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The year 1970 brought the first all-digital configuration aboard Tripos IV / Sousea III. All significant payload outputs were digitized to permit more rapid and accurate ground data processing. The availability of reliable, high-speed digital integrated circuits made it possible to greatly enhance mission collection capability without large increases in spacecraft volume and weight. This

spacecraft was also the first to use an all S-band data transmission system.

First all-digital configuration

The Mabeli collection system was launched in early 1972 to provide continuing



TI intercept coverage of the Soviet ABM program. This system was designed with



an array of polarimeter antennas which permitted the measurement of received power and signal polarization to an accuracy +1 dB and 20 deg. This spacecraft was operated successfully for more than seven years

Operated successfully for more than seven years

before it re-entered the earth's atmosphere.

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Launched in mid-1972, the Ursala ELINT/COMINT collection system added a monopulse geopositioning system as a standard feature , which permitted Ursala to perform an extremely successful general search, Electronic Order of



and Battle (EOB), tactical support mission throughout the decade. Ursala I utilized both a 6-foot 3-foot and a parabolic reflector, each with 4-ARM multimode spiral

Monopulse geopositioning system

monopulse feed for 25X1 measurement.

To compliment the Ursala system, another collection system known as Raquel was launched in late 1974. Raquel was designed and optimized to

Technical Intelligence mission

perform a technical intelligence mission including predetection waveform recording of



targets operating in the frequency range from 4 to 18 GHz. This system also provided intercept coverage of target mainbeams, permitting beam shape, scan rates, and sector coverage (Az and EI) to be determined.

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Launched in mid-1980, Lorri I was the first satellite collector of SIGINT in the 26 to 42 GHz frequency range. The Lorri system was designed as a pallet to the host spacecraft, and unlike the earlier spacecraft, remained with the host for its entire



In 1982,

operational. Farrah I combined the capabilities of Ursala and Raquel with improved DF and parameter measurement accuracies. Farrah II was launched in 1984 and was identical to Farrah I. Both are still providing valuable data.

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P-11 Spacecraft: 4433 Mission Name: FARRAH I Mission Number: 7346 Launch Date: 11 May 1982 Design Life: 36 months Operational Life: Operational as of November 1996

MISSION

EOB, GS, TI, and directed search for pulsed and CW emitters in the 2.0 to 18.0 GHz frequency range (sidelobes and mainbeams).

CAPABILITIES

This spacecraft has the combined capabilities of the URSALA and RAQUEL spacecraft on a single platform. Improved DF and parameter measurement accuracies were achieved and major increases in the power subsystem and the command and control subsystem were included. The spacecraft contains an on-board general purpose digital computer used for real-time ELINT deinterleaving and readout directly to remote tactical support vans.

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TACTICAL ON-BOARD PROCESSING SYSTEM (TOPS) provides real-time identified signal data directly from the spacecraft processor to tactical users. Using an on-board SOI list, which can be changed as needed by the ground station, TOPS inputs wideband data, histograms the pulses and CW blips to form a burst, assembles the bursts into signals, and finally identifies the signals. Once identified, the signals are reported directly to tactical users/ subscribers. Currently, TOPS-collected data is being compared with the take forwarded to the for Quality Control purposes. Also, TOPS is able to report signals not included in the SOI list (Signals Not of Interest - SNOI's). Finally, the output from the CR can be reported via the TOPS systems to authorized tactical users.

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LIMITATIONS

WDR IF filter No. 5 (out of 8 installed in the spacecraft) failed February 1993; WDR tasking has been modified to avoid the affected RF ranges.

