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14 FEB 2001

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1000 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1000

John Greenewald, Jr.
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald

This is response to your August 14, 2000 Freedom of Information Act request for document AD B179793, entitled Recent Accomplishment of the DOD Space Test Program, Final Report (FOIA case 00-1597).

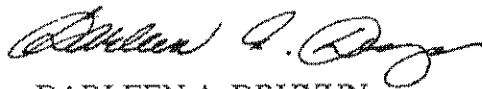
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Sincerely



DARLEEN A. DRUYUN
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
(Acquisition & Management)

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1. Requested record

INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE DIVISION NOTE
IADN 94-1

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
DOD SPACE TEST PROGRAM

JANUARY 1994

By

[REDACTED]

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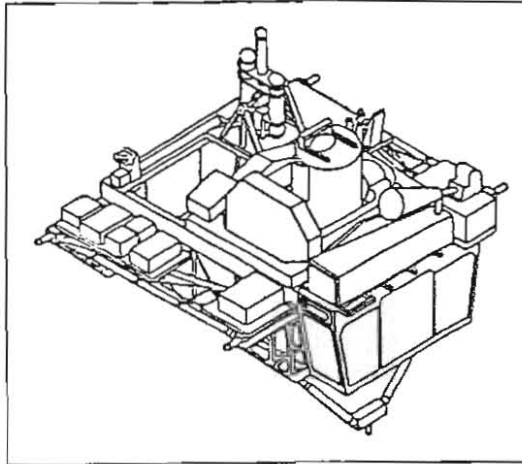
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Space Test Program

