



UNITED STATES  
**SPACE FORCE**  
SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND

**FACTSHEET**

**WIDEBAND GLOBAL SATCOM  
SATELLITE (WGS)**

**MISSION:** As the backbone of the U.S. military's global satellite communications, Wideband Global SATCOM Satellite (WGS) system provides flexible, high-capacity communications for the Nation's warfighters through procurement and operation of the satellite constellation and the associated control systems. WGS provides worldwide flexible, high data rate and long haul communications for the Department of Defense (DOD), governmental organizations and international partners.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF BOEING



## BACKGROUND

WGS provides essential communications services, allowing Combatant Commanders to exert command and control of their tactical forces, from peace time to military operations. Tactical forces will rely on WGS to provide high-capacity connectivity to the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN).

The on-orbit WGS constellation is comprised of multiple satellites in geosynchronous orbit.

The U.S. Space Force's Space and Space Systems Command is responsible for development, acquisition, fielding and sustainment of the WGS Program.

Space Delta 8's 4th Space Operations Squadron located at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., manages WGS Bus. SMDC 53rd Signal Battalion manages WGS payload and network.

# WIDEBAND GLOBAL SATCOM SATELLITE (WGS)

## FEATURES

The WGS system is a constellation of highly capable military communications satellites that leverage cost-effective methods and technological advances in the communications satellite industry. The WGS system is composed of three principal segments: Space Segment (satellites), Control Segment (operators) and Terminal Segment (users). Each WGS satellite provides service in multiple frequency bands, with the unprecedented ability to cross-band between the two frequencies onboard the satellite. WGS augments other satellites.

Each WGS satellite provide a quantum leap in communications capacity, connectivity and flexibility for U.S. military forces and international partners while seamlessly integrating with current and future terminals. Just one WGS satellite provides more SATCOM capacity than the entire legacy Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) constellation.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Primary function:** High-capacity military communications satellite

## LAUNCHES

Oct. 10, 2007

April 4, 2009

Dec. 5, 2009

Jan. 19, 2012

For more information please visit  
<https://www.spoc.spaceforce.mil>

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