



## Los Angeles Air Force Base Media Release



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### **Encapsulation Milestone of Third WGS Satellite Moves Air Force Closer to Launch**

**LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** – The launch of the U.S. Air Force’s third Wideband Global SATCOM spacecraft moved another step closer. On Oct. 30, engineers completed the encapsulation procedure at the Astrotech Space Operations facility in Titusville, Fla.

The encapsulation of WGS-3 in the Delta IV launch vehicle payload fairing marks an important milestone for the spacecraft and launch campaign. The event marks completion of Air Force Satellite Control Network compatibility testing, payload and bus functional testing and propellant load. The launch is scheduled for Nov. 19, 2009.

“Our first two WGS spacecrafts already provide vital communications capacity to U.S. and Australian forces from the west coast of North America across the Pacific and Indian Oceans to eastern Africa,” said Col. Donald Robbins, Wideband Global SATCOM Group commander. “In addition, the number of communication links available provides the warfighters greater connectivity, flexibility and control over the DSCS satellites.”

WGS-1 launched on Oct. 10, 2007, and U.S. Strategic Command accepted WGS-1 for operational use April 14, 2008. WGS-2 launched on April 3, 2009 and began operational use Aug. 21, 2009. After the WGS-3 launch, all

Block I vehicles will be on orbit and the Block I contract will move towards closure.

The WGS Block II program, comprised of WGS-4, WGS-5 and WGS-6, is scheduled to begin launching in 2011.

**Media representatives who would like to interview a subject matter expert or learn more about the WGS-3 satellite should send an e-mail to: [smcpa.media@losangeles.af.mil](mailto:smcpa.media@losangeles.af.mil) or call 310-653-2369/2368/2479**

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