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 \mathbf{R} COMINT And Rapid Reporting Interferometry Experiment Mission 7245 (CARRIE) is one of several experimental SIGINT systems which are designed to provide force enhancement data to operational warfighters and theater commanders. The CARRIE mission is to demonstrate how new (experimental) capabilities and techniques will improve space system support to military forces, deployed in theater, who are the primary users of CARRIE mission data. Mission 7245 was launched directly into orbit by a TAURUS ELV on March 13,1994. The spacecraft is in a retrograde orbit inclined at 105 degrees and at an altitude of 290 nautical miles. The period is approximately 96 minutes. The spacecraft's orbit lifetime is estimated at 10 years. CARRIE The mission is intended to demonstrate improved space system support to military users in the field. As such, the CARRIE system is designed to respond to military commands and theater commanders in a timely manner. The CARRIE spacecraft collects COMINT signals in the 100 MHz to 850 MHz range. The collected data is transmitted to an EPDS van in realtime if the Area of Interest (AOI) is within the EPDS acquisition circle. If the AOI is outside the EPDS acquisition circle, the data is stored onboard until CARRIE is within the circle.

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CARRIE mission implementation begins when the EPDS van(s) sends collection requirements to the Overhead Collection Management Center (OCMC) via a Terminal Emulation Processor (TEP) message. The OCMC, in turn, converts the TEP message into an ITEMY message and forwards these requirements to the CARRIE Ground Segment Mission Planning Organization via the Special Operations Communications (SOCOMM). The collection

requirements are transferred from the SOCOMM to the Mission Planning database via a floppy disk. They are then converted into tasks which identify collection target areas in an AOI and point targets of interest around or near a particular EPDS van. Other mission planning functions use a spacecraft ephemeris to identify those times when the spacecraft will be in view of the AOI's, the AFSCN's RTSs, or the EPDS vans. From this composite, those times for actual spacecraft operation (whether receiving COMINT signals over a target area, transmitting telemetry to and receiving commands from an RTS, or transmitting telemetry to and receiving commands from an EPDS van) are chosen to become part of a daily mission plan. Contact Support Plans (CSPs) are then generated to implement the daily mission plan including what commands will be transmitted to the spacecraft and when they will be sent. Reports transmitted to the EPDS van(s) are fully processed reports which require no further processing by the van.

Since CARRIE Ground Segment architecture is designed to allow corps commanders to receive timely COMINT data, provisions are in place for changing spacecraft collection requirements. These requirements can be changed as late as 90 minutes prior to the last RTS contact preceding the implementation of the specific target collection. To further enhance utility, Military Exploitation of Reconnaissance and Intelligence Technology (MERIT) funded an effort that gives field commanders the option of changing tasking scenarios as CARRIE passes through the EPDS acquisition circle. All hardware and procedures are in place and will be exercised as part of this M7245 experiment.

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Chapter

**Mission Planning** 

Ollection requirements is the mechanism used to justify and validate user requests on a system. Through the OCMC, the intelligence user has their requirements levied on the overhead systems as authorized by the basic mission guidance approved by the SIGINT community. For the Mission 7300 system, the receipt and consolidation of collection requirements, mission planning, and command generation is performed within the Mission Planning Operations (MPO)/Command Generation (CG)Section.

#### REQUIREMENTS FLOW AND VALIDATION

The operations flow for Mission 7300 begins with customer requirements and ends with the consolidation of all requirements into a database used to generate collection plans and commands for the spacecraft. There are two paths where requirements for overhead system support are generated. NSA requirements are evaluated internally to NSA, while all other intelligence requirements are passed to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for a determination as to whether or not to task overhead resources.

The determination of whether or not to task an overhead resource is based upon the ability of the system to provide the required information. This ability is reflected in the Basic Mission Guidance (BMG) for each specific overhead resource and is issued by the SIGINT Overhead Resources Subcommittee (SORS). The BMG defines exactly what can be expected from a system and contains basic operation guidance including the system's mission, usage, priorities, and targets. Once the requirement has been validated for overhead systems, the requirement is passed to the OCMC.

The OCMC is the tasking authority through which all collection and reporting requirements are levied on overhead systems. The OCMC's function is to broker customer requirements to the various overhead systems. Once a requirement is received, the OCMC interprets the requirement and determines the proper system(s) for collection. If it is deemed necessary by the OCMC to focus selected resources on a particular situation, a Special Mission Guidance message is sent to the site(s) affected. At the OCMC, each overhead system is assigned a point of contact who can receive and respond to site(s) feedback on the special guidance.