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DOD SPACE TEST PROGRAM



BY

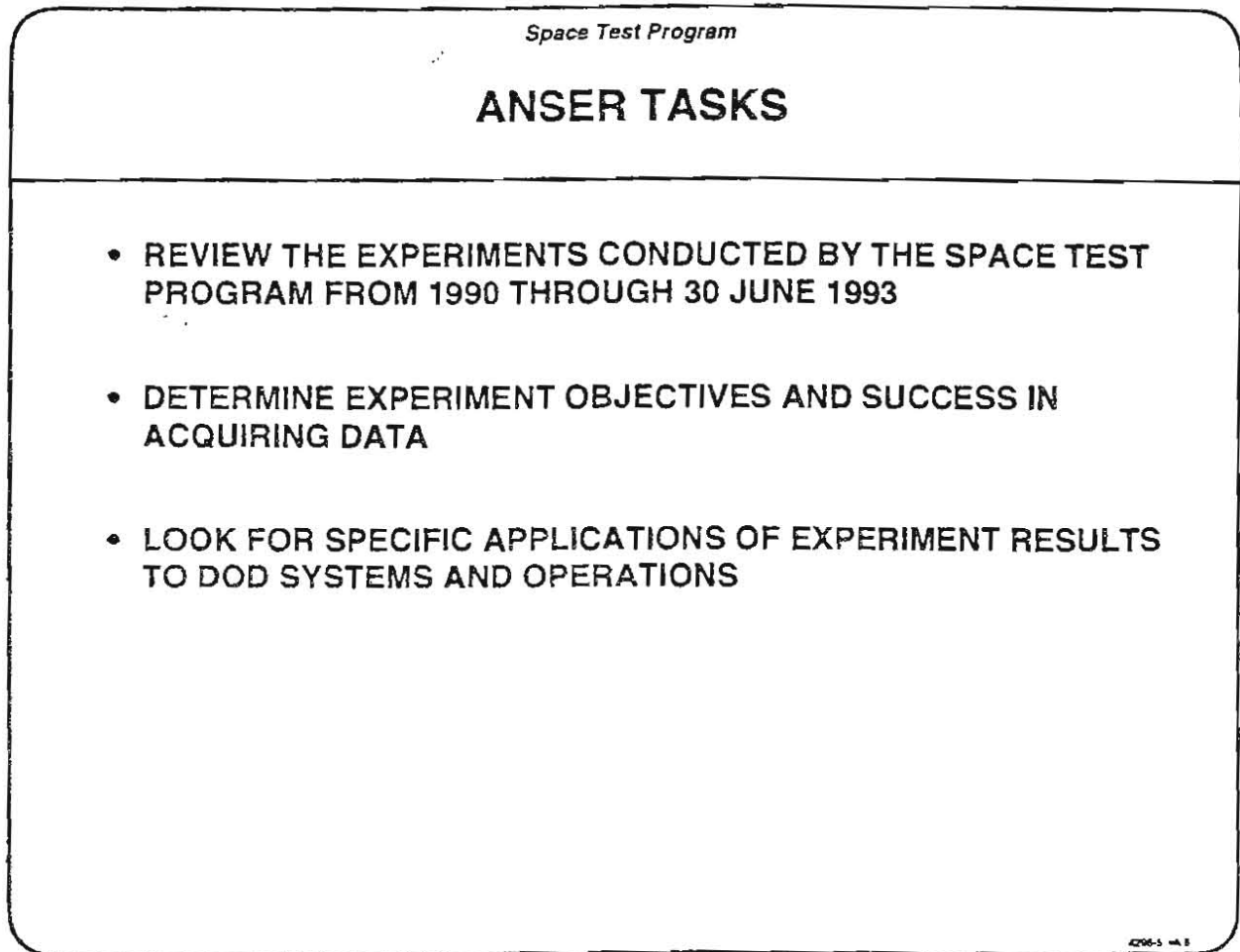
THOMAS HAGLER
DR. EVA CZAJKOWSKI

4296-1, WK 11-McDP

PREFACE

This division note is an annotated briefing based on a 4-month study ANSER conducted for SAF/AQSL. The purpose of the study was to investigate and document significant accomplishments and benefits from the Department of Defense (DOD) Space Test Program (STP) during the period 1990-1993. A prior ANSER study addressed the period before 1990. The study was performed under the guidance of Maj Dan Cramer, SAF/AQSL.

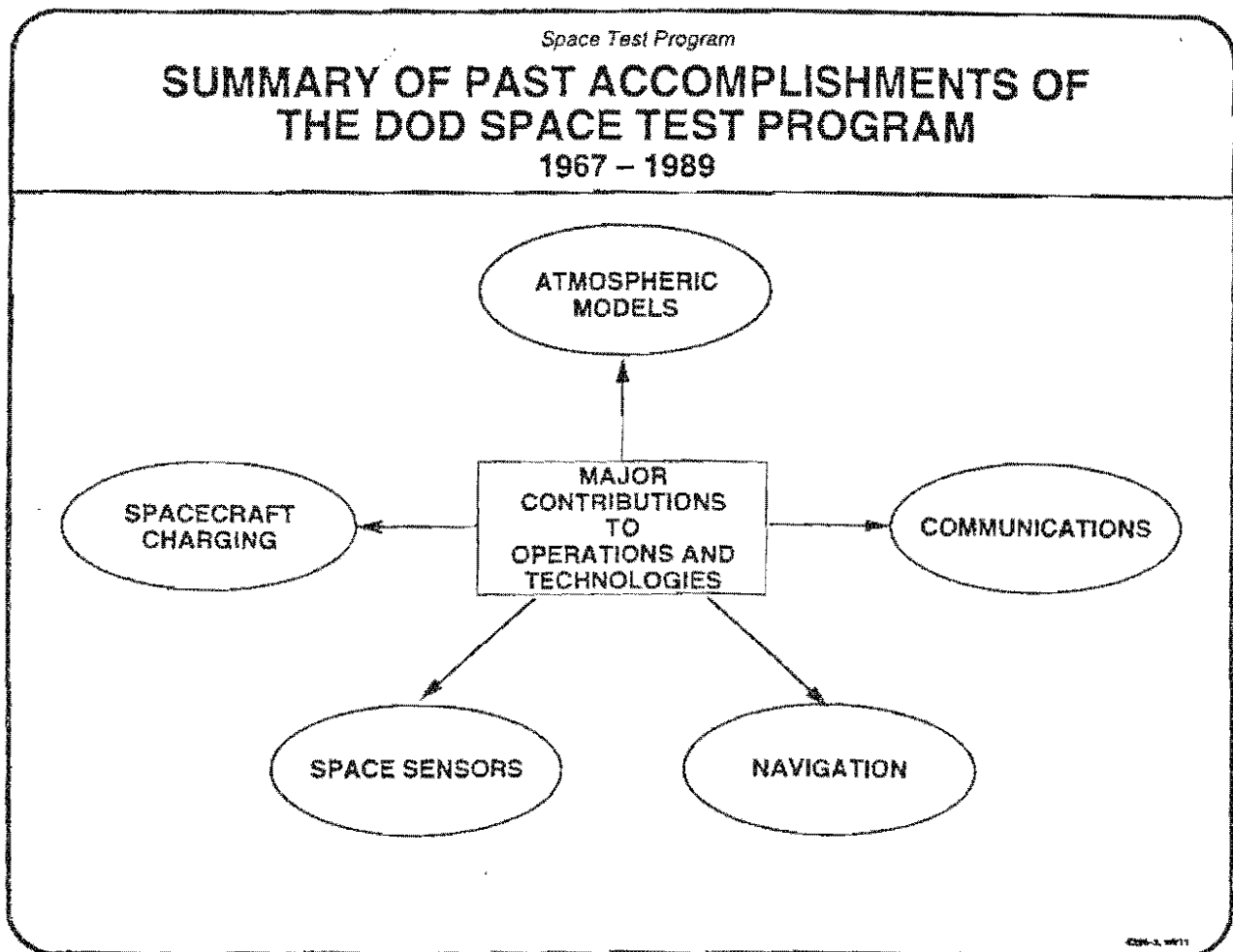
Figure 1



The above chart lists the ANSER tasks in this study.

