

### **Flow chart Completion Skill Building Exercise 3**

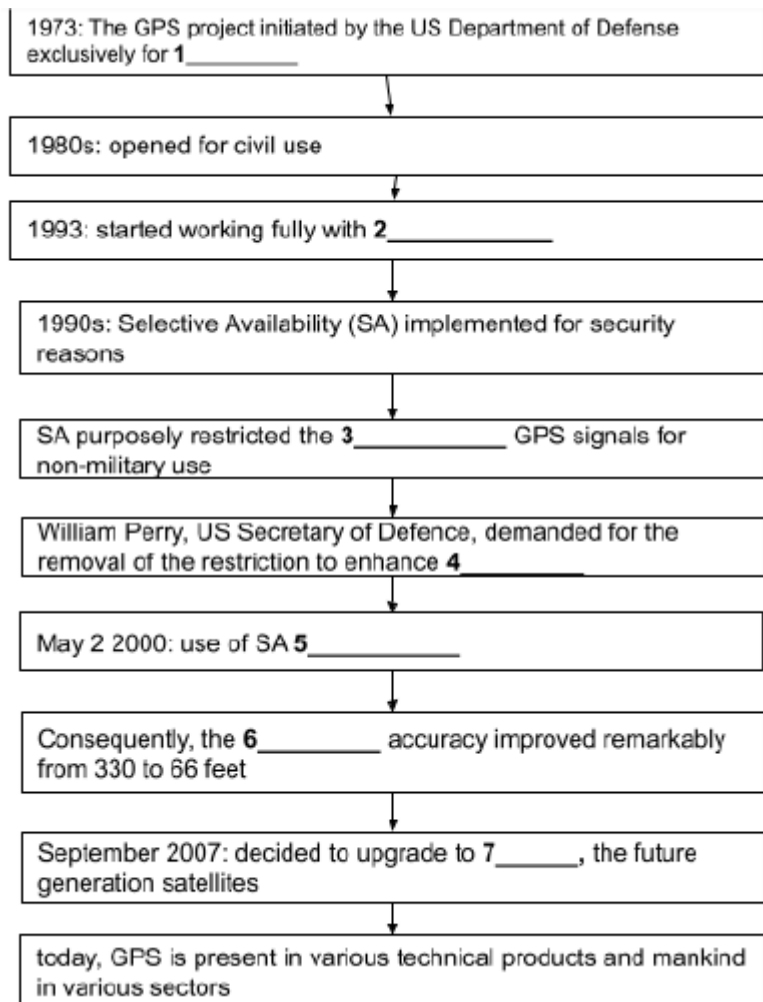
#### **LIBERATING THE GPS**

On May 2, 2000, by the order of President Bill Clinton, the US government discontinued the use of Selective Availability (SA) making the Global Positioning System (GPS) more responsive towards commercial and civil users worldwide. Selective Availability was an intentional limitation of GPS signals implemented for national security reasons. It limited the precision of GPS signals for non-military users. The military reserved the highest quality signal for their use, and deliberately blurred the signals for security purposes. William Perry, US Secretary of Defence, proposed to remove the restriction owing to the widespread growth of Global Positioning System services and intended to improve civilian accuracy. The government made the switch over at midnight of 1st May 2000 and 2nd May was the first day when the non-military system discovered an improved positioning precision from 330 to 66 feet. Thus, GPS became available for both military and peaceful purposes. Gradually, the GPS became more accurate and cheaper.

The GPS project was introduced in 1973 by the US Department of Defense for military purposes only. It became fully functional in 1993 with 24 satellites. It was allowed for civil use in the 1980s by the then President Ronald Regan, however, during the 1990s, the GPS quality was degraded by applying Selective Availability. In September 2007, the US government decided to obtain the future generation of GPS satellites (GPS III). These satellites are without Selective Availability and this decision was taken to ensure reliability in GPS performance which had been a concern to civil GPS users globally.

GPS has become indispensable today. It is an embedded technology in automobiles, personal computers, military munitions, weather tracking systems, electronic receivers, and other technical products. Started as a military project, it later emerged as an awareness platform for a broader range of public and its further use has given birth to other technologies which in turn benefited humanity. Activities related to commerce, scientific purposes, surveillance and tracking can be accurately done using GPS as it has turned into an extensively deployed and useful tool. The online tracking system determines the location of a person, and it also enables a person to move from one place to another with guidance. The facility of tracking is also done using the same so that one may get the accurate location of the automobile being tracked. The system created by the US defence has also made it possible to create a map of the world as well as it brought precision of timings around the globe.

Questions 1-7. Complete the flow chart below. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.



Answer Key: 1. military/ military purposes 2. 24 satellites 3. Precision 4. civilian accuracy  
5. discontinued 6. positioning 7. GPS III