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## INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS MANAGEMENT (IRM) DATABASE

The IRM database is maintained by MPO personnel and consists of automatic tracking of targets, all current targets, Tactical On-board Processing System (TOPS) user locations, all tasks currently active in the database, and all necessary sub-payload configurations currently allowed by the spacecraft. Examples of these subsystem configurations include: DF; OMNI and Polarimeter (PAR) programs; DF stepping patterns; the Wideband Digital Receiver (WDR); TOPS; CR; and any vehicle health and safety constraints.

## SUPPORT PROGRAMS (SP)

The support programs are a series of databases maintained by MPO/CG to assist the automated tasking scheduler of Mission 7300. These databases include:

Payload Information Database - contains various factors concerning payload component functionality.

Spacecraft Information Database - contains information concerning vehicle subsystem failures, configurations, and limitations.

RTS/Remote Operating Location (ROL) Information/Availability - provides information on the type of equipment installed at each ROL or RTS, any visibility or tracking constraints, communications link capabilities, and projected downtimes on the network.

Power/Thermal Modelling Database - predicts temperature loading on various spacecraft components as a function of payload tasking scenarios.

Tape Recorder Usage - an important limiting factor with respect to how the spacecraft is employed. Tape balancing and daily usage are so important that SORS sets the maximum daily tape recorder usage. Included in this data base are tape recorder health and safety limitations.

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Command and Control System (CCS)/MCT Operational Parameters -Data concerning maximum allowable simultaneous contacts, minimum required turn-around times and other "people" limitations are provided in this database.

External Environment Interface - contains the interface for receiving ephemeris vector files on spacecraft orbits, attitude and solar position data, and spacecraft spin rates

With this detailed collection of spacecraft equipment, health, location within the orbit and targets to be collected, the next piece of software actually creates the initial collection plan. This program is called Collection Opportunity Prediction (COP).

### COLLECTION OPPORTUNITY PREDICTION (COP)

COP takes the spacecraft and other ephemeris vectors and propagates them within the planning period of interest. This generates ground station events, target acquisition predicts, TOPS acquisition predicts, ground tracks, and antenna footprint files.

# TASK SELECTION AND SCHEDULING (TSS)

TSS is the heart of the mission planning process. It is the most man-intensive and time consuming process. TSS combines the IRM and SP databases with the COP output files and generates a predicted daily mission schedule. Mission planning operations personnel review the computer generated daily mission schedule and modify it, if necessary, to ensure that all tasking objectives are met, spacecraft operating constraints haven't been violated, and last minute changes to tasking or network status are taken into account. Additionally they ensure that target priorities are best weighed with minimal wear and tear in the spacecraft.

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## **GRAPHICS CHANGE FUNCTION (GCF)**

GCF is the Digital Equipment Corporation's Alpha based software where manual changes to the daily plan are manipulated. It provides an easy to understand interface to tasks, task satisfaction, tape usage, and RTS usage. With this tool, corrections, changes, and conflicts for resources are resolved. Once this portion of the mission planning process is complete (called the Station Utilization Listing (SUL) span), the mission control center makes it's first RTS request to the Air Force Range Schedulers by providing them with a Data Entry Format Tape (DEFT). This tape lists all the required RTS supports, the necessary communications equipment, and support time requests. Range scheduling takes the RTS requests and deconflicts them with station requests from the rest of the network. The output from this activity is a conflicts listing.



The next morning, Finals span begins with all MCCs performing deconfliction to bargain and negotiate for their station requests. Because of our mission, our priority is usually the highest with the notable exception of vehicle emergencies, launch support, etc. When the schedule is complete, Range scheduling produces another DEFT tape with approved RTS locations and times. Mission planning operations receives this tape and reruns graphic change function to adjust the daily mission plan in light of possible changes caused by RTS deconfliction. When the daily mission plan is complete, it's ready for CG.

