

Picture Story No. 716

PEACEFUL SPACE EXPLORATION -- U.S. PROGRESS AND PLANS

Part III - "Research and Development"

During its short lifetime, the United States space program has accelerated rapidly to keep pace with man's desire to investigate and travel far beyond his planet. Since the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established in 1958, the nation's resources in science and technology have been marshalled for the tremendous task of research and development that has led to progress in exploration. Today, the program -- diversified, complex and costly -- is nationwide in scope. Men and women in every-known field of science and the work force in thousands of factories are participating in a vast effort to acquire knowledge of space and to use space for beneficial purposes. A few of the scientific and technological details of this effort are shown in this group of photographs.

1-16 A sodium vapor cloud (top) forms a strange design hundreds of miles above the earth after being rocketed into space from NASA's Wallops Island Station in Virginia. The vapor experiment, designed to measure high-altitude winds and temperatures, is studied on earth by a group of French scientists (bottom). Thousands of rocket experiments have been carried out at Wallops Island, which serves all NASA establishments. The station's purpose is to get experiments into space at the least possible cost in order to speed space exploration. Wallops scientists say in effect, "Bring us your question, we'll launch them and bring back your answers" 167 12541

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Science: Astronautics (Research)

Una nube de vapor de sodio (arriba) forma un extraño dibujo a centenares de kilómetros de la Tierra, después de haber sido lanzado un proyectil al espacio, desde la estación de la NASA, situada en Wallops Island (Virginia). El experimento del vapor, destinado a medir los vientos a elevadas altitudes y temperaturas, es estudiado en tierra por un grupo de científicos franceses (abajo). Miles de experimentos científicos han sido llevados a cabo en Wallops Island, que sirve a todas las secciones de la Administración Nacional de Aeronáutica y del Espacio (NASA). La finalidad de esta estación es realizar experimentos espaciales al menor costo posible a fin de acelerar la exploración espacial. Los científicos de la estación afirman dicen: "Tráiganos sus preguntas; nosotros las lanzaremos al espacio y le responderemos".