

# **NRO SATELLITE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED ABOARD ATLAS V**

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A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) payload, aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V launch vehicle, was successfully launched from Space Launch Complex-3 on Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California, at 9:03 p.m. PDT, September 20, 2010.

“Congratulations to the whole, hard working team! We stood at home plate and not only hit a home run, but hit it to the one special seat high up in center field, which made our mission successful,” said Col Alan Davis, Director of the NRO’s Office of Space Launch and NRO Mission Director.

This is the first in a series of six launches that will take place during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NRO. This mission is the first five-meter Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle mission to launch from VAFB; the third Atlas V mission, and the second NRO mission to launch from United Launch Alliance’s Space Launch Complex-3.

The NRO is a joint Department of Defense-Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America’s signals, imagery, and communications satellites to meet the needs of our nation.

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