

c) Meteorological Satellites

Along with reconnaissance satellites, meteorological satellites play a key role in the accomplishment of military missions. Wind direction and weather patterns may be determined by such satellites. The infra-red sensors on board can estimate temperature patterns at different altitudes. This meteorological data is of great importance to photography by reconnaissance satellites and to the penetration of laser beams towards earth-based targets. The launching of ICBMs may be disturbed by cloud-covered skies and high winds which would alter the missiles' trajectory. Thus, meteorological satellites play a supporting role in military satellite activities.

Basic concepts

Meteorological satellites are launched in polar, sun-synchronous or geostationary orbits. Those placed in the geostationary orbit may alter their position in order to obtain a more complete view.

At present, mobile receiving stations are being designed in order to acquire data which will improve weapon performance and satellite functions.