The initial effort identified specific applications of experiment results to DOD systems and operations. In the case of subsystem development flights or flights of prototype systems, the direct benefit of the flight experiment is often readily evident and established by the system itself. In the case of flights which acquire environmental data, the direct benefit of the data to an operational system is frequently much more difficult to identify since environmental data is usually incorporated into models which, in turn, support space operations.

Figure 2

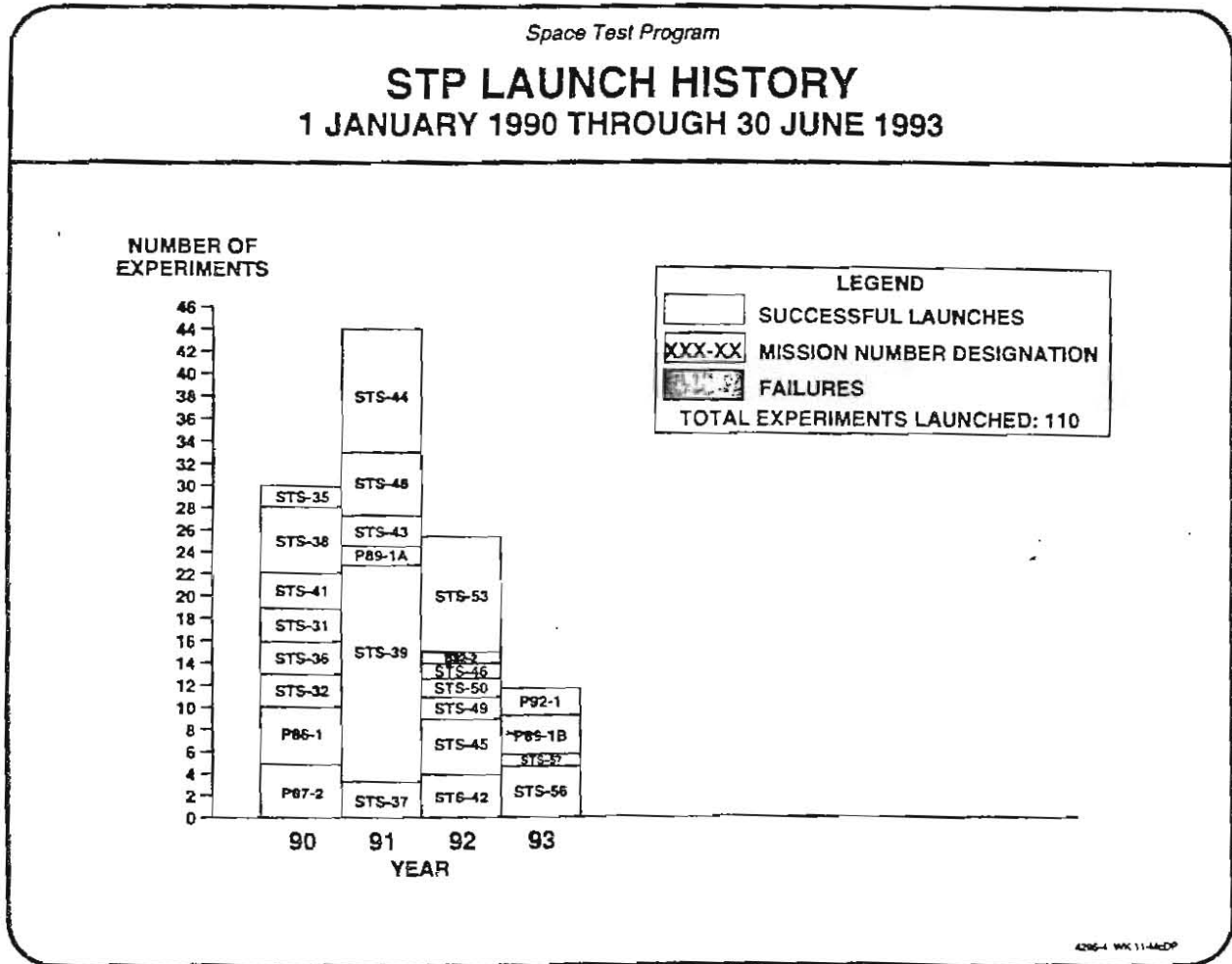


In summary, from its initial flight in 1967 through the end of 1989, STP made significant contributions to many technology areas critical to military operations. The above chart lists five of the major areas to which STP has made major contributions.

