

**Library and Information Services Division
Current References 2007-1; new rev. 2009; Update 2011**

Selected Publications on TIROS Satellites and Satellite Meteorology Available from the NOAA Central Library Network



Photo: NOAA Photo Library

TIROS satellite attached to rocket for launching

Prepared by Anna Fiolek

U. S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
National Oceanographic Data Center
NOAA Central Library



April 17, 2000, Rev. January 2007,
New Rev. September 2009; Update December 2011

<http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/tirosbib.pdf>

*“Have you noticed how often in times that are past
We have used new inventions to improve the forecast?
Television is coming, it is not far away;
We'll be using that too in a not distant day.
Photographs will be made by the infra red light
That will show us the clouds both by day and by night.
From an altitude high in the clear stratosphere
Will come pictures of storms raging far if not near
Revealing in detail across many States
The conditions of weather affecting our fates.
There will then be no need for the stale weather maps
With their many blank spaces and wide open gaps
And with no information as the hours elapse.*

*In the coming perpetual visiontone show
We shall see the full action of storms as they go.
We shall watch them develop on far away seas,
And we'll plot out their courses with much greater ease.”*

[Fragment from *'The Raymete and the future'*, poem by George W. Mindling,
Official in Charge, Weather Bureau Office Atlanta, Georgia, March 29, 1939]

Update, December 2011

This is an updated version of the *TIROS Bibliography (2009 new revision)* with over fifty additional entries being added to the most of the sections in the *Bibliography*. Most of these new entries provide an online access to the full-text documents, images, and digital videos.

This publication is available online for downloading in PDF and Microsoft Word formats at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/tirosbib.pdf> ; <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/tirosbib.doc>. It is published in LISD Current Reference Series 2006-2, rev. 2009, update 2011.

The recent update to the *Bibliography* would not have been possible without the assistance of our volunteer librarian Mark Miller, MLS.

Preface to the 2009 new revision

This new and enlarged revision of the *TIROS Bibliography* was prepared to mark and support NOAA's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the launch of TIROS I, the world's first weather satellite, in April 1960. The document has recently been updated with the full-text online access to over three-hundred additional historical documents. These documents pertain to the TIROS and other meteorological satellites published during the early 1960s and the later years. Hundreds of entries have been added to the following sections of the *Bibliography*:

- *II. Printed Resources on TIROS, other Meteorological Satellites, and Satellite Meteorology*
- *III. Internet Resources*, including digital images and videos
- The new section *IV. Authors Index* has been added for better access within the document.

This publication is available online for downloading in PDF format at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/tirosbib.pdf>. It is published in LISD Current Reference Series 2006-2, rev. 2009.

The recent revision of *Bibliography* would not have been possible without the assistance of librarian Diana L Abney, who managed the imaging process of the included publications, and without the expert advice of Capt. Albert E. "Skip" Theberge, NOAA Corps (ret.) in the selection of the historical documents.

Anna Fiolek, M.A., M.L.S.
NOAA Central Library
Silver Spring, MD
e-mail: Anna.Fiolek@noaa.gov

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Preface to the 2007 revision

The original *TIROS Bibliography* was prepared to mark the 40th anniversary of the launch of TIROS I, the world's first weather satellite, in April 1961. This *Bibliography*, revised and enlarged as of January 2007, includes selected, unique, printed and online resources on TIROS, other meteorological satellites, and satellite meteorology from NOAA Central Library's collection. This revised document also provides full-text access to some of the listed items and has been enhanced with the addition of a section of Internet resources. It is published in LISD Current Reference Series 2006-2.

Publications listed in this *Bibliography* may be requested through your local library's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service. For more information on this consult NOAA Central Library's ILL home page at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/refservices/ill.html>

This publication is available online in HTML and PDF formats at:
<http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/tirosbib.html> (2000 version)
<http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/tirosbib.pdf> (Updated version)

This *Bibliography* would not have been possible without the assistance of some individuals at the NOAA Central Library: Janice Beattie, Director, and Doria Grimes, Chief of Contract Operations Branch, for their help and support for this project; Albert E. "Skip" Theberge for his assistance with the selection of historical documents; and Librarian Liselle Drake for her editorial assistance and advice.

