



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Tiros Satellite Documents

2002

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
General.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Tiros Satellite Documents
<b>Date:</b>	1959-1970
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0199
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
<b>Extent:</b>	5.45 Cubic feet ((5 records center boxes))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

NASA, Gift, 1965, XXXX-0199, Public Domain

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

The Television Infra-Red Observation Satellite (Tiros) program was an outgrowth of the weather satellite program of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the mid-1950s. In 1958 ARPA let out a contract to the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) for ten satellites. In April 1959 the newly created National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) assumed responsibility for Project Tiros and the first of ten research and development launches occurred one year later (1 April 1960). On 2 July 1965 NASA launches the tenth and last of the original RCA satellites, by which time NASA, the Weather Bureau (later the Environmental Science Services Administration, ESSA), and RCA had agreed on the Tiros Operational Satellite (TOS) program. The nine TOS system satellites, coded ESSA, were all launched successfully between February 1966 and February 1969. The ESSA series were followed by five Improved Tiros Operational System (ITOS) satellites, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the successor to ESSA. The Tiros/TOS/ESSA program provided the first system for gathering meteorological information, including daily information on cloud cover, upper level winds, pressure, and precipitation on a global scale.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains documents pertaining to the Tiros/TOS/ESSA program. The material consists primarily of mission plans, engineering reports, and field operation procedures.

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## General

NASMrev

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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:

- Astronautics
- Meteorological satellites
- Meteorology
- Meteorology -- Research
- TIROS satellites

Types of Materials:

- Photographs
- Publications
- Reports

Names:

- ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency)
- Radio Corporation of America.
- United States. Army Ballistic Missile Agency
- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- United States. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- United States. Weather Bureau