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#### INSIDE THE OPERATION

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Of all programs on the AFSCN, _____has the most contacts per day. Because of the importance and time sensitive of its mission data, MCC-III has become affectionately known as the "Big Dog" on the network to those competing for RTS resources.

With nearly 100 contacts per day, a Mission Control Team (MCT) is always in support with a M7300 vehicle. The MCT consists of a Mission Controller (MC), a Ground Controller (GC) and a Planner/ Analyst (PA). The MCT prepares for a typical contact 15 minutes prior to RTS acquisition of the satellite when it breaks the horizon. During this prepass time, the GC is coordinating with network offices to configure the communications resources between the MCC and the RTS. Some of those activities include: establishing a secure voice net (DoD secret) to coordinate the subsequent activities such as directing wideband to configure the digital comm switch and DISA link; coordinating with the RTS operator on establishing antenna setup and ensuring error-free comm links; etc. Once fully error25X1 checking error-free connectivity to the user checked from the MCC to the RTS antenna, the GC continues to monitor the links while the MC prepares for satellite acquisition and subsequent commanding. The MC has overall responsibility for mission objectives and contingency operations during contact. As a guide, the MC uses a "pass plan" to manage their activities during the contact. The pass plan describes the RTS antenna parameters for initial acquisition and fade, the comm configuration required, the command sequences, the tape recorder status, contingency commands for safing the vehicle, times of possible interference, etc. Finally, the PA ensures vehicle health and safety before and during contact. As such, the PA will review the pass plan well before prepass time and ensure it is accurate. During support, the PA acts as a sanity check, a second set of eyes, verifying the satellite health before commanding and during commanding, that the proper command codes were selected before the MC transmits them. The actual satellite contact (i.e. pass or support) lasts 8-12 minutes depending on mission requirements and visibility. In terms of mission, the vehicles can be scheduled to readout stored data, or commanded to transpond data as it is being collected (assuming target area of interest and an RTS/ROL have mutual visibility). Such data is then forwarded via commercially leased, dedicated T1 or T3 circuits to the There, it is processed, analyzed, exploited  $anc^{25X1}$ reported; more on this in the following sections. In conjunction with our support to military missions, data are also transponded to a number of EPDS Vans deployed throughout the world, and also in realtime with

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Depending on the vehicle, the MCT will uplink between one and three memory loads per day. These memory loads are stored instructions which are time tagged to command various payload receivers when over the target area, command the appropriate downlink receivers on or accept commanding uplinks, etc. Thus, as an example, when the vehicle passes over a scheduled RTS, the vehicle will turn on and transmit telemetry to the awaiting RTS and MCC-III. PA will periodically perform postpass memory compare between what the vehicle received and the original ground version - this ensures that what was communicated was clearly and accurately communicated.

The command and control capability within the MCC is subdivided in 5 separate control points. The computer resources will support up to 5 simultaneous contacts at any one time. However, since one control point is a dedicated cut out for contingency operations (into the AFSCN), only four simultaneous contacts are possible for M7300 operations. Based on the current levels of activity, this not an operational constraint.

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#### A D D I T I O N A L C A P A B I L I T I E S

The **M2P1 link** is very versatile but takes much time to set up and play data back. Since the M2P1 link is limited to a 256Kbps, our mission data at 1024Kbps, must be played back at quarter speed. M2P1 playbacks can be brought back either by direct playback to q______antenna at Onizuka or by "hopping" the data - first down to an RTS through a______antenna and then relaying the data through a DSCS satellite back to Onizuka (MCC-III).

The External Control System (ECS) is a backup facility for M7300 operations out of Onizuka. It is located on

It is limited to state of health supports only, and^{25X1} because of computer resources, to one support at a time. Vehicle contacts supported from here require specific AFSCN network resources. The ECS, also known as the Alternate Operating Location, is only meant to safe the vehicles and keep them healthy - no mission.