Anna Fiolek, M.A., M.L.S.
NOAA Central Library
Silver Spring, MD
e-mail: Anna.Fiolek@noaa.gov

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I. Introduction

TIROS I (Television Infrared Observation Satellite I) was launched on April 1, 1960 from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The main objective of the TIROS program was to demonstrate the feasibility and capability of observing the Earth's cloud cover and weather patterns from space. Although the program was experimental, this first space-borne system demonstrated the capability to acquire information which meteorologists could immediately use in an operational setting.

TIROS I was the world's first weather satellite to test the experimental television techniques leading to a world-wide meteorological satellite information system. It also was the first satellite to test sun angle and horizon sensor systems for spacecraft orientation. There were several participating agencies in the test, including NASA, the US ARMY Signal Research and Development Lab, the US Weather Bureau, RCA, and the US Naval Photographic Interpretation Center.

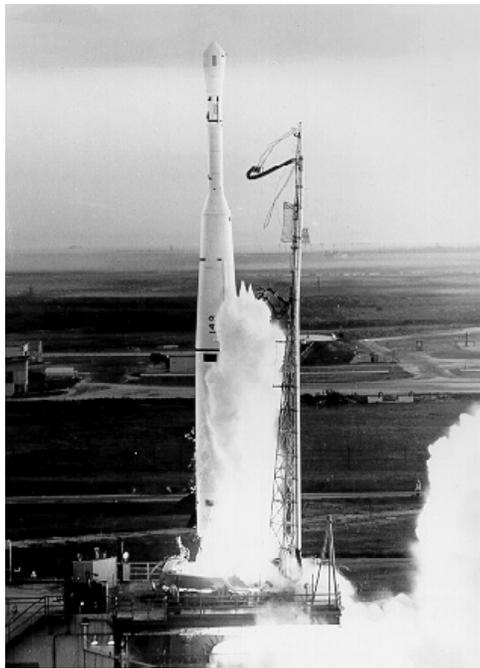


Photo: NOAA/SIS home page

TIROS I launch at Cape Canaveral

The spacecraft was 42 inches in diameter, 19 inches high and weighed 270 pounds. The satellite was made of aluminum alloy and stainless steel covered by 9200 solar cells. The solar cells served to charge the nickel-cadmium (nicad) batteries. Three pairs of solid-propellant spin rockets were mounted on the base plate. Two television cameras, one low resolution and one high resolution, were housed in the craft. A magnetic tape recorder for each camera was supplied for storing photographs while the satellite was out of range of the ground station network. The antennas consisted of four rods from the base plate to

serve as transmitters and one vertical rod from the center of the top plate to serve as a receiver. The craft was spin-stabilized and space-oriented (not Earth-oriented). Therefore, the cameras could only be operated while they were pointing at the Earth when that portion of the Earth was in sunlight. The video systems relayed thousands of pictures containing cloud-cover views of the Earth. Early photographs provided information concerning the structure of large-scale cloud regimes.

TIROS I was operational for 78 days and proved that satellites could be a useful tool for surveying global weather conditions from space. It was followed by nine more test satellites launched between November 23, 1960 (TIROS II) and July 2, 1965 (TIROS X) to provide routine, daily weather observations. For more information on TIROS satellites, please consult the NASA Science Web site, under “TIROS”¹ and Mission and Spacecraft Library, in Quicklook index, under “TIROS”²



Photo: NOAAASIS home page

First picture from Space - TIROS I satellite, April 1, 1960

“Since those first exciting days, satellite systems have become an intrinsic part of weather forecasting, oceanography, terrestrial mapping, and hazard detection. NESDIS and its ancestor organizations have processed, interpreted, and archived millions of satellite images that were acquired by those early systems and the thirty or so NOAA owned and operated satellites that have done so much to protect and warn the citizens of the United States.”³