In the area of communications, STP flew experiment LES-6 in 1968. This experiment proved the utility of ultra high frequency (UHF) satellite communications for various tactical and strategic scenarios and was the forerunner of current space-based military tactical communications systems. In 1976, STP flew experiments LES-8 and 9. These experiments demonstrated an advanced K-band communications system and were the prototype for the reliable, survivable military communications system currently under development.

II. STP EXPERIMENTS - 1 JANUARY 1990 - 30 JUNE 1993

Figure 3



The subsequent launch history of STP experiments for the period 1 January 1990 through 30 June 1993 is shown on the above chart. The chart indicates missions per calendar year and the number of experiments in each mission. In addition to the successful missions which include 107 experiments, two missions carrying three experiments were lost due to equipment failure. Of the total of 110 experiments launched, 23 experiments were not a part of the STP program but were flown because of the STP space test expertise and as a service for NASA and other DOD activities.

benefits of using military personnel in space for military purposes. Figure 4 lists the major categories of experiments and their inclusive types of experiments which STP has conducted during the period 1 January 1990 - 30 June 1993. Figure 4 also indicates the number of experiments of each type that STP conducted during this same period.

System and subsystem tests of spacecraft components, the first category, are necessary to develop improved components. Such tests are generally directed towards improving component performance or making the component more reliable or more survivable.

Advanced communications tests conducted during this period have demonstrated the feasibility of communicating from space with a ground-based terminal. These tests have also demonstrated a space-based system for store and forward communications. Four experiments have supported communications. Advanced sensor tests evaluated new approaches to a number of space sensors. Three experiments, in this period, supported advanced sensor development. Experiments related to the development of subsystems and components have proof-tested in space a number of components, leading to more reliable and survivable subsystems. An additional nine experiments supported subsystems development. Experiments in space related to space manufacturing are designed to determine whether manufacturing in space can produce a cheaper or better product. During this period, STP carried out its first two space manufacturing experiments. STP also conducted one experiment that provided space objects for calibrating ground radar.

The results of measurements of the space environment, the second category, are more difficult to correlate directly with a beneficial military use. This difficulty in tracking results from measurements of the environment is frequently caused by the fact that experimental results are used in making environmental models or atmospheric standards which, in turn, are used in military operational activities. These models are one of several variables which impact space operations and, therefore, their results are more subjective.

The ionosphere plays a very important role in radio propagation below UHF. Therefore, understanding its properties and behavior is vital to understanding the reliability of

many military communications systems. During this period, three STP experiments were flown to measure properties and behavior of the ionosphere.

The Earth's magnetic field is non-uniform and is undergoing continuous change, both ambient and as distorted by solar activity. The variability of this magnetic field directly affects many satellite guidance components. It has a direct impact on both terrestrial and space magnetic related measurement techniques. During this period, STP conducted a very successful experiment which will contribute to revising the world's magnetic model.

The amount and kind of solar radiation striking the Earth widely influences the Earth, its weather, and communications. For example, solar flares can cause worldwide communications blackouts in certain frequency bands. During this period, STP conducted a space experiment to measure isotropic and chemical compositions and energy spectra in solar flare nuclei. This experiment will contribute to the data base for solar flare studies.

Cosmic ray backgrounds are required for proper operation of nuclear detonation detection satellites and estimation of damage to components of spacecraft in orbit for long periods of time. During this period, STP conducted an experiment to characterize the dynamic behavior of the radiation belts. The data will be used to make models and support research related to spacecraft damage in space.

The proper operation of various surveillance satellites requires a thorough knowledge of the frequency spectrum background. During this period, four STP experiments gathered data on Earth and celestial background radiation in the IR and ultraviolet (UV) regions of the spectrum.

The near-Earth environment can be considered to include the regions of cloud formation and the oceans, both major concerns to military operations. During this period, STP carried out three experiments related to cloud formation.

Knowledge of the environment within a spacecraft, whether it be the cargo bay of the Space Shuttle or the experiment compartment on a free-flyer spacecraft, is important in planning for the survival and proper operation of the payload. During this period, STP carried out 37 experiments related to the spacecraft environment.

The third category, man-in-space investigations, includes experiments to detect changes — such as changes in visual acuity — in the human body in space. During this period, eight experiments have been conducted to investigate such changes in man's performance in space. Man-in-space investigations also seek to determine if these are useful military activities which can best be accomplished by a military man in space. During the report period, seven experiments were conducted to determine the utility of military man in space.

III. 1990-1993 STP HIGHLIGHT MISSIONS

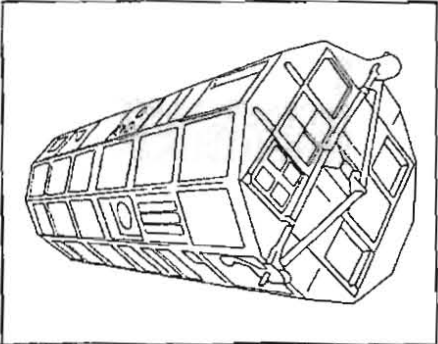
Four specific STP missions have been identified as having a particularly significant impact upon the advancement of space technology. These are: LDEF Recovery, CRRES, AFP-675, and STP-1. Each mission is addressed in detail below.

