



NOAA REPORT

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COMING UP

NOAA-G polar-orbiting satellite launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., Aug. 25.

NOAA Regional Users Conference in New Orleans Sept. 10-11.

Oceans '86 in Washington, D.C., September 23-25.

NOAA Prepares for EMEX:--An Equatorial Mesoscale Experiment (EMEX), planned for January 1987 in the oceanic region north of Australia and using one of NOAA's two hurricane research WP-3D's, will investigate one of the major meteorologically active areas on earth for the occurrence of mesoscale convective systems. Scientists indicate that EMEX observations will provide the most direct determination to date of cloud-cluster heating in the tropics. Knowledge of the vertical profile of cloud-cluster heating will be a major advance in understanding the tropical climate. The vertical distribution of heating in such regions, and how the atmosphere responds to it, determines the modes of motion characterizing large-scale circulations in the tropics. During this same period, researchers from NASA and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology will be conducting investigations in the stratosphere and in the large-scale Australian monsoon system. Scientists from the three groups are coordinating their activities to ensure that the observations in their individual experiments add to the goal of the others.

NOAA-G Launch Attracts Media:--NASA is expecting a large press turnout for the launch of the polar-orbiting satellite, NOAA-G, from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 25. NOAA and NASA Public Affairs staffs are cooperating in plans to assist media coverage by setting up a news center at Lompoc, making special arrangements for satellite television coverage, and conducting pre-launch news briefings at San Francisco and Los Angeles.

NOAA, Universities Agree On Cooperative Institutes:--NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service has signed agreements with several universities creating cooperative institutes that will lead to increased benefits to private sector users of NESDIS data and valuable feedback to the government.

A tandem institute embracing the University of New Hampshire, Durham, and Dartmouth University, Hanover, will be known as the Cooperative Institute for Remote Sensing of Biogeophysical Processes. It will provide NOAA a major center in support of a long-range government-academia "earth system sciences" program. Administrator Calio in June participated in a joint NOAA-NASA-National Science Foundation news briefing announcing the three agencies' decision to pool resources in studying interactions of the earth's biophysical processes. Both universities have highly-developed capabilities for applying satellite sensing to land surface processes.

The Colorado School of Mines and NESDIS agreed to establish the Cooperative Institute for Geodata (geosciences data) Management and Applications (CIGMA) at the CSM campus in Golden, Colo. CIGMA will involve cooperation between scientists at CSM and NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, combining the school's programs in computer science and geophysics with the data resources/management expertise of NGDC, the largest repository of geophysical and geological data in the nation. The focus will be on research, development, and testing in scientific application of large geophysical data bases, and the management of geophysical data using modern computer technology.

Greater use of spacecraft for petroleum geology is the focus of the cooperative institute to be developed by NESDIS and the University of Oklahoma at Norman. The new space research unit will be known as the Cooperative Institute for Applied Remote Sensing, and will become a key element in a multi-million dollar world energy center now under construction at the university. Environmental satellites, especially the Landsat system, as well as spacecraft to be orbited during the coming decade, can provide petroleum geologists with vital new clues to potential oil-bearing areas of the earth. The new institute, through research and training programs, will endeavor to help oil companies capitalize on these dividends from the space program.

Climatologist Sees Drought Ending:--Dr. Nathaniel Guttman of the National Climatic Data Center told listeners of NBC's Today Show that the southeastern drought is in its latter stages. Dr. Guttman appeared on the show August 4 in connection with the NOAA/AMS conference on climate and water resources held in Asheville. While Dr. Guttman's prediction was based on climatology, exactly one week later, thunderstorms brought some relief to the drought-stricken area.

SEAS Demonstration:--The capabilities of a next generation Shipboard Environmental (Data) Acquisition System (SEAS) were demonstrated at the Commerce Department on August 8 to interested Department and NOAA personnel. The system, which will be installed on NOAA ships, automatically processes ocean and weather data fed into it and sends it to shore stations for real-

time use or further processing and storage. This new generation SEAS unit, built around a personal computer, offers a number of improvements over earlier versions. User friendly computer software makes it easier for ships' personnel to enter and quality control meteorological and oceanographic observations. Sea level pressure is measured automatically. This unit also can be expanded to collect and transmit oceanographic variables such as salinity and current measurements. All collected data are transmitted in near real-time via GOES satellite. The demonstration unit was installed on the NOAA Ship Delaware II later on August 8 for comprehensive field tests.

