



NEWS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • Environmental Science Services Administration

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ESSA II JOINS ESSA I

Last Monday ESSA II (Environmental Survey Satellite) was successfully rocketed into a 113.5 minute orbit to join ESSA I and add Automatic Picture Transmission (APT) capability to the TIROS Operational Satellite System. ESSA II will provide daily coverage of local weather systems for weather stations around the world equipped with APT receivers. A station can receive pictures from the satellite whenever it is within a range of 2,100 miles. On each pass, ESSA II can relay two or three pictures, each showing an area of four million square miles. When NASA's three-stage, thrust-augmented, improved Delta rocket placed ESSA II into an approximate 865-mile-high orbit, the world's first operational network of space weather satellites came into being.

PRESIDENT REQUESTS ESSA FUNDS

The budget which President Johnson presented to Congress for the year beginning July 1, 1966, includes \$165,195,000 for ESSA. The chart below shows fiscal year 1967 requests together with comparable figures for the current (FY 66) year. Appropriation requests combine activities previously funded from Coast and Geodetic Survey, Weather Bureau, and a portion of National Bureau of Standards accounts. Note: FY 66 figures include amounts proposed for pay increase supplementals.

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>FY 1966</u>	<u>FY 1967</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
Salaries and Expenses	97,750,000	101,635,000	3,885,000
Research & Development	19,366,000	22,450,000	3,084,000
Research & Development (Special Foreign Currency)	500,000	500,000	----
Facilities, Equipment, & Construction	4,153,000	7,025,000	2,872,000
Satellite Operations	25,048,000	33,585,000	8,537,000
TOTAL	146,817,000	165,195,000	+ 18,378,000

The increase in the number of positions available under each category is as follows:

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
Salaries & Expenses	7737	7911	174
Research & Development	894	977	83
Facilities, Equipment, & Construction	83	89	6
Satellite Operations	239	277	38
TOTAL	8953	9254	+ 301

BIG BREAK FOR SEAMAP

Work done by scientists aboard the C&GS's oceanographic ship Pioneer has resulted in the discovery of a massive break in the North Pacific Ocean floor caused by an undersea upheaval millions of years ago. The upheaval raised a range of mountains over one-half mile high and dropped part of the adjacent bed one-half mile wide, forming a valley about 15 miles wide. The valley is bordered on one side by the mountain range and on the other by a steep rise of about 1,200 feet. Analysis of the data, which required months of intensive study, was made by George Peter and Omar DeWald, research geophysicists of the Institute for Oceanography. The discovery of the new fracture zone is an important result of the SEAMAP project, an intensive program aimed at mapping the bottom of the seas.

MAGNETIC MAPS UPDATED

World magnetic charts showing distribution of magnetic declination (variation of the compass in maritime terminology) for 1965 have been published by the U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office. These charts are recompiled at 5-year intervals by C&GS in consultation with the Royal Greenwich Observatory of Great Britain and in collaboration with the U. S. Navy.

OCEANOGRAPHER UNDERGOES TESTS

The ESSA (C&GS) ship Oceanographer, the largest oceanographic research ship built in this country, is being tested now in the Atlantic off the Jacksonville, Fla., coast by a crew from the Southside Division of Jacksonville Shipyards, Inc., builder of the ship. The 303-foot, 3,800-ton ship will be taken on a three or four-day trip early this month, when an 11-man Maritime Administration trial board crew checks the ship for approval. After the board approves the ship, it will be turned over to the C&GS which expects to assign the ship to the seaward extension of the Transcontinental Geophysical Survey, part of the Upper Mantle Project. The ship will conduct surveys of gravity, magnetics, and bottom topography, and occupy thermoprobe and coring stations, between 35° and 39° north latitude, working out to about 500 miles off the United States' Atlantic coast. Later in the year, Oceanographer will head south to participate in Operation Eclipse, occupying a position in the South Atlantic that coincides with the noon point of the November 12 total solar eclipse. During the trip to and return from the South Atlantic, the ship will make satellite-controlled surveys of the bulge of South America as part of the Institute for Oceanography's continental drift investigation. Eventually, Oceanographer will sail around the world to reach her home port in Seattle, Wash.

SAVINGS BOND INTEREST RATE INCREASED

President Johnson last month increased the interest rate on savings bonds from 3.75 percent to 4.15 percent. The increase was done to make the savings bonds more competitive with other forms of savings and applies to all outstanding bonds purchased since December 1, 1965, as well as those bought in the future. The way it works is this: With the new 4.15 percent rate, \$18.75 invested for only seven years will earn \$25. When the rate was 3.75 percent, a savings bond holder had to wait seven years and nine months in order to get his \$25. In other words, the Government is raising the interest rate by shortening the length of time they must be held in order to earn their face value.

FAA GETS SPECIAL CHARTS

Air traffic controllers of the Federal Aviation Agency are being furnished special reproductions of 37 sectional aeronautical charts on translucent paper for backlighted display. The charts are placed over radar consoles in air traffic control centers.

