

Media Guide

Covering Orbital Launch Missions
from the

NASA Wallops Flight Facility

March 2009

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Overview

This guide is to assist media in covering orbital rocket launch missions from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the launch facilities of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport.

Wallops has been launching rockets capable of placing satellites in Earth orbit since 1960, with the launch of the NASA Scout rocket. Approximately 30 ground-based and air-launched orbital missions have been conducted from the NASA-owned launch range. In addition, during its 64-year history, the facility has launched more than 15,000 rockets including suborbital sounding rockets, meteorological rockets, test rockets, and Department of Defense targets.

Wallops Location

The Wallops Flight Facility is located near Chincoteague on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The facility is within driving distance of several metropolitan areas – about two hours from Hampton roads, three hours from Washington/Baltimore, and four hours from Philadelphia.

The Main Base of Wallops is located on Va. Rt. 175 about four miles from US Highway 13. The Wallops NASA Visitor Center also is located on Rt. 175 adjacent to the Wallops runways, about six miles from US 13 and five miles from Chincoteague. Wallops Island and the launch sites are approximately 7 miles south of the Main Base

Wallops Public Affairs Contacts

The following Wallops Public Affairs Office personnel may be contacted for information on missions conducted at the facility:

Keith Koehler
757-824-1579
757-894-4152 (cell)
keith.a.koehler@nasa.gov

Betty Flowers
757-824-1584
elizabeth.b.flowers@nasa.gov

Rebecca Powell
757-824-1139
rebecca.h.powell@nasa.gov

Office fax: 757-824-1971

Accreditation Requirements

It is Wallops' policy to provide maximum access to legitimate media representatives and their support personnel, subject only to conditions essential for the protection of personnel, property, and classified information.

Media representatives are defined as those who are actively engaged in the pursuit of information distribution in any manner or form about the space program or other Wallops/NASA activities. Examples of media are as follows:

- Newspaper Journalist
- Television Journalist
- Photo Journalist
- Magazine Journalist
- Online (Internet) Journalist
- Radio Broadcaster
- Novelist
- Screenwriter
- Playwright
- Feature Film (Producer/Director, etc.)
- Documentary (Producer/Director, etc.)
- Television Production (Producer/Director, etc.)
- Photographer (Professional)
- Videographer (Professional)
- Artist (Professional)
- Contractor Public Relations Personnel
- Freelancer*

*Freelancers in any of the above categories are granted access to Wallops if they qualify under one of the following two conditions:

1. They must be on assignment for a professionally recognized organization and the request for accreditation is made by that organization. A freelancer cannot request accreditation on behalf of the organization that he or she is representing.
2. The freelancer has had previous accomplishments that are highly visible, respected and widely recognized.

Request Requirements

The minimum lead time for accreditation requests for orbital missions is as follows:

- 7-day minimum lead time for all U.S. citizens requesting access to Wallops
- 30-day minimum lead time for foreign nationals visiting Wallops and who are not on the U. S. Department of State "designated countries" list
- 60 days minimum lead time for:
 - All foreign nationals requesting a visit to Wallops who are from countries on the U. S. Department of State list of "designated countries"

Requests for accreditation may be submitted by faxing (757-824-1971) the requests on the letterhead of the news media organization or by email (Rebecca.H.Powell@nasa.gov). Media must use work, not personal, e-mail addresses when applying. Once accreditation is approved, media will receive a confirmation via e-mail.

The following information is required when requesting accreditation:

- Media organization
- Name
- U.S. citizens must enter a Social Security Number
- Alien Card (Green Card) Holder may enter Social Security Number or Alien Card Number
- Naturalized Citizens may enter Social Security Number or Passport Number
- Foreign Nationals may enter Passport Number or Visa Number
- All visitors must enter their Date of Birth

No one under 16 years of age will be badged for press accreditation or allowed at the media launch viewing site.

Registration/Badging

Security badges must be picked up at Bldg. J-93 on the grounds of the NASA Visitor Center. A photo ID is required to receive a badge. After receiving a security badge, media members should check in at the media desk at the NASA Visitor Center on Route 175. All media security badges must be picked up at least two hours before the launch to have access to the media viewing site.

Media Center

The Media Center for Wallops is located on the grounds of the NASA Visitor Center on Rt. 175. Media should check in at Bldg. J-93 upon their arrival. Press conferences or other interview opportunities will be held in the Visitor Center auditorium, which seats 119 people. A work area with table, chairs and power is located in Bldg. J-17.

