

Failure causes wrong orbit

Satellite program delayed

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Air Force says a burst gimbal in the steering mechanism sent a \$100 million communications satellite into the wrong orbit in April and has forced a delay of months — perhaps years — in the program.

Investigators reported Tuesday they still do not know precisely why the gimbal, an oil-filled rubberized part, failed.

The failure prompted the Pentagon to cancel a scheduled secret military payload on a November shuttle flight, and Brig. Gen. Donald Henderson

told a news conference the steering mechanism may have to be redesigned, a process that could mean a delay of years in the satellite program.

The data relay satellite, called TRDS-A, was launched April 5 from the space shuttle Challenger. The malfunction left it in a useless, egg-shaped orbit, which space agency engineers managed to correct last month after repeated boosting blasts from thimble-sized directional thrusters.

While it has reached its proper circular orbit about 22,000 miles above Earth, the TDRS is

still 2.37 degrees off its desired track.

Gimbal collapse is the most probable cause of the satellite failing to reach proper orbit, Henderson said.

The gimbal, 18 inches by 4 inches, is made of synthetic kevlar and neoprene rubber. It is filled with silicon oil that enables it to withstand pressures of up to 1,000 pounds.

Possible causes of its failure were listed as gases from the rocket motor heating up the rubberized gimbal to the bursting point, a slow leak of the oil

or a badly manufactured part.

The satellite — the first of a network of three to improve shuttle ground communications — was launched from Challenger's cargo bay by a spring mechanism, and then boosted by a two-stage solid-fueled rocket.

Henderson, chairman of the investigating board, said "exhaustive tests" are being conducted to determine whether the gimbals will perform successfully on the next TRDS launch, which has been set "tentatively for March." It had been planned for this summer.

45 indicted in smuggling case

United Press International
BEAUMONT — Forty-five men have been indicted by a federal grand jury on marijuana smuggling charges, including one man described as one of the top 10 pot smugglers ever identified, officials said Wednesday.

The 45 men were indicted June 28, but the indictments were sealed until Tuesday, when law officers from federal, state and local agencies began rounding up the suspects. The group

had been under investigation for 18 months, officials said.

Included in the indictment are charges against Jose Antonio Fernandez, a fugitive who jumped a \$500,000 bond two years ago. Fernandez, a South Florida millionaire, was arrested three months ago in Brazil through Interpol and faces marijuana charges in New Orleans and Florida.

Marion Hambrick, head of

the Drug Enforcement Administration, said the charges in the indictment were unusually tough. Five of the men were indicted for operating a continuing criminal enterprise which carries a mandatory sentence of 10 years to life in prison if convicted.

"The investigation focused on three major Colombian sources of supply to an organization headed by Fernandez," Ham-

brick said. He described Fernandez as "one of the top 10 marijuana sources."

The ring smuggled or tried to smuggle about 425,000 pounds of marijuana along the Texas Gulf Coast between 1978 and 1980. It was the first case handled in the Eastern District of Texas under the new Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, said U.S. Attorney Bob Wortham.



Smiling in the rain

Linda Brigham, a junior education major from Milothian, sits by Harrington Educational Center Complex in the sprinkling Wednesday. Brigham said the was good, despite the rain.

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NAACP ratings grade senators

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People gave former Vice President Walter Mondale the highest marks and failed Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina on its report card of top Democratic presidential candidates.

NAACP officials said President Reagan — if he were rated — also would have received a failing grade.

The NAACP's report card at its convention Tuesday gave ratings in the 80s to Mondale and Sens. Alan Cranston of California, Gary Hart of Colorado and John Glenn of Ohio. Hollings received an approval ranking of less than 40 percent.

Former Florida governor Reubin Askew, the other announced Democratic candidate, was not rated because he has not served in the Senate.

The NAACP said its report card does not function as an endorsement of any candidate. The organization said it will maintain its 74-year tradition of not backing a specific candidate.

Althea Simmons, director of the NAACP's Washington

bureau, said the ratings were based on 379 recorded congressional votes from 1965-82 and counted the number of times a candidate agreed with the NAACP's stated position.

The survey addressed school desegregation, voting rights, civil rights enforcement, social funding and job training programs, Simmons said.

She said each of the rated candidates, who were scheduled to appear before the NAACP convention this week, would rate a "B," except for Hollings. She said Hollings' voting record has improved, but is significantly worse than the other Democratic candidates.

"For Mr. Hollings there was a definite change in how he voted starting in 1973 and then continuing," she said.

Even though Reagan does not have a congressional voting record and was not formally rated, Simmons said his first two years in office would garner him to a failing grade.

"I would say President Reagan, based on the initiatives he sent to Congress last year and this year, would come out lower than 50 percent," she said.

The NAACP gave Mondale a rating of 87.7 percent; Cranston, 84.7; Hart, 82.1; Glenn, 80.0; and Hollings, 39.8.

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New Soviet grain deal viewed with reservation

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Rep. Dan Glickman said he believes the Soviets want American grain, but Glickman and Rep. Jim Leach, who met with a top Soviet official, are reserved about the chances for a new grain deal soon.

Leach, R-Iowa, said Tuesday he believed chances were 50-50 that a negotiating session later this month would conclude in an agreement.

Glickman, D-Kan., said he believed the Soviets "do want our grain," but he added, "there is some feeling they won't do anything until they see who the president of the United States is" in 1984.

Leach and Glickman were among 20 House members who were invited to visit the Soviet Union. It was the first official visit since 1979. The delegation, led by assistant House Democratic leader Thomas Foley of

Washington, returned Monday night.

Foley scheduled a news conference for Thursday to discuss the trip.

A spokesman said Foley was "equally somewhat pessimistic" about getting the Soviets to agree to higher levels for minimum purchases.

U.S. and Soviet negotiators have met twice to discuss a long-term agreement. They are scheduled to meet again July 26 and 27. The current agreement, a one-year extension of an old agreement, expires in September.

Leach said he, Foley and Glickman met with a major Soviet grain negotiator during the trip.

"I was left with the strong impression that the Soviets have not ruled out a grain agreement but definitively haven't moved

to a position which we, our government, can accept at this time," Leach said.

Leach based his estimate of 50-50 chance for an agreement this month on the general state of East-West relations and how the Soviets assess grain needs.

"Their hand possibly has been strengthened somewhat by good rains in June" in grain-growing regions, Leach said.

The Foley aide cited lines on Soviet resistance to the minimum they were required to buy each year said the Soviet official pointed to large world supplies, produced for increased production at home and noted that Russia always exceeded the minimum set in grain trade agreements. Grain trade was indirectly linked to US-USSR issues, he said.

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Man freed of murder charges

United Press International
FORT WORTH — A man who was charged in the murder of a girl, 11.

The man was freed after failed to link him to the Fort Worth police said.

The man was arrested in Quana for public intoxication. He told officials he killed a girl in Fort Worth.

Arlington officials were notified and held the man in Arlington City Jail for investigation of murder. The man's involvement in the case, he made the statement drunk.

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Doug Johnson works off on playgro

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