Figure 5

Space Test Program

1990-1993 STP HIGHLIGHT MISSIONS

LDEF RECOVERY



LONG DURATION EXPOSURE
FACILITY (LDEF)

LAUNCHED: 6 APRIL 1984
RECOVERED: 20 JANUARY 1990

STP EXPERIMENT OBJECTIVES:

- AFWL-701 (FIBER OPTICS IN SPACE): TO TEST THE PERFORMANCE OF FIBER OPTIC SYSTEMS IN SPACE
- CRL-258 (TRAPPED PROTON ENERGY SPECTRUM): TO INVESTIGATE SURFACE CHANGES DUE TO EXPOSURE IN SPACE INCLUDING EXPOSURE OF SMALL SAMPLES OF TISSUE
- NRL-702 (HEAVY IONS IN SPACE): TO SURVEY THE SPACE RADIATION ENVIRONMENT
- SD-802 (SPACECRAFT MATERIALS): TO MEASURE THE EFFECTS OF SPACE ON SPACECRAFT MATERIALS AND COATINGS
- AFTAC-201 (SPACE EFFECTS): TO DETERMINE THE SPACE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ON ELECTRO-OPTICAL SENSOR COMPONENTS

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

- RECOVERY AND ANALYSIS OF A SPACECRAFT AFTER SIX YEARS IN ORBIT HAS PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT SPACECRAFT DESIGN INFORMATION FOR BOTH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT

4294-1 ver. 2

In 1984, NASA launched the Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF). The mission plan at the time of launch was for LDEF to remain in orbit for one year and then be recovered by the Space Shuttle. LDEF carried a large number of experiments in experiment trays located on the surface of the spacecraft. The DOD Space Test Program sponsored and

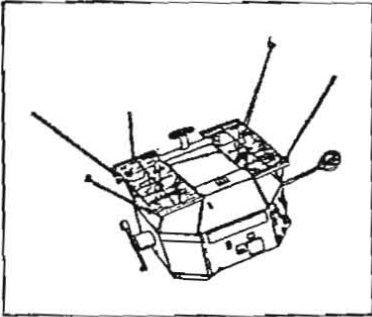
managed five of the experiments on LDEF. The objectives of the STP experiments are listed on Figure 5. Generally, the STP experiments were directed toward obtaining data on the performance of electronic components and spacecraft coatings over long periods of time in space.

Due to the loss of the Shuttle Challenger and the subsequent hiatus in Shuttle flights, LDEF was not recovered after one year as planned but remained in orbit for almost six years. This unanticipated extension of the mission provided a bonanza in terms of space effects on spacecraft. Not only did the STP experiments perform well but much additional data was obtained from the analysis of the LDEF spacecraft itself. Through meetings, Aerospace Corporation reports, and informal discussions, STP was able to provide useful information to DOD program managers and contractors regarding the design of spacecraft for long durations in orbit.

Figure 6

Space Test Program

1990-1993 STP HIGHLIGHT MISSIONS CRRES



COMBINED RELEASE AND
RADIATION EFFECTS
SATELLITE (CRRES)

LAUNCHED: 25 JULY 1990

STP EXPERIMENT OBJECTIVES:

- AFGL-701 (SPACERAD): TO TEST AND SPACE QUALIFY ADVANCED MICROELECTRONICS
- ONR-307 (EPIC): TO CHARACTERIZE THE DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF THE RADIATION BELTS
- ONR-604 (SOLAR FLARES II): TO MEASURE COMPOSITION AND ENERGY SPECTRA IN SOLAR FLARE ACCELERATED NUCLEI
- AFAPL-801 (HESP): TO DEMONSTRATE AND EVALUATE IN SPACE A HIGH-EFFICIENCY SOLAR PANEL
- NRL-701 (LASSII): TO STUDY IRREGULARITIES IN THE IONOSPHERE

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CRRES DEMONSTRATED AND EVALUATED A NEW HIGH-EFFICIENCY SOLAR PANEL. THE EXPERIMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED SPACE POWER SYSTEMS
- CRRES TESTED AND SPACE QUALIFIED ADVANCED MICROELECTRONIC COMPONENTS IN SPACE. THIS EXPERIMENT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE IMPROVED MILITARY SPACE SYSTEMS

