SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
MEDIA RELEASE

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Office of Public Affairs (SSC/PA)
483 N. Aviation Blvd.
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-2808

Date: Aug. 30, 2022
Contact: Media Relations Division
Telephone: (310) 653-3145
sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil

Space Force's EPS-R Gateway site breaks ground at Clear Space Force Station, Alaska

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- Space Systems Command's Military Communications and Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Directorate's Enhanced Polar Systems-Recapitalization (EPS-R) program broke ground at Clear Space Force Station (CSFS), Alaska to prepare the site for the EPS-R Gateway segment. These SATCOM terminals will be the main connection to the new EPS-R space vehicle payloads.

EPS-R is an Extremely High Frequency (EHF) MILSATCOM system designed to extend legacy EPS services into the early/mid-2030s. Its mission serves to provide 24/7 protected satellite communications in the Arctic region for U.S. forces across the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security. The EPS-R payload is being hosted on a Norwegian satellite as part of an international partnership that leverages the Norwegian effort to provide secure communications to their region that will save the U.S. $900 million dollars.

The EPS-R Gateway segment includes facilities at Naval Base Point Loma, and the Army's Camp Roberts, California. This construction effort is being executed under the EPS-R Gateway Site Prep contract, valued at over $4 million. This U.S. Space Force project is in collaboration with the Naval Information Warfare Center – Pacific, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The harsh Alaskan climate presented unique challenges to the construction schedule. Extreme conditions limit outdoor construction to a few summer months, and an intensive environmental impact survey needed to be completed before any groundbreaking could begin. Additionally, the impact of COVID-19 to the worldwide supply chain affected the shipment and availability of materials. Despite this, the construction project and EPS-R Gateway & Terminal Segment remains on track for operational needs.

"The EPS-R system is crucial to multiple military services for warfighters in the polar region," said 1st Lt. Timothy Phelps, EPS-R Gateway and Terminals Team Lead. "The Gateway and Terminal Segments are primed and ready to meet our EPS-R launch and operational needs."

Space Systems Command is the USSF field command responsible for rapidly identifying, prototyping, and fielding resilient space capabilities for joint warfighters. SSC delivers sustainable joint space warfighting capabilities to defend the nation and its allies while disrupting adversaries in the contested space domain. SSC mission areas include launch acquisition and operations; space domain awareness; positioning, navigation, and timing; missile warning; satellite communication; and cross-mission ground, command and control and data.

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EPS/EPS-R Gateway Site construction at Clear SFS on Wednesday, 29 June 2022. (U.S. Space Force photo: Lacey King).

EPS/EPS-R Gateway Site first shovel at Clear SFS on Thursday, 23 June 2022. (U.S. Space Force photo: Lacey King).