Hours of Operations

Three hours before to two hours after launch.

Telephone Service

There are no land-line telephones available at the media center. Media are advised to use cell phones.

Web Service

A wireless guest network service will be available in the Visitor Center auditorium and at the launch viewing area. To obtain guest network access, please notify keith.a.koehler@nasa.gov at least 7 days in advance of the mission. The network is only available to media who are U.S. citizens.

Parking

Parking is available at the Visitor center. Transportation will be provided from the Media Center to the launch viewing site. Uplink trucks are permitted to drive to the viewing site but must travel with other media to the viewing site.

Photo Opportunities

There will be no photo opportunities of the launch pad activities, except from the press viewing site, on the day of the launch.

Remote cameras may be set up on Wallops Island for the launch. Contact Keith Koehler (keith.a.koehler@nasa.gov) for the set up schedule. Only sound or light activated systems for the remote cameras may be used.

Television and radio transmission

Use of transmitting equipment, excluding cell phones and similar commercial communication devices, on the Wallops Flight Facility is prohibited without approval. A request form for the use of transmitting equipment, such as mobile TV trucks, is included in this guide (pages 9 - 13). Mobile TV systems may broadcast from the Visitor Center and the media viewing site. Completed forms must be received at least four weeks prior to the mission. Completed forms may be emailed to keith.a.koehler@nasa.gov or fax to 757-824-1971.

Press Conferences

No pre-launch press conferences are scheduled at Wallops. A post launch press conference or media availability will be held in the NASA Visitor Center auditorium.

Launch Viewing Site

The media launch viewing site is located on the Wallops Mainland, seven miles south of the Visitor Center. The viewing site is two miles across the marsh from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport's launch pads. **Media will be escorted from the Visitor Center to the media launch viewing site about two hours prior to the opening of the launch window.**

Deadlines – TacSat-3 mission

Accreditation Requests:

U.S. citizens	April 28
Foreign nationals	April 3

Internet access requests:

April 28

Live broadcast transmission requests:

April 3

Airports

There are six airports within relatively close driving distance to Wallops. All airports have rental car services.

<u>Airport</u>	<u>Drive to Wallops</u>
Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport (SBY)	1 hour
Norfolk International Airport (ORF)	2 hours
Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport (PHF)	3 hours
Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)	3.5 hours
Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)	4 hours

Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) 3 hours

Accommodations

There are several Chambers of Commerce and Tourism Offices in the local area that provide information on lodging locations, restaurants and points of interest.

Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce

Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism

Ocean City Chamber of Commerce

Worcester County Tourism

Wicomico County Convention & Tourism Bureau

Somerset County Tourism

<http://www.chincoteaguechamber.com/>

<http://www.esvatourism.org/home.asp>

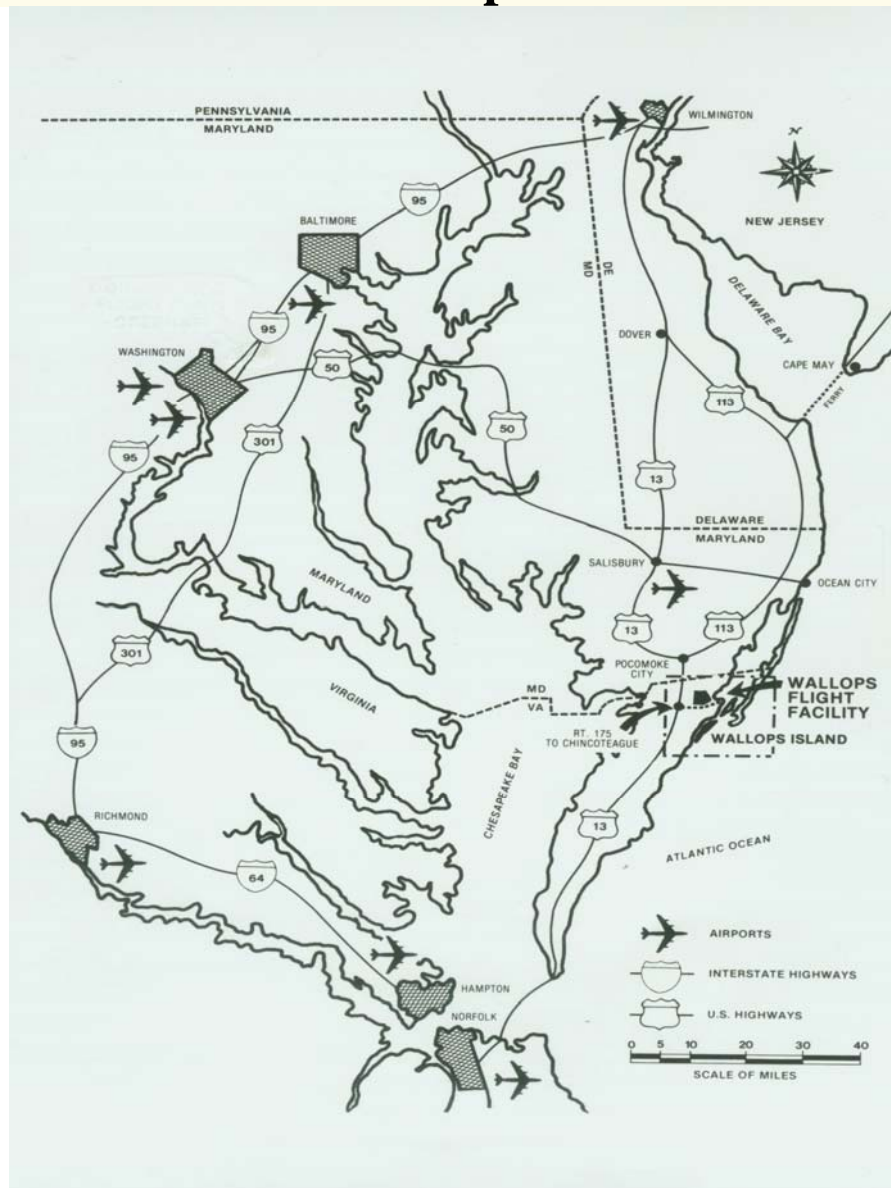
<http://www.oceancity.com/>

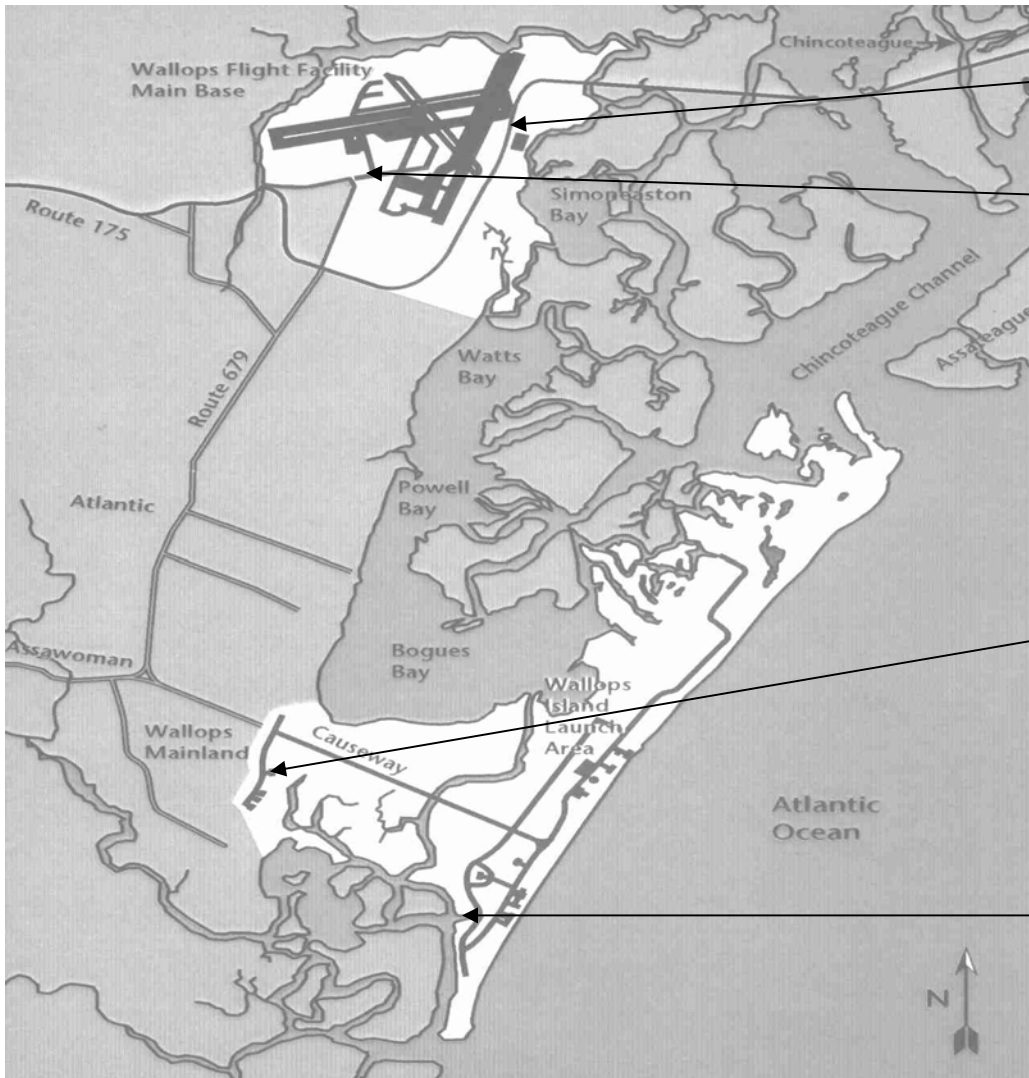
<http://www.visitworcester.org/>

<http://www.wicomicotourism.org/portal/>

<http://www.visitsomerset.com/>

Area Maps





NASA Visitor Center

Main Base Gate

Media Viewing Site

Mid Atlantic Regional Spaceport Launch Pad

Transmitting Equipment (TV Satellite Trucks) Request Form

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF WFUMWG FREQUENCY UTILIZATION REQUEST FORM

I. GENERAL

- A. Fill out form as completely as possible. Transmitter and antenna data is required for a safety analysis.
- B. Fill out all sections that are relevant to frequency being requested.
- C. For Laser operations, substitute appropriate parameters and units.
 - 1. If data is not available, use NAV.
 - 2. If data is not applicable, use NAP.

II. FORMAT

- 1. FREQUENCY: Self-explanatory.
- 2. ORGANIZATION: List organization responsible for the frequency assignment and, if different, also the organization using the frequency, e.g., GSFC/WFF - University of Virginia.
- 3. PROJECT: Official or common project name, e.g., VANDAL Project.
