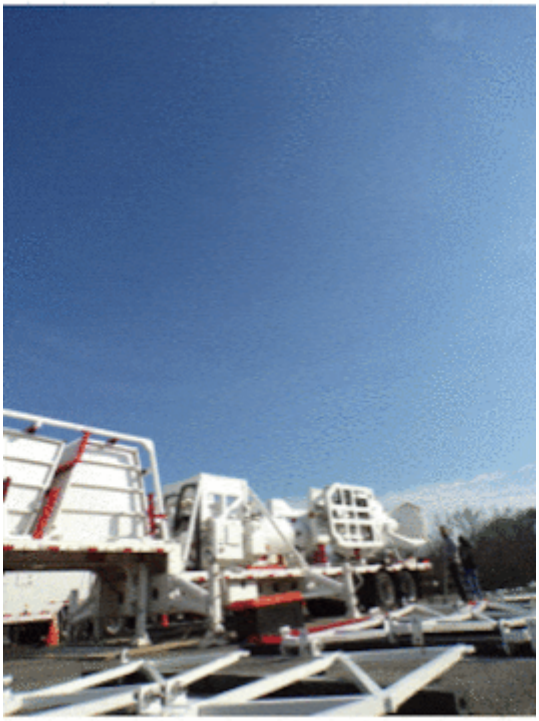
NRL Receives Space Force Antenna to Expand Joint Space Test Capabilities In, From, and To Space



The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) has received a satellite tracking antenna system from the U.S. Space Force's (USSF) Space Systems Command's (SSC) System Delta 81 (SYD 81) at Blossom Point Tracking Facility to support expanded joint testing and operational readiness for space systems, reinforcing collaboration between the naval and space communities, first quarter, calendar year 2026. (U.S. Navy photo by Sarah Peterson)

From Nicholas E. M. Pasquini, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Corporate Communications

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WASHINGTON – The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) has received a transportable satellite tracking antenna system

from the U.S. Space Force’s (USSF) Space Systems Command (SSC) System Delta 81 (SYD 81) to expand joint space testing, training and operational support capabilities at NRL’s Blossom Point Tracking Facility during the first quarter of calendar year 2026.

The antenna system enhances the facility’s ability to support tracking, telemetry and command operations for emerging space technologies and future operational concepts. The capability will provide additional flexibility for experimentation, system evaluation and long-duration performance monitoring supporting both naval and joint space missions.

Blossom Point Tracking Facility, operated by NRL, has long supported satellite command and control, communications experimentation and orbital research. Integrating the transportable system into the site’s existing infrastructure increases the facility’s capacity to support multi-band communications testing, interoperability assessments and advanced space experimentation. Analysis is underway to determine future experiments, exercises and operational events the system may support, as well as potential deployment locations to maximize mission utility.

The transfer supports broader Department of War efforts to strengthen joint test and training infrastructure while improving collaboration across the naval and space communities. The system also supports SYD 81’s mission to develop and field capabilities that enable realistic test and training environments for the U.S. Space Force.
The effort reflects ongoing collaboration between SSC, SYD 81 and NRL to improve operational readiness, expand flexible testing capability and accelerate the integration of emerging space systems into joint mission environments. The addition of the antenna provides increased access to stable, repeatable testing environments that support the evaluation of critical

space-enabled capabilities for future operations.

The Laboratory is the Navy and Marine Corps’ corporate laboratory, conducting a broad program of scientific research, technology development and advanced experimentation to support operational forces and maintain the nation’s technological advantage at sea, on land, in the air and in space.