

Satellite

NOAA-10 IS WORKING!

by Henry W. Brandli (1)

On 17 September 1986, at 11:52 a.m. EDT, an Atlas E Rocket lifted off from Vandenberg—carrying a \$37.3M satellite called NOAA-10. A day after the satellite achieved successful orbit, automatic picture transmission (APT) imagery was received in my home (2). Testing by NASA usually takes 60 days. There are five possible imagery models which can be received on the NOAA-10 APT mode. Normal configuration during the day is Channel 2 and Channel 4. In the early stages of the NOAA-10 mission, Channels 1 & 2 were transmitted. Channel 1 has a spectral interval of .58–.68 microns while Channel 2's interval is .725 to 1.1 microns. With Channels 1 & 2 during the daytime, the tremendous usefulness of Channel 2 can be easily noted. Sun glint and poor land water contrasts on Channel 1 make Channel 2 the obvious choice for any daytime analysis, especially at early morning sun time. Fig. 1 shows a daytime Channel 1 and Channel 2 comparison.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Henry W. Brandli is Chairman, NWA Satellite Meteorology Committee.
2. Brandli, H. 1986: Latest Russian Weather Satellite Imagery, National Weather Digest, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 35–36.

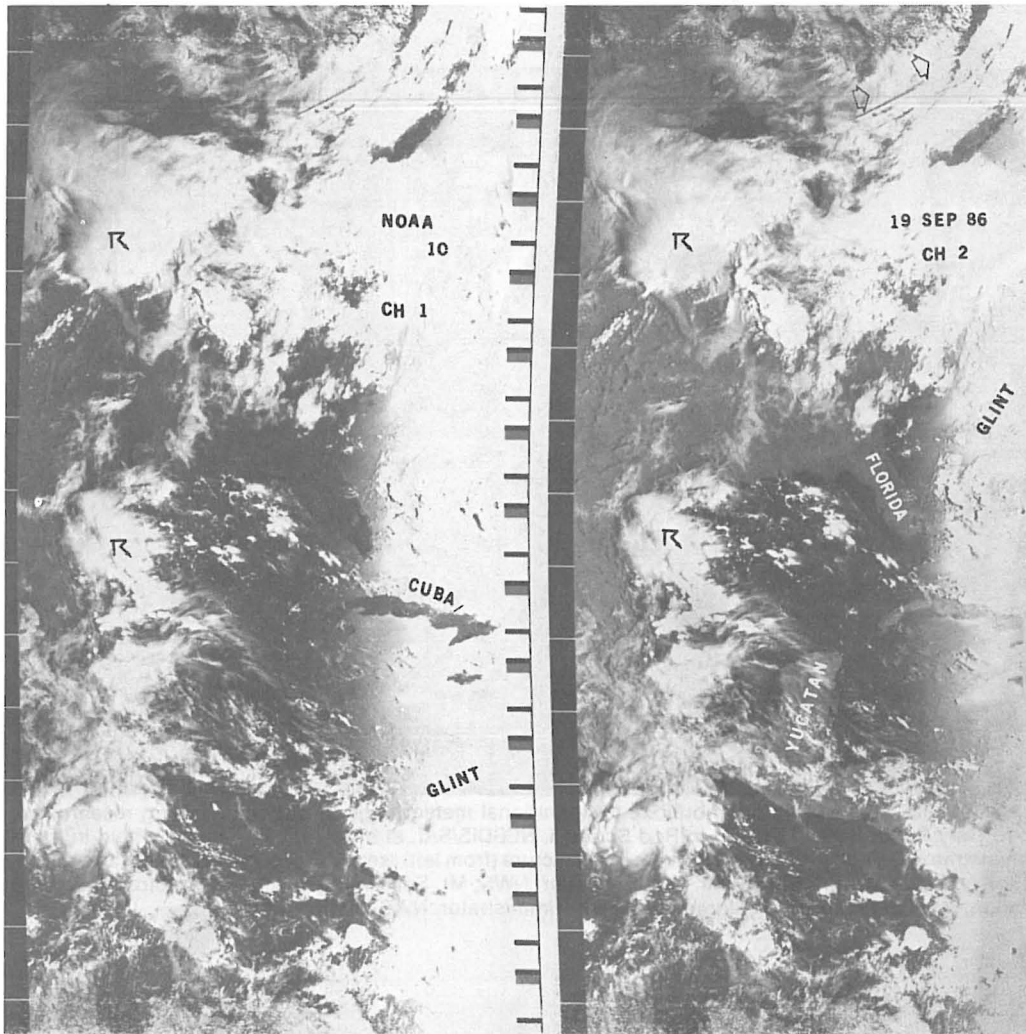


Fig. 1. NOAA-10 APT visible imagery as depicted 1230 GMT 19 September 1986.