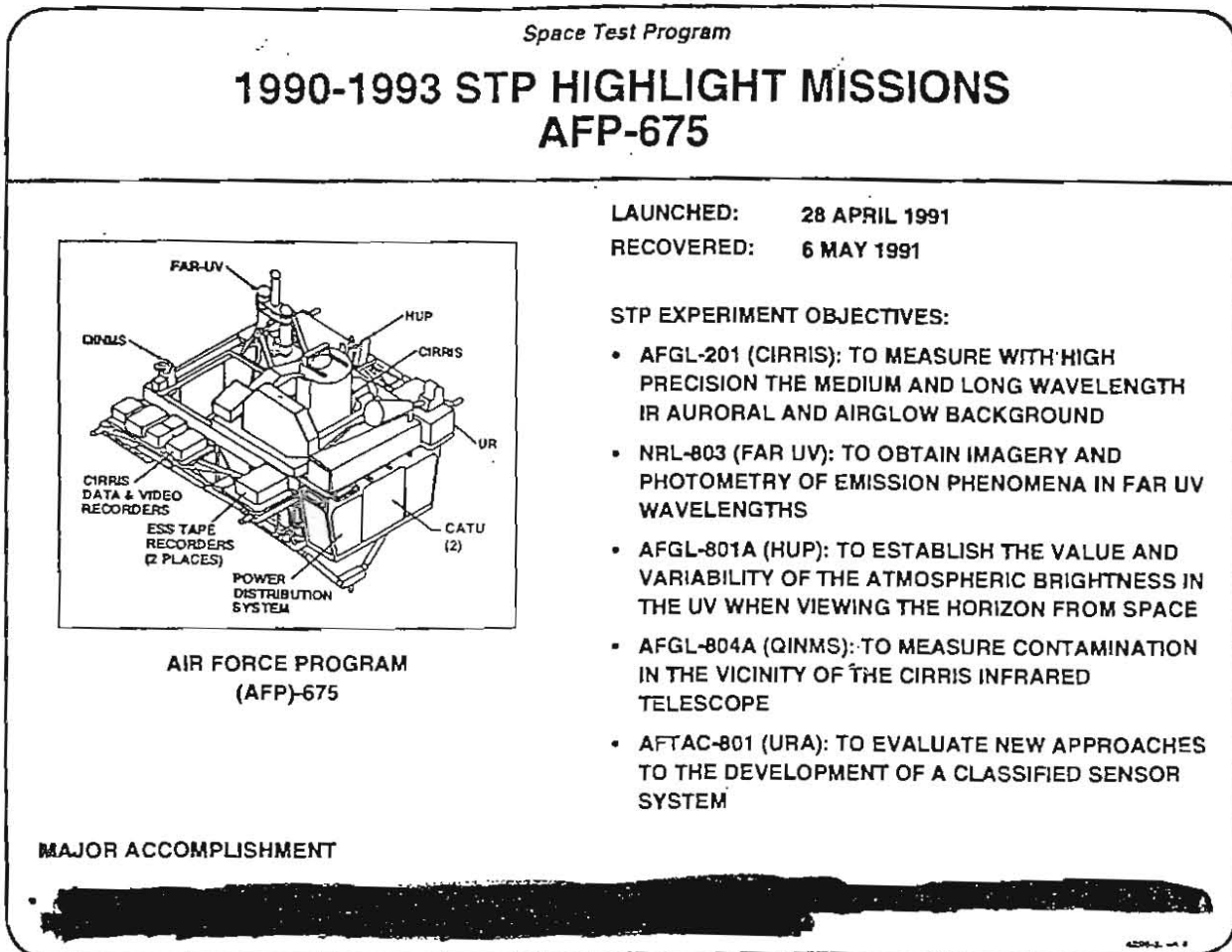
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In 1990, STP launched CRRES, a major joint free-flyer mission with NASA. The spacecraft carried five STP experiments. The objective of each of these experiments is listed on Figure 6. Although all of the STP experiments obtained useful data, two of the experiments are singled out as particularly valuable: demonstration of high-efficiency solar panels and investigation of radiation damage to advanced microelectronics.

For many years there has been a need to develop an improved space power system. The major improvements needed are better efficiency (power to weight ratio) and less susceptibility to radiation damage in space. One of the prime candidates for such a system has been solar panels composed of gallium arsenide solar cells. The STP experiment on the CRRES mission demonstrated a gallium arsenide solar cell with improved efficiency through the use of a thin film protective cover on the cell. The experiment also demonstrated that gallium arsenide solar cells in space will anneal (i.e., recover) from much of the damage caused by space radiation. These experiments will contribute significantly to the evaluation of gallium arsenide solar cells for future space power systems.

