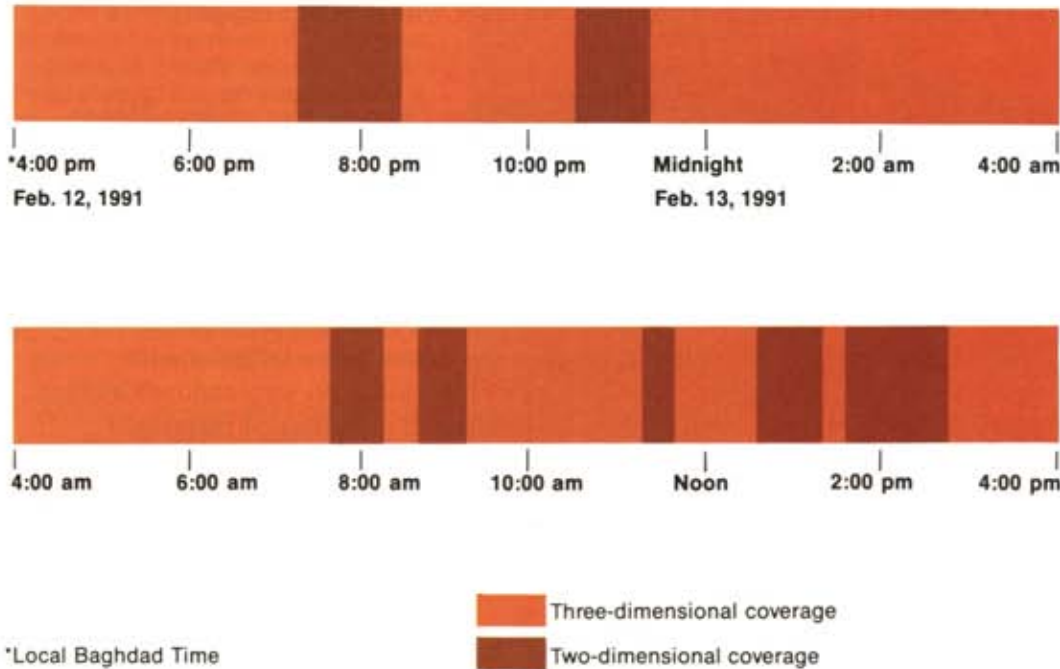


The Chart Page

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GPS Success in Desert Storm



When the Navstar Global Positioning System (GPS) is fully deployed in 1993, the twenty-one-satellite constellation will give military users worldwide position fixes in three dimensions—latitude, longitude, and altitude—to within sixteen meters, twenty-four hours a day. The partial constellation of sixteen GPS satellites performed better than USAF expected in Operation Desert Storm. During this particular twenty-four-hour period of intense bombing in February, the interim system's positional accuracy averaged 7.5 meters. Moreover, the three-dimensional coverage was available for some twenty hours. With two dimensions of coverage, operators must manually enter an altitude value. For more on GPS, see "A Watershed in Space," p.32.

Source: Air Force Space Command

The space-launch recovery plan devised by the Air Force after the 1986 *Challenger* accident ensured that high-priority payloads, such as those carrying the Navstar Global Positioning System satellites, got off the ground. As of June 12, 1991, there have been fifteen space launches from the Eastern Space and Missile Center and three from the Western Space and Missile Center. Totals include DoD, NASA, and commercial space launches.

*Includes three failures
 **Includes one failure

Source: Air Force Space Command

The Comeback in Space

SPACE LAUNCHES			
Fiscal Year	Eastern Space and Missile Center, Fla.	Western Space and Missile Center, Calif.	Total
1986	7	4	11*
1987	4	5	9**
1988	4	7	11
1989	13	2	15
1990	20	4	24
1991 (projected)	22	7	29