



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Omega Navigational System Collection

2017

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Omega Navigational System Collection
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1951-1977)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2017.0038
<b>Creator:</b>	Springel, Martin
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Cubic feet ((5 boxes))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Steven Springel and Sharon Springel, Gift, 2017

### Preferred Citation

Omega Navigational System Collection, Accession 2017-0038, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

The Omega Navigation System, used for long range navigation by military ships and aircraft, was the first truly global-range radio navigation system. Operated by the United States in cooperation with six partner nations (Argentina, Norway, Liberia, France, Japan, and Australia), it enabled ships and aircraft to determine their position by receiving very low frequency (VLF) radio signals in the range 10 to 14 kHz, transmitted by a network of fixed terrestrial radio beacons. Omega was approved for development in 1968, and by 1971 six of the eight stations in the chain had become operational, with the final stations becoming operational several years later. Coast Guard personnel operated the two U.S. stations: one in LaMoure, North Dakota and the other in Kaneohe, Hawaii on the island of Oahu. However, with the success of the Global Positioning System, the use of Omega declined during the 1990s, to a point where the cost of operating Omega could no longer be justified. Omega was shut down permanently in September of 1997.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 3 cubic feet of the following material gathered by Martin Springel (Kaneohe Station Manager) relating to the Omega Navigational System: correspondence, notes, memorandums, manuals, trip reports, operation procedures, training materials, and seven slide carousels containing color slides from the various Omega Navigation System stations.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Navigation
- Omega Navigational System
- Radio Navigation Systems

Types of Materials:

- Color slides
- Correspondence
- Manuals
- Reports