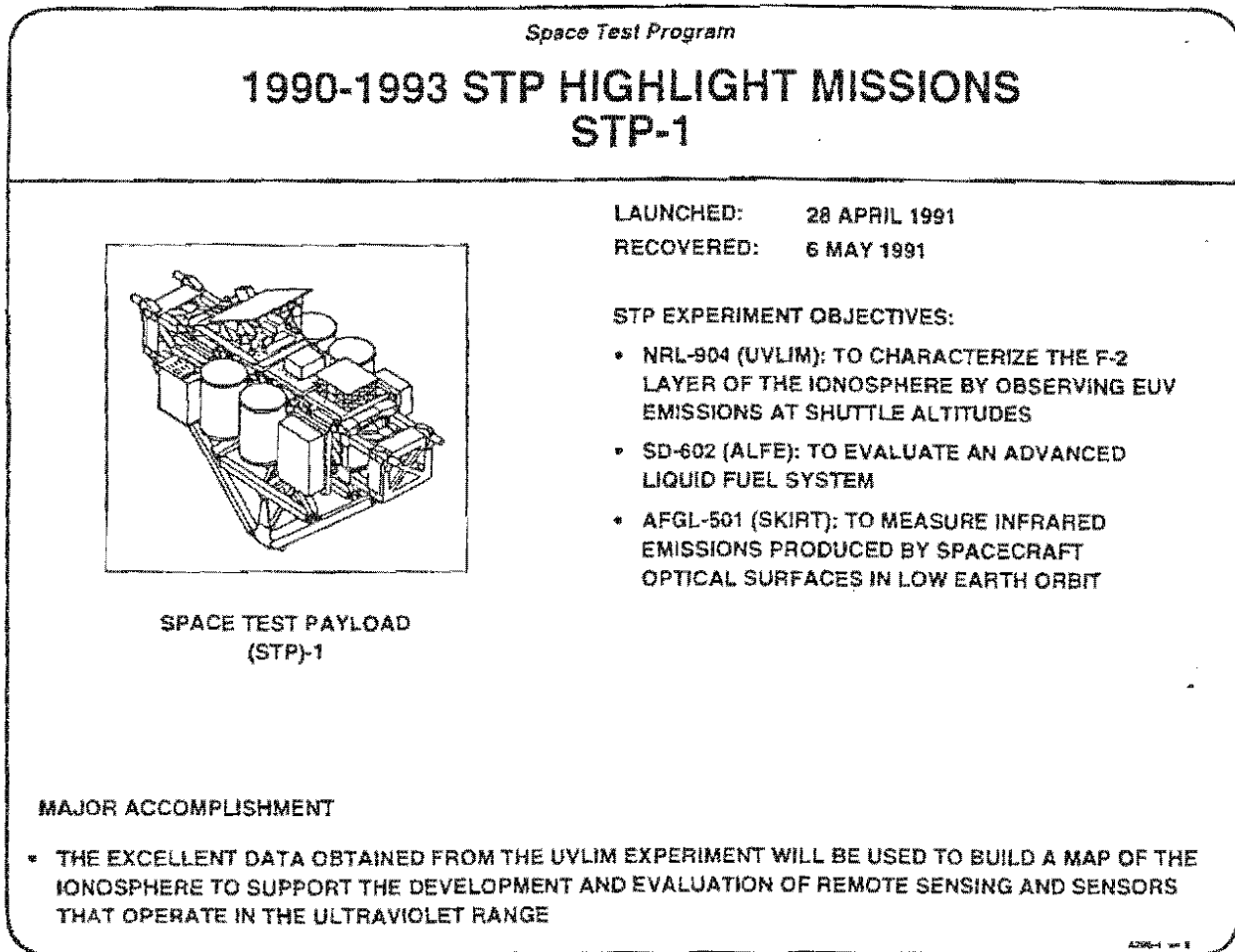
On the CRRES mission, STP also flew an experiment to investigate radiation damage to advanced electronic components in space. The experiment not only measured the radiation environment but also carried sample advanced electronic components in order to directly test them. The data from this experiment have contributed significantly to the data base for the use of advanced electronic components in space.

Figure 7



In 1991, STP launched a major space mission in the cargo bay of the Space Shuttle. This mission, named AFP-675, carried five STP experiments. The objective of each of these experiments is listed on Figure 7. Of particular importance is the data obtained by the CIRRIS experiment which measured IR auroral and airglow backgrounds. Since the early 1970s, STP has conducted experiments to determine IR and UV backgrounds in space. The [REDACTED] in particular, have provided key data for a number [REDACTED] (b)(3) [REDACTED] become more sophisticated, the requirement for more precise background data increases. The high-quality precision data obtained by the CIRRIS experiment will be used to optimize [REDACTED]

