

NRO Satellite Successfully Launched

20 December 1996 -- [View Photo](#) --

Vandenberg AFB, CA - A National Reconnaissance Office satellite was successfully launched aboard a Titan IV rocket from South Vandenberg at 10:04 a.m. Pacific Standard Time today.

The rocket delivered the NRO satellite into polar orbit. Vandenberg's 4th Space Launch Squadron launched the Titan IV from Space Launch Complex 4 East. "It was a fantastic launch - right on the mark," said Col Bob Kehler, commander of Vandenberg's 30th Space Wing.

The satellite was designed and built by the NRO. This was the first time the U.S. Government has in advance, acknowledged the launch of a reconnaissance satellite.

This was the third Titan IV launch from Vandenberg in just over a year. The vehicle is also launched from Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida.

[A Brief History of the NRO at Vandenberg AFB](#)

Vandenberg AFB Internet address is <http://www.30sw.vafb.af.mil/homepage.htm>