Record Canadian Exports To U.S.:--In 1985 Canada exported \$824 million worth of fishery products to the United States (versus \$748 million in 1984), according to Fisheries Service economists. Fresh and frozen fillets (\$280 million) were the most important product, followed by whole fish (\$127 million), and fish blocks (\$97 million). The United States accounted for 61 percent of Canada's fish exports by value in 1985.

Earthquakes Keep Alaska Center Busy:--Earthquakes are an every-day occurrence at NOAA's Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska. Thousands of events (quakes) have been recorded by the National Weather Service facility over the past several months, according to regional director Stuart G. Bigler. Many of the events necessitated an earthquake/tsunami investigation by the Center to determine the potential for the formation of a seismic sea wave. In some cases, public warnings of the large and dangerous sea waves created by an earthquake had to be issued. Bigler recalled the May 7 event when a major earthquake - one of the largest in 20 years - occurred in the Adak area. This quake generated a Pacific-wide tsunami as well as thousands of aftershocks. While most of the aftershocks were small with a magnitude of less than 4.0 (on a scale of 10), in the next ten days there were more than 113 aftershocks that were larger than magnitude 4.0, and were reportedly felt by residents on Adak and the neighboring island of Atka. The largest of the aftershocks occurred on May 17 for which another tsunami warning was issued. During this 10-day period, more than 90 earth/tsunami investigations were conducted by the NOAA center.

Dr. Strong Takes Naval Academy Post:--Dr. Alan Strong of NESDIS has been appointed a visiting professor to the Remote Sensing Chair in the Department of Oceanography at the U.S. Naval Academy. Dr. Strong will be "on loan" to the Academy for the 1986-1987 school year beginning in September.

Storm Forecasters Use Profiler Data:--Data from ERL's Colorado Profiler Network is being received routinely at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City and has proved valuable to Weather Service forecasters there. For example, on July 13, forecaster Jack Hales was monitoring the

weather situation and potential for severe storms over the Great Plains when he detected from the profiler plot for Platteville, Colo., the approach of an upper-air pressure trough that was not evident from conventional data. This proved to be extremely helpful in the issuance of a severe weather watch over portions of Kansas. Later, seven reports of severe weather in the watch area were received, including hail up to two inches in diameter.

Drought Publication Issued:--In response to the continued severe drought affecting the southeastern United States, the National Climatic Data Center has published "Probabilities and Precipitation Required to End/Ameliorate Droughts." The report offers readers some quantitative measure of the precipitation required to end or ameliorate an ongoing drought. It also relates the climatological probability of receiving at least the required amounts of precipitation. The NOAA report provides officials with the information needed to make decisions on drought severity and the need for conservation measures.

NESDIS Helps St. Louis Science Center:--NESDIS is helping the St. Louis Science Center build a weather station at which visitors will be able to create a rainbow, measure outdoor weather conditions, and view global weather through the eyes of a GOES satellite. Ron Gird, NOAA's technical consultant for the project, says the station is a joint project of the Center, NOAA, KTVI-TV, and Environmental Satellite Data, Inc. The weather station will enhance visitors' understanding of meteorology and NOAA's role in the atmospheric sciences.

End Of A Broadcast Era:--After more than 40 years of service, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Sub-Regional and the Caribbean Meteorological (CARMET) high frequency radio teletypewriter broadcasts went off the air on August 1. These broadcast services were operated jointly by the FAA and the National Weather Service from Miami, Fla. The broadcasts met U.S. commitments to provide meteorological and aviation weather data to WMO and International Civil Aviation Organization Member States in the Caribbean, Central America, and northern South America. The requirements for data now are being met by new improved WMO and ICAO telecommunications systems such as the Antilles Meteorological Network and the Central American Meteorological Network.

Free Tuberculin Skin Tests:--During the month of August the Herbert C. Hoover Building health unit is offering free tuberculin skin tests. Tuberculosis, no longer the plague of former years, is now a curable disease. Deaths have declined dramatically, and the infection rate in children is so low that it is difficult to measure. Nevertheless, TB remains with us. Each year more than 25,000 new cases are reported. For more information or an appointment call 377-4088.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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