The **Remote Operating Locations** are NRO assets strategically located near high interest areas, providing greater, near realtime coverage without putting tape recorder cycles on the satellites. This contiguous field of view between

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target area and receive site reduces the number of tape recorder cycles on the vehicles while preserving the intelligence collection value. The mechanical tape recorders are the life-limiting factor on our store-and-forward mission capability. The three ROLs are located in

DISA provides the comm link between the ROLs and MCC-III.

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	6.7.4 Fused	
	The consolidation reporting center provides the capability to fuse M7300 an data within and across SIGINT disciplines, along with information. Both M7300 and data will be used to produce real-time and off-line fused reports in the consolidated reporting center. To effectively integrate M7300 resources into the site's fused analysis and reporting effort, the consolidated reporting center will require access to M7300 signal data in the tactical fusion center (currently the Prototype Tactical Fusion Center Phase I (PTFC) with follow-on development) or a similar integrated workstation. The thrust of this fusion effort is to correlate essential elements of information from diverse sources in real-time. One of the benefits from this approach, is it provides collection managers with information needed to optimize event coverage. Another benefit, which is the ultimate goal of the fusion process, is to provide the customer with a more complete and coherent picture of events. The Analysis and Reporting organization will be the focal point for all fused reporting, although ELTs, and some informal reports, may involve fused reporting.	25X1
	6.8 Production Control Center (PCC)	
	PCC provides support for efficient utilization of M7300 computer resources around-the- clock. PCC receives, processes, distributes and provides accountability of M7300 data. It provides support to operate the M7300 computer resources for data processing analysis, and serves as a focal point for M7300 resource operations. PCC reports to and coordinates with the MC, and Resource Manager (RM) for M7300-related processing anoma- lies	25 <b>X</b> 1
	The Action Request System (AR System) is a distributed computer based system used to manage all M7300 problem reports. PCC performs system administration of the AR System and each day sends out a morning report containing a summary of the ARs written during the previous day Figure 6-2, "M7300 Action Request Problem Reporting Process," depicts the activities of the AR system implemented at the There is one system for monitoring and tracking the ARs as they generated. PCC acts as a central collection and status node to alert the functions of a M7300 problem. PCC will determine whether or not the infrastructure services should be notified that an AR could potentially affect mission capabilities.	



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	MCC - Mission Control Complex MCT - Mission Control Team MERIT - Military Exploitation of Reconnaissance and Intelligenc MOP - Modulation on the Pulse MPO - Mission Planning Operations NRO - National Reconnaissance Office NSA - National Security Agency	e Technology
	OAS - Onizuka Air Station OCMC - Overhead Collection Management Center OPELINT - Operational ELINT	
	<b>PA (receiver)</b> - Polarization Analysis <b>PA</b> - Planner/Analyst <b>PAR</b> -Polarimeter	
	<b>RF</b> -Radio Frequency <b>ROL</b> - Remote Operating Location <b>ROW</b> - Rest Of World <b>RTS</b> - Remote Tracking Station	
	<ul> <li>SAFSP - Secretary of the Air Force Special Projects</li> <li>SAM - Surface to Air Missile</li> <li>SCF - Satellite Control Facility</li> <li>SCS - Stored Command Sequencer</li> <li>SEI - Specific Emitter Identification</li> <li>SIGINT - Signals Intelligence</li> <li>SNOI - Signals Not Of Interest</li> <li>SOCOMM - Special Operations Communications</li> <li>SOI - Signals Of Interest</li> <li>SORS - SIGINT Overhead Resources Subcommittee</li> <li>SP - Support Programs</li> <li>SUL - Station Utilization Listing</li> </ul>	
	<b>TELINT</b> - Telemetry Intelligence <b>TEP</b> - Terminal Emulation Processor <b>TI</b> - Technical Intelligence <b>TOPS</b> - Tactical Onboard Processing System <b>TSS</b> - Task Selection & Scheduling	
	WDR - Wideband Digital Receiver	

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