

Photographic Instrumentation for Triangulation Studies of Luminous Clouds in the Upper Atmosphere

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Abstract

Instrumentation has been developed for obtaining triangulation photographs of luminous clouds in the upper atmosphere. These clouds are created by the release of chemicals such as sodium and cesium from rockets. The instrumentation has been used on approximately eighty rocket firings. Descriptions and operating characteristics are given of the equipment. Observations have been made from the Air Force ranges at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and from the NASA test facility at Wallops Island, Virginia. A modified version of the K-24 aerial camera with 7 in. (17.8 cm) $f/2.5$ optics was used and mounted on 60-in. (152-cm) searchlight carriages and Mk 51 gun directors. Camera control system, data chamber, fiducial light system, shutter and filter system, field installation, and alignment procedures are described.

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