- 4. SPECIFY ALL COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AREAS OR ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY: This is for coordination before usage of frequencies that are shared in the area affected by the radiated signals.
- 5. SPECIFY ALL COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AREAS OR ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY (NASA OR TENANTS): Same as for 4 above, except for area of applicability.
- 6. STATION CLASS: As defined by the NTIA manual, e.g., FA (Aeronautical Station)
- 7. BANDWIDTH/EMISSION: As defined by the NTIA or FCC Manual, e.g., 1K24F1B.
- 8. IF A FREQUENCY BAND IS REQUESTED, DOES SYSTEM OPERATE ON DISCRETE FREQUENCIES IN THE BAND, SPREAD SPECTRUM, FREQUENCY HOPPING, OR HOW?
Self-Explanatory.
- 9. ORGANIZATION/PROJECT CONTACT: The individual who can provide additional information, if required, on the frequency assignment or usage.
- 10. CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: Self-explanatory.
- 11. DESCRIPTION, ETC.: Self-explanatory.
- 12. PERIOD OF USAGE: Self-explanatory.
- 13. TRANSMITTER DATA
 - A. NOMENCLATURE: Manufacturer, model, military designation, etc.
 - B. LOCATION: Physical description of transmitter location, e.g., north end of Wallops Island, Building V-25.
 - C. TRANSMITTER PEAK POWER OUTPUT: Include power amplifier, if used. Do not include antenna gain.
 - D. TRANSMITTER AVERAGE POWER OUTPUT: Include power amplifier, if used. Do not include antenna gain.
 - E. PULSE WIDTH: Self-explanatory (for pulsed radiations).
 - F. MAXIMUM DUTY CYCLE: Self-explanatory (for pulsed radiations).
 - G. PULSE REPETITION FREQUENCY: Self-explanatory (for pulsed radiations).