To view the pictorial history of TIROS and other NOAA satellites consult the NOAA in Space album of images at: <http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/space/index.html>

¹ TIROS. In: NASA Science. Missions. URL: <http://nasascience.nasa.gov/missions/tiros>

² TIROS, Television Infrared Observation Satellite. In: Mission and Spacecraft Library. URL: <http://space.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/QuickLooks/tirosQL.html>

³ Albert E. Theberge, Jr. NOAA in space. In: NOAA Photo Library. URL: <http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/space/index.html>

“Today, the nation's environmental satellites are operated by NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service in Suitland, MD. NOAA's environmental satellite system is composed of two types of satellites: geostationary operational environmental satellites for national, regional, short-range warning and now-casting; and polar-orbiting environmental satellites for global, long-term forecasting and environmental monitoring. Both GOES and POES are necessary for providing a complete global weather monitoring system. Both also carry search and rescue instruments to relay signals from aviators and mariners in distress.”⁴



Photo: National Air and Space Museum, 7B31915

TIROS I during preliminary test stage

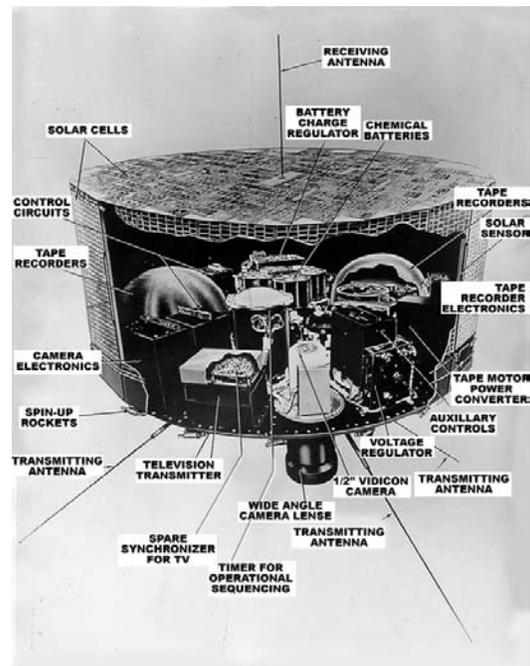


Photo: NOAA's home page

TIROS I – Construction

⁴ Viets, Pat. 2000. April 1 marks 40th anniversary of first weather satellite. In: NOAA 2000-023 [press release]. URL: <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2000/mar00/noaa00023.html>

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Online access: <http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/rescue/TIROS/QC8795U45no85.pdf>

