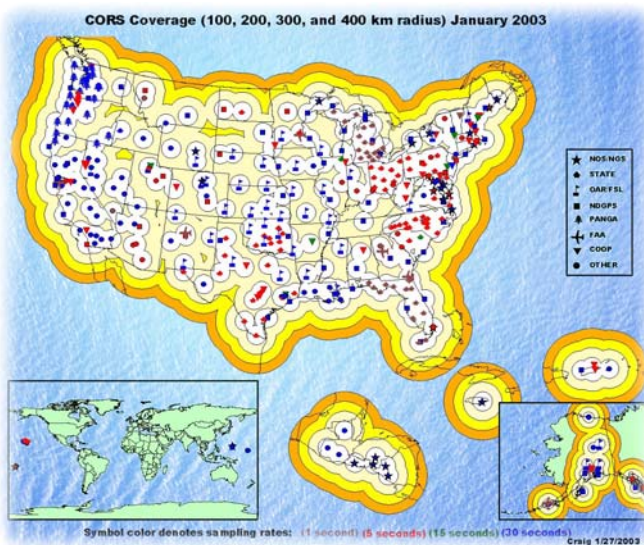


The National and Cooperative CORS Program

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) manages the National and Cooperative CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) program. CORS comprises a nationwide network of permanently operating Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers. NGS provides access to GPS data from this network free of charge via the Internet. The program's primary objective is to enable GPS users to determine precise positional coordinates relative to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

Users can achieve centimeter- and decimeter-level accuracy by postprocessing several hours or minutes, respectively, of their GPS data with data from the CORS network. Users can also determine the travel path of a moving platform - like an aircraft, a boat, or a land vehicle - with decimeter-level accuracy by postprocessing GPS data from a receiver mounted on this platform with data from the CORS network.



Additionally, CORS data are used by:

- Earth scientists to monitor crustal motion
- Meteorologists to monitor the distribution of moisture in the atmosphere
- Atmospheric scientists to monitor the distribution of free electrons in the ionosphere.

The CORS network currently (March 2003) contains more than 400 stations and is growing at a rate of about six new stations per month. These stations are operated by a collection of more than 80 organizations representing various federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as various academic and commercial institutions. NGS continually updates its Web site with new information on the CORS program.

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The U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
National Geodetic Survey

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) defines and manages the National Spatial Reference System, which determines position, height, distance, gravity, and shoreline throughout the United States. Since 1807, NGS and its predecessor agencies have led the world in precise positioning and developed emerging technologies for the public. NGS provides its expertise and a wealth of free information, including direct access to its data base on the World Wide Web at: www.ngs.noaa.gov.