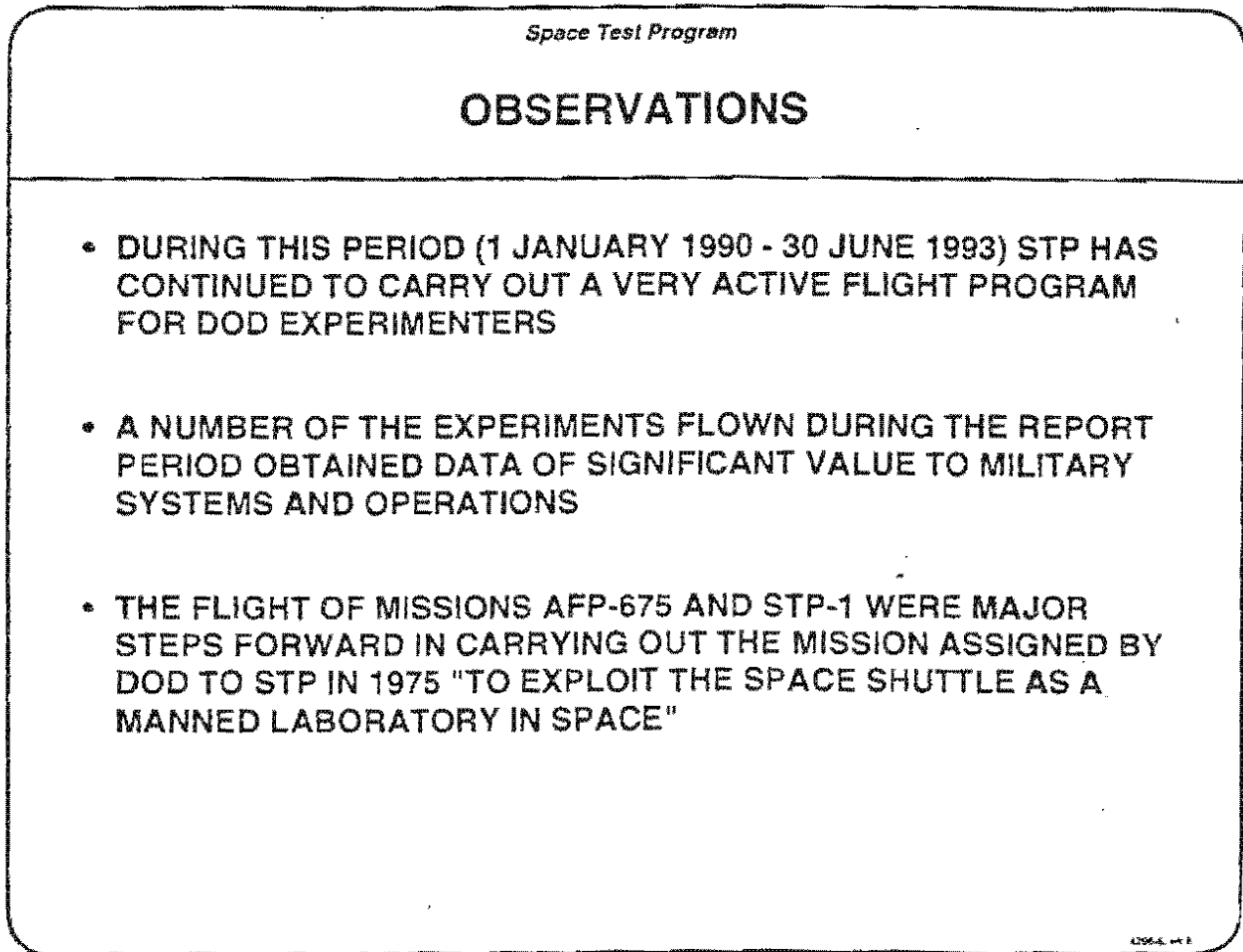
Figure 8



In 1991, STP flew, in a single flight, approximately 1,000 pounds of experiments in the Space Shuttle cargo bay on a pallet provided by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Small Payloads Program. The objective of each of these experiments is listed on Figure 8. The UVLIM experiment made particularly useful measurements of extreme ultraviolet (EUV) emissions at Shuttle altitudes. Over the past several years, a number of experts in space sensors have suggested greater use these sensors which operate in the UV region of the spectrum. The UVLIM experiment has provided the best background data available and has made a significant contribution to a U.S. capability to design and build space sensors which operate in the UV spectrum.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

Figure 9



Over the past three years, the Space Test Program has produced a prodigious amount of flight tests yielding significant technology advancements, both in the excellence of the experiment and the quality of the data obtained.

The 110 experiments flown during this report period was the largest number flown in a three and one-half year period at any given time during the 30-year history of the Space Test Program.

Experiment results of exceptional value include the data on long duration in space acquired from the LDEF recovery, the demonstration of gallium arsenide solar cells in space from CRRES, and the IR background data obtained from AFP-675.

Although STP has flown experiments in the Space Shuttle for several years, none of these earlier experiments were of the size and sophistication of the experiments on missions AFP-675 and STP-1.

APPENDIX A
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12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

This Division Note documents a 4-month study which summarizes the accomplishments of the DOD Space Test Program during the period 1 January 1990 - 30 June 1993. The study also describes the benefits to DOD from the Space Test Program during this period.

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