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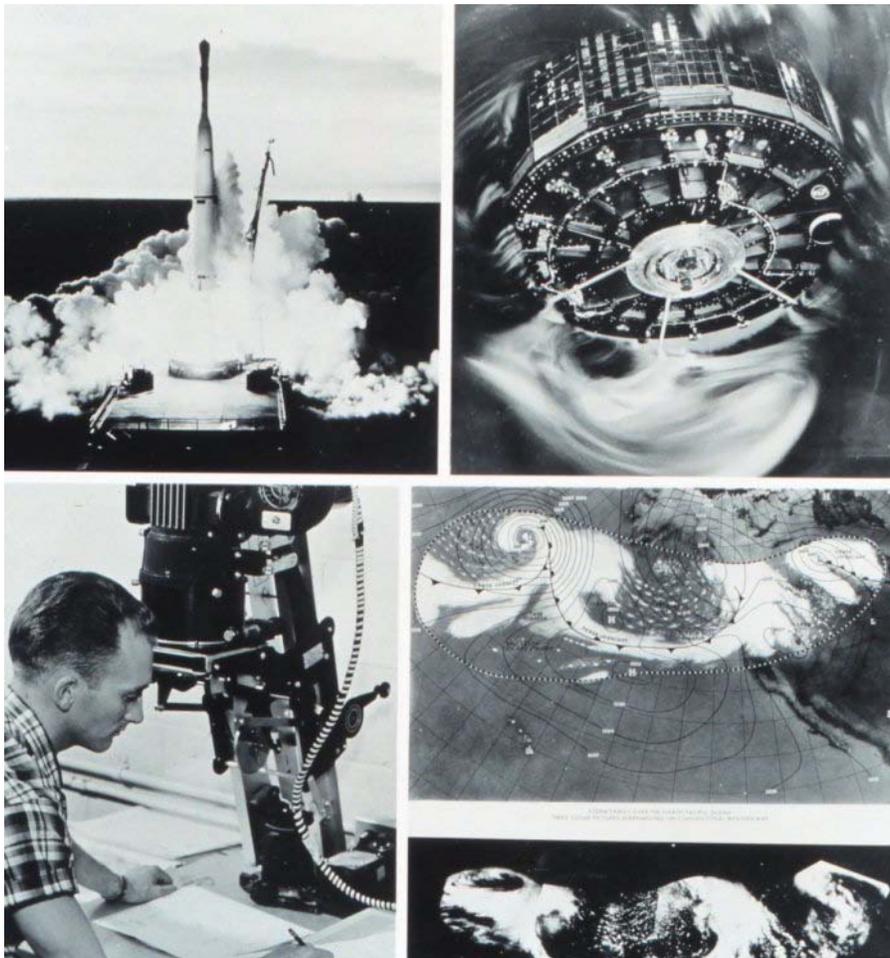
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TIROS I images of North Pacific storm system on May 19-20, 1960. TIROS I launch on upper left; TIROS I satellite on upper right; processing images on lower left. (Photo: NOAA Photo Library)

III. Internet Resources on TIROS, other Meteorological Satellites, and Satellite Meteorology

[The entries listed below are arranged in alphabetical order by the website title. The URL addresses were viewed for their accuracy during the month of November 2011]

David A. Hastings. **The advanced very high resolution radiometer (AVHRR): a brief reference guide.** U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Geophysical Data Center. In: Journal Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, v. 58, no. 8, August 1992, pp. 1183-1188.
Online access: http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/ecosys/cdroms/AVHRR97_d1/avhrr2.htm

AIAA: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics home page. American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc., 2007.
Online access: <http://www.aiaa.org/index.cfm>

Automatic Weather Stations Project and Antarctic Meteorological Research Center. Space Science and Engineering Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007.
Online access: <http://amrc.ssec.wisc.edu/>

CIMSS real-time GOES page. CIMSS is the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies formed through a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). CIMSS scientists conduct research using passive remote sensing systems for meteorological and surface-based applications.
Online access: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes/realtime/realtime.html>

CIMSS GOES real-time derived products. Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies, 2007. This website contains various GOES derived product images (DPI) as well as composite displays made routinely at CIMSS, usually every hour, using current GOES multi-spectral sounding data.
Online access: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes/rt/>

CIMSS tropical cyclones. Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies, 2007.
Online access: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/tropic2/>

CIRA: Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere. Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, Colorado State University. Fort Collins, CO, 2006.
Online access: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/>

CIRS's AMSU website. Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, Colorado State University. Fort Collins, CO, 2006. AMSU stands for Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit. It is derived from the Microwave Sounding Unit (MSU) which began

service in 1978 on TIROS-N and continued on the NOAA 6 through 14 satellites.
Online access: <http://amsu.cira.colostate.edu/>

COMET: Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training. University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, National Center for Atmospheric Research.
Online access: <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/>

Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System (CLASS). Silver Spring, MD: NOAA, National Environmental Satellites, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). The Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System (CLASS) is an electronic library of NOAA environmental data. This web site provides capabilities for finding and obtaining those data. CLASS is NOAA's premiere on-line facility for the distribution of NOAA and US Department of Defense (DoD) Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (POES) data, NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) data, and derived data.
Online access: <http://www.class.noaa.gov/nsaa/products/welcome>

