

on the earth. Laser reflectors for tracking as well as radio beams are used to collect data.

Basic concepts

The knowledge of target positions and of the values of the earth's gravitational field between the launching point and the target are vital to missile accuracy. Changes in the gravitational field may be calculated by studying the changes undergone by satellites in orbit. The knowledge of target positions may enable experts to correct the trajectory of missiles, while a knowledge of the earth's gravitational field may help improve the accuracy of delivery vehicles used for warheads.

Conclusion

Geodetic satellite data is as important as that of meteorological and communications satellites. However, receiving stations are not as mobile as those of other satellites. Nevertheless, by always having up-to-date and detailed maps, the military may use these in the field and more accurately target missiles.