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FORT MONMOUTH, N. J. - Launching today of Telestar recalled the United States' triumph with the first of all communications satellites, Project SCORE, which carried President Eisenhower's Christmas peace message through outer space to the entire world on Dec 18, 1958.

Score, like its successor, Project Courier, was an active communications satellite, as is Telestar. That is, it received and rebroadcast messages from earth, either instantly or through storage in the bird itself. Another communications satellite, Project Echo, a passive satellite served only as a reflective medium, bouncing signals from one ground station to another.

Score, Courier and Telestar are all active satellites. Research and development on the first two were handled by the U. S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, N. J. Telestar is a product of American Telephone and Telegraph Co., as was Echo.

So far as is known, no other nation has successfully operated any communications satellite.

HL SPACE (10)

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COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES  
STARTED THREE YEARS AGO

FORT MONMOUTH, Dec. 18 -- Three years ago today, on Dec. 18, 1958, SCORE, the world's first communications satellite, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

SCORE (Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment) carried then President Eisenhower's spoken Christmas message of peace and good will to men throughout the world. It was a major scientific breakthrough, proving that active communications satellites could provide a means of transmitting messages of all sorts from one point of the globe to another -- or several others.

The satellite payload package was designed and largely built at the U. S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory, Fort Monmouth. It was carried into space by an Air Force Atlas rocket.

SCORE paved the way for the Signal Corps' highly successful Courier satellite, launched nearly two years later, and the military Advent program as well as numerous proposed commercial active satellite projects.

In an active satellite messages from the earth are received, stored and retransmitted to stations around the curve of the earth, or they are received and retransmitted instantly to points beyond the normal earth range of the transmitting station.

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HL SPACE (11)