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Technology. Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight. (2010). **Continuing independent assessment of the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System : hearing before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, One hundred Eleventh Congress, first session, June 17, 2009.** Washington, DC: G.P.O.
Y 4.SCI 2:111-36
Online access: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-111hrg50173/pdf/CHRG-111hrg50173.pdf>

Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies. University Wisconsin-Madison, Space Science and Engineering Center, 2006.
Online access: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/>

EUMETSAT home. European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites. In English and French.
Online access: <http://www.eumetsat.int/HOME/>

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) home page. The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was established in 1992 to ensure that the observations and information needed to address climate-related issues are obtained and made available to all potential users. It is co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission ([IOC](#)) of UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)) and the International Council for Science ([ICSU](#)).
Online access: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/>

Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) Web Site. Earth science data and services directory. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 2009.
Online access: <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/>

Goddard Library: Goddard's projects directory. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 2006.
Online access: <http://library01.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/gdprojs/searchform.pl>. [Search database on: "TIROS"]

GOES Project science. NASA, NOAA, 2007.
Online access: <http://goes.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

GOES soundings: GOES sounder temperature and moisture products. U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. Silver Spring, MD, 2006.
Online access: <http://www.orbit.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/opdb/goes/soundings/index.html>

NASA, Earth Science Office. **Interactive weather satellite imagery viewers from NASA GHCC. Derived products from GOES-East and GOES-West.** NASA, 2007. The Global Hydrology and Climate Center
<http://www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/GOES/satlinks.html> obtains GOES East (GOES-12) real-time satellite data from a roof-top antenna. Data from both the Imager and Sounder instruments on-board the GOES satellite are ingested and are used to monitor developing weather conditions and to develop a number of useful products. The Imager provides high spatial resolution images (1 km visible and 4 km infrared) of the CONTinental United States (CONUS) up to 4 times an hour for 5 spectral channels. The Sounder provides 10 km resolution data of the CONUS once an hour for 19 spectral channels.
Online access: <http://www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/GOES/>

Hurricanes. U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Silver Spring, MD, 2006.
Online access: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP): catalog of data and products / compiled and edited by Katherine B. Kidwell and Daniel R. Poltar. Ashville, NC: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Environmental Satellites, Data, and Information Services (NESDIS), National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), 1998. (September 1998)
Online access: <http://www2.ncdc.noaa.gov/docs/isccp/cover.htm>

Jonathan McDowell. **Jonathan's Space home page.** 2006. Jonathan McDowell, astrophysicist working at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.
Online access: <http://www.planet4589.org/space/>

Landsat Missions. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, 2009.
Online access: <http://landsat.usgs.gov/>

The Landsat Program. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Washington, DC, 2007.

Online access: <http://science.nasa.gov/missions/landsat-7/>

Manual of synoptic satellite meteorology conceptual models and case studies.

Version 6.0. Contributed by DHMZ, FMI, KNMI, ZAMG; supported by EUMETSAT.

Online access: <http://www.zamg.ac.at/docu/Manual/>

MetEd: satellite meteorology. University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Online access:

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_detail.php?page=1&topic=12&language=1&orderBy=publishDateDesc

Meteorological satellites. U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission.

Online access:

<http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/SPACEFLIGHT/metsats/SP35.htm>

Monitoring stratospheric ozone. Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology, 2007.

The Bureau monitors ozone so that it can have data for the initialization and verification of global modeling and analysis products, so that we can detect long term trends and in order to resolve questions about the dynamics of the stratosphere and the ozone layer.

The Bureau's network is a part of the WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch.

Online access: <http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/oeb/atmoswatch/aboutozone.shtml>

NASA Earth Observatory home page. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Washington, DC, 2009. The purpose of NASA's Earth Observatory is to provide a freely-accessible publication on the Internet where the public can obtain new satellite imagery and scientific information about our home planet. The focus is on Earth's climate and environmental change. In particular, we hope our site is useful to public media and educators. Any and all materials published on the Earth Observatory are freely available for re-publication or re-use, except where copyright is indicated.

Online access: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

NASA home page. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Washington, DC, 2009.

