## NOAA 11 IS UP AND OK!

## Henry W. Brandli (1)

On 24 September 1988, at 1002 GMT, an unmanned Atlas E rocket, lifting off from Vandenburg Air Force Base, California, successfully placed NOAA-11, a 54.5 million dollar weather satellite in a sun-synchronous polar orbit 540 miles (850 km) above the earth. Two days later, I received an Automatic Picture Transmission (APT) from this satellite in my home.

Figure 1 shows Channel 1, with a spectral interval of 0.58 to 0.68 microns, and Channel 2, with an interval of 0.725 to 1.1 microns, the two channels transmitted; there are five possible imagery modes that can be received on NOAA-11 APT. (2). Normal configuration during the day is Channel 2

and 4 while Channel 3 and 4 are best suited for nighttime viewing.

In Figure 1, the land/water contrast is sharper on Channel 2 as compared to Channel 1. Cirrus outflow from the northern portion of Hurricane Helene shows better definition on Channel 1.

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Henry W. Brandli, is Chairman of the National Weather Association, Satellite Meteorology Committee.

2. Brandli, H. 1987: NOAA—10 Is Working, Nat. Wea. Dig.— Vol. 12 No. 2 p. 20.



Fig. 1 The NOAA-11 APT imagery received on September 26, 1988, during the early afternoon hours, shows visible imagery on the right and near infrared on the left.