- H. STABILITY: Percentage of carrier frequency.
- I. ANTENNA TYPE: Give type and size if relevant, e.g., 36-foot dish.
- J. ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND: To center of radiating element, dish, etc.
- K. ANTENNA POLARIZATION: Self-explanatory.
- L. ANTENNA GAIN: Self-explanatory.
- M. ANTENNA, FIXED OR ROTATABLE: Self-explanatory.
- N. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - AZ: Self-explanatory.
- O. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - EL: Self-explanatory.
- P. FIXED ANTENNA DIRECTION OF RADIATION: Provide AZ-EL angles.
- Q. TRANSMISSION SYSTEM ATTENUATION LOSSES: Loss in connectors, filters, cables, etc., if significant.
- R. ANTENNA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE: Self-explanatory.

14. RECEIVER DATA

- A. NOMENCLATURE: Same as M.1. except for receiver.
- B. LOCATION: Same as M.2. except for receiver.
- C. STABILITY: Local oscillator stability in percentage of tuned frequency.
- D. SENSITIVITY: Expressed in microvolt or dBm.
- E. ANTENNA TYPE: Same as M.9. except for receiving antenna.
- F. ANTENNA POLARIZATION: Self-explanatory.
- G. ANTENNA GAIN: Self-explanatory.
- H. ANTENNA, FIXED OR ROTATABLE: Self-explanatory.
- I. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - AZ: Self-explanatory.
- J. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - EL: Self-explanatory.
- K. FIXED ANTENNA DIRECTION OF PATTERN: Provide AZ-EL angles.
- L. ANTENNA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE: Self-explanatory.

15. HAS FREQUENCY ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED TO ORGANIZATION BY NTIA OR FCC FOR AREA IN WHICH IT WILL BE USED? Self-explanatory.

16. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS: Self-explanatory.

WALLOPS FREQUENCY UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

FREQUENCY UTILIZATION REQUEST

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE INDICATED FREQUENCY BE REVIEWED FOR USE AT THE GSFC/WFF.

1. FREQUENCY:
2. ORGANIZATION:
3. PROJECT:
4. SPECIFY ALL COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AREAS OR ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY:
5. SPECIFY ALL COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AREAS OR ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY (NASA OR TENANTS):
6. STATION CLASS:
7. BANDWIDTH/EMISSION:
8. IF A FREQUENCY BAND IS REQUESTED, DOES SYSTEM OPERATE ON DISCRETE FREQUENCIES IN THE BAND, SPREAD SPECTRUM, FREQUENCY HOPPING, OR HOW?
9. ORGANIZATION/PROJECT CONTACT:
10. CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:
11. DESCRIPTION OF HOW FREQUENCY WILL BE USED, METHOD OF OPERATION, ETC.:
12. PERIOD OF USAGE, (INCLUDE OVERALL TIME FRAME, DAYS/WEEK, HOURS/DAY OF PROJECTED USAGE OR OTHER NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION):

File No.
April 1993

13. TRANSMITTER DATA

A. NOMENCLATURE:

B. LOCATION:

C. TRANSMITTER PEAK POWER OUTPUT:

D. TRANSMITTER AVERAGE POWER OUTPUT:

E. PULSE WIDTH:

F. MAXIMUM DUTY CYCLE:

G. PULSE REPETITION FREQUENCY:

H. STABILITY:

I. ANTENNA TYPE:

J. ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:

K. ANTENNA POLARIZATION:

L. ANTENNA GAIN:

M. ANTENNA, FIXED OR ROTATABLE:

N. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - AZ: °

O. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - EL: °

P. FIXED ANTENNA DIRECTION OF RADIATION:

Q. TRANSMISSION SYSTEM ATTENUATION LOSSES:

R. ANTENNA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE: ° ' "N ° ' "W

14. RECEIVER DATA

A. NOMENCLATURE:

B. LOCATION:

C. STABILITY:

D. SENSITIVITY:

E. ANTENNA TYPE:

F. ANTENNA POLARIZATION:

G. ANTENNA GAIN:

H. ANTENNA, FIXED OR ROTATABLE:

I. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - AZ:

J. ANTENNA, BEAM WIDTH - EL:

K. FIXED ANTENNA DIRECTION OF PATTERN:

L. ANTENNA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE:

15 . HAS FREQUENCY ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED TO ORGANIZATION BY NTIA OR FCC FOR AREA IN WHICH IT WILL BE USED? Yes/No.

16. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE

DATE

AFFILIATION

NASA GSFC/WFF RANGE DATE
SUPPORT MANAGER/CONTACT