Online access: <http://www.nasa.gov/>

NASA History Division home page. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Washington, DC, 2009.

Online access: <http://history.nasa.gov/>

National Aeronautics and Space Agency photographs. The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. Abilene, KS.

Online access: <http://eisenhower.archives.gov/research/audiovisual/images/nasa.html>

National Air and Space Museum home page. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, DC, 2007. The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum maintains the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world. It is also a vital center for research into the history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight, as well as planetary science and terrestrial geology and geophysics.
Online access: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/museum/>

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center home page. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center. Miami, FL, 2007.
Online access: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>

United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction. (2011). **The National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System : over budget and behind schedule, options to move forward : hearing before the Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, United States Senate, One Hundred Ninth Congress, second session, March 30, 2006.** Washington, DC: U.S. G.P.O. Series: *United States. Congress. Senate. S. hrg ; 109-1106.*
Y 4.C 73/7:S.HRG.109-1106
Online access: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-109shrg63761/pdf/CHRG-109shrg63761.pdf>

NESDIS/StAR/CoRP/RAMMB comprehensive publications list. NOAA, National Environmental Satellites, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). Silver Spring, MD, 2006.
Online access: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/resources/publications.asp>

NOAA CoastWatch. U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, Satellite Services Division. Silver Spring, MD, 2006.
Online access: <http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Data and Applications. Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology, 2007.
Online access: <http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/satellite/paper1NOAA.shtml>

NOAA Photo Library: NOAA in space. Prepared by Albert E. Theberge Jr. Silver Spring, MD: NOAA Central Library.
Online access: <http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/space/index.html>
<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/brs/spind1.htm> (Catalog of images)

NOAA Satellite and Information Service: National Environmental Satellites, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. Silver Spring, MD, 2009. NESDIS home page provides timely access to global

environmental data from satellites and other sources to promote, protect, and enhance the Nation's economy, security, environment, and quality of life.

Online access: <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/>

NOAA satellites theme page. Silver Spring, MD: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2009.

Online access: <http://www.noaa.gov/satellites.html>

NOAAWatch: NOAA's all hazard monitor. Silver Spring, MD: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2006-present.

Web portal offering information about ongoing environmental events, and explains the role of NOAA in prediction, monitoring, and recovery from environmental hazards. It provides public access to current information on a number of environmental threats ranging from oil spills, to hurricanes and tsunamis, to space weather. NOAAWatch integrates NOAA data, products, observations, satellite images, and other information pertaining to environmental hazards. It pulls many of NOAA's Web offerings together so that web visitors can get all NOAA information related to a storm or event on one site.

Online access: <http://www.noaawatch.gov/>

NPOESS: National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System. U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). Silver Spring, MD, 2009. NPOESS home page provides timely information and data from the NPOESS satellite system. The National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) is a satellite system used to monitor global environmental conditions, and collect and disseminate data related to: weather, atmosphere, oceans, land and near-space environment.

Online access: <http://www.ipo.noaa.gov/>

Other satellites. Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology, 2009.

Online access: <http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/satellite/paper1Other.shtml>

PO.DAC home. NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, 1999-2009.

Online access: <http://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Polar Orbiting Satellite Data Archive. Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology, 2007. The Bureau of Meteorology receives polar orbiter data (i.e. data from satellites whose orbit cross the north and south poles) from two satellites, USA's NOAA satellite, and China's [FY-1D satellite](#).

Online access: http://www.bom.gov.au/sat/archive_new/orbsat.shtml

Polar-orbiting weather satellites. Developed by Don Hillger and Gary Toth, Colorado State University, 2001-2009. The home page serves as a checklist of polar-orbiting weather satellites, launch dates, and images of the satellites.

Online access: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/hillger/polar-wx.htm>

RAMSDIS online: real-time satellite data animations. CIRA/RAMM of Colorado State University, 2006.

Online access: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/ramsdis/online/index.asp>

RAP Real-time weather data: satellite. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), 2007.

Online access: <http://www.rap.ucar.edu/weather/satellite/>

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