

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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news release

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Bear (202) 343-4646

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CORRIDOR FROM PACIFIC OCEAN TO LOUISIANA MAPPED WITH APOLLO PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs taken from the unmanned Apollo 6 spacecraft in April, 1968, orbiting 115 nautical miles above the Earth, have been used to compile an unusual photomap covering a 100-mile wide corridor from the Pacific Ocean to Louisiana, the U. S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior announced today.

The map, in four sections, covers more than 140,000 square miles of territory from the Pacific Coast south of San Diego, along the southern boundaries of Arizona and New Mexico, across Texas including El Paso, Abilene, Ft. Worth, and Dallas, to Shreveport, Louisiana.

William A. Fischer, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C., and program manager of the Interior Department's Earth Resources Observation Satellite (EROS) Program, said that, "this photomap further demonstrates the feasibility of making useful small-scale planimetric map products from space photography, a fact which may well allow the production of new, different, and more timely products to supplement basic topographic maps."

"The new photomap is an excellent small-scale reference tool. Shorelines, drainage features, major roads, cultivated land, urban areas, airfields, and many other features are shown. More important, they are shown in a vast synoptic regional setting--rarely achieved with conventional aerial photos," Fischer noted.

The U. S. Geological Survey compiled the huge map (each sheet measures 41 by 19 inches) in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The map scale of 1:500,000 is equivalent to one inch representing 8 statute miles.

Geologists, hydrologists, geographers, soils and agricultural specialists, and other earth scientists are expected to use this photomap as a base for research and study.

"The Geological Survey has added geographic coordinates, place names, and a few spot elevations to these maps to make them more useful, but basically they are compiled from only 18 Apollo-6 photographs. Only a few places are obscured by cloud cover," said Fischer.

A wide range of geographic features can be seen on these maps: mountain ranges; the mouth of the Colorado River; the desolate shoreline of the Gulf of California; ancient lava fields; extensive desert country; the Rio Grande Valley; the significant distribution of desert, range, and cultivated land across Texas; the metropolitan sprawl of Ft. Worth and Dallas; and the increased density of roads and rails in east Texas and northwestern Louisiana.

A principal value of the map will be its use as a historical record of features, conditions, and land uses in this part of our nation as of April 1968.

The new photomap, "Apollo Photomap--Corridor from Pacific Ocean to Louisiana," in four lithographic sheets is available at \$1.50 per set. They may be ordered from the Branch of Distribution, U. S. Geological Survey, 1200 S. Eads St., Arlington, Va. 22204.

Some detail of the original photography is lost in conversion from color to black-and-white and in the process of printing. For those who wish greater detail, black-and-white photographic copies of the map can be obtained from the Map Information Office, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20242 at a cost of \$50.00 per set. Copies of the original (unrectified) color photographs can be obtained from the Technical Applications Center, University of New Mexico, Box 181, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106.

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(Note to Editors only: Copies of the lithograph maps can be furnished for review on request to the Information Office, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20242).



William A. Fischer, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C., inspects new Apollo 6 photomaps - providing coverage along a corridor from the Pacific Ocean to Louisiana.