TWO ESSAites RECEIVE ORDER OF ALASKA WALRUS

Captain Harley D. Nygren, Deputy Director, Planning and Program Evaluation and Paul Kutschenreuter, Director, Office of User Affairs, last month visited officials in Alaska and Washington to discuss various aspects of Pacific environmental hazards. Meetings were held in Anchorage with the Alaska Field Director, C&GS; Alaska Region Director, USWB; Federal Aviation Agency; Alaskan Command; Dr. Hugh J. A. Chivers, ITSA, and the Alaska Disaster Office. In Juneau the visitors met with the USCG, owner of radio station KJNO, MIC (Juneau) and the Governor of Alaska. Hazard warning problems also were discussed with officials of the Pacific Science Center (Seattle, C&GS) and the Weather Bureau. Both Kutschenreuter and Nygren were presented with certificates and pins of the Order of the Alaska Walrus by Governor William Egan.

ESSA OFFICIAL VISITS ITSA

Walter A. Hahn, ESSA Director of Planning and Program Evaluation, visited ESSA's Boulder, Colo., laboratories recently to discuss long-range planning with Dr. C. Gordon Little, Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and Aeronomy (ITSA) Director. During the visit, Hahn also attended laboratory research reviews and consulted with senior staff members.

WEATHER BUREAU, AIR FORCE, NAVY TEAM-UP

Weather Bureau, Air Force and Navy personnel in Hawaii are cooperating in a pioneering effort to produce numerical analyses and forecasts of common interest to users, civil and military, in the tropical Pacific. The computer center is operated by the Navy at Fleet Weather Central, Pearl Harbor, in cooperation with Weather Bureau personnel from WBAS, Honolulu, and Air Force Personnel from the 1st Weather Wing. Upper air data, including aircraft reports, are collected, automatically processed, and analysed four times daily. Output products include computer plotted charts, printouts, teletype messages, and facsimile charts.

FSE EXAMS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Federal-Service Entrance Examinations will be given at more than 800 examining points throughout the country on April 16 and May 21. The FSEE is one of the Federal Government's primary means for recruiting new graduates for careers in Government. The exam is open to college seniors and graduates, as well as to others with a combination of experience and training equivalent to a bachelor's degree. It is used to fill a variety of career-entry positions at the GS-5 or GS-7 level, depending on qualifications of the candidate. Those interested must submit applications by March 16 for the written exam on April 16, and by April 19 for the test on May 21.

HOW FAR OUT CAN YOU GET?

A recent piece of correspondence for NESC bore the following address: "National Environmental Saddle Light Center, Suitland, Md." So now we make headlights for horses?

FORECASTERS GATHER IN EASTERN REGION

The Scientific Services Division of the Weather Bureau's Eastern Region headquarters conducted a seminar for 20 field forecasters recently at New York. Subjects included probability forecasting, verification, and analysis prediction of subsynoptic scale phenomena. Edwin B. Fawcett of the National Meteorological Center (NMC), Suitland, Md., was guest speaker at the seminar and he spoke on the preparation and use of NMC's guidance material.

TYPHOONS DISCUSSED IN TOKYO

James W. Osmun, Director, Pacific Region and Robert E. Helbush, chief, Emergency Warnings Branch of Weather Bureau Central Office, attended the 1966 U. S. Pacific Command Typhoon Conference in Tokyo last month. Typhoon tracking, forecasting and warning procedures were discussed to consider methods of improving the programs with a view to refining techniques for future requirements.

NEW CHART AIDS NAVIGATORS

A new large-scale nautical chart (No. 524) of the Corpus Christi, Tex., Harbor has been released by the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The chart also covers the Viola Turning Basin and the improved channel to it, as well as the Rincon Basin now under development by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Based on 1965 topography by C&GS and hydrographic surveys by C&GS and the Corps of Engineers, the chart also includes depth information as reported Nov. 1, 1965, by the Corps of Engineers.

SHELF HELP MAPS

The work of four Government agencies (Bureau of Fisheries, Geological Survey, Navy Oceanographic Office, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey) in compiling some bathymetric maps for Continental Shelf areas was discussed at a recent panel meeting of the Interagency Committee on Oceanography. This committee decided that C&GS should construct bathymetric maps of the shelf for use of all Government agencies and the public.

CAPTAIN ULM DIES

Captain Kenneth S. Ulm, 59, a retired C&GS officer, died Feb. 19 in Seattle. Capt. Ulm retired in Washington in 1964 after 34 years of C&GS service. At the time of his retirement he was chief of the Marine Data Division of the Office of Oceanographic Surveys, Washington, D. C.

GEODETTIC MEETING SLATED

A geodetic control users symposium, sponsored by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) Control Surveys Division, is scheduled to meet in Washington, March 10-11. Divided into three sessions, the symposium is expected to develop ideas for future geodetic control extension. C&GS officials will participate in the opening discussion of C&GS control survey programs and on a panel to answer users' questions.

Items to be considered for ESSA News must be received by Friday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 1021, Bldg. 5, WSC, Rockville, Md. Phone (301) 496-8193.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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