter accuracy, all weather operation, and continuous availability. In June 1994, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator David Hinson announced that the FAA was going to implement Wide-Area Augmentation System (WAAS). This system would dramatically improve the accuracy of the GPS system for civilian users. Improved accuracy and greater civilian availability caused great concern for the Department of Defense. However, GPS was quickly becoming a significant commercial industry. In 1992, the Japanese were installing 35,000 GPS receivers a month in automobiles. The commercial market for Japanese GPS products was estimated at $240 million. In the United States it was estimated to be $480 million with potential to grow to a $60 billion dollar industry by 2000. This dichotomy of dual use needed to be reconciled. In Presidential Review Directive / National Science and Technology Council 2 of May 15, 1995, Clinton asked the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to review American space policy. In conjunction, under PRD/NSTC-3 on June 2, 1995, Clinton ordered a review of GPS system policy. Presidential Decision Directive, NSTC-6 was released March 28, 1996. It set forth the U.S. policy specifically related to GPS. It guaranteed continued civilian access to GPS and declared that Selective Availability (SA)—a part of GPS that

reduced civilian accuracy—would be turned off in ten years. PDD/NSTC-6 set policy, guidelines, and agency roles and responsibilities. It required annual reports to congress beginning in 2000 on the use of SA. PDD/NSTC-6 was superseded by U.S. Space-based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Policy in December 2004.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas— Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2016. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2016-07-28

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2015-0369-F.
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
National Security Council
Defense Policy and Arms Control
Bell, Robert
GPS, April-June 1995 [OA/ID 1427]
GPS, July-September 1995 [OA/ID 1588]
GPS, October-December 1995 [1] [OA/ID 1861]
GPS, October-December 1995 [2] [OA/ID 1861]
GPS, October-December 1995 [3] [OA/ID 1861]
GPS, January-March 1996 [OA/ID 1831]
Seaton, James
GPS [Folder 1] [1] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [2] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [3] [OA/ID 1171]

GPS [Folder 1] [4] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [5] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [6] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [7] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [8] [OA/ID 1171]
Box 2
GPS [Folder 1] [9] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [10] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 1] [11] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 2] [1] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS [Folder 2] [2] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS Interagency Working Group [1] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS Interagency Working Group [2] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS Interagency Working Group [3] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS Interagency Working Group [4] [OA/ID 1171]
GPS Interagency Working Group [5] [OA/ID 1171]
Witkowsky, Anne
GPS Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) [OA/ID 3334]
Presidential Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection (PCCIP)
Defense Science Board Task Force on GPS, November 1995 [OA/ID CF 1148]
NAVSTAR GPS Systems Threat Assessment Report SMC-1400F-055-95; April, 1995 [OA/ID CF 1148]
Box 3
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1995-Dec 1996 [OA/ID 510000]
[GPS, Policy, PDD]
[09/13/1995-03/22/1996]
[03/28/1996-04/30/1996]
NSC Email
MSMail-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 590000]
[GPS, Policy, PDD]
[08/24/1995-04/12/1996]
MSMail-Non-Record (Sept 94-Jan 97) [OA/ID 605000]
[GPS, Policy, PDD]
[04/03/1995-04/01/1996]
NSC Records Management System

[GPS, Policy, PDD]
9503862 [OA/ID 583]
9503874 [OA/ID 583]
9505162 [OA/ID 592]
9507833 [OA/ID 610]
9520195 [OA/ID 43316]
9600365 [OA/ID 1082]
9601906 [OA/ID 1092]
9601992 [OA/ID 1092]