NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY GREEN BANK, WEST VIRGINIA

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85-3 S AND X RECEIVER SYSTEM

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1.0 General

This receiver system was designed to be used with the 85-3 Antenna as a VLBI station for the Naval Observatory. It receives the 2210 to 2310 and 8200 to 8600 MHz frequency bands. All the oscillators used for frequency conversion are derived from a Hydrogen Maser Time Standard located at the 140 Foot Antenna. The Mark III VLBI station at the 140-foot is being used to process and record the receiver outputs. When a VLBA type converter is completed, it will be installed at the Interferometer Control Building to record the data.

The system consists of the receiver package at the prime focus of the 85-3 Antenna, a fiber optic system, and a control computer. The fiber optic system is used to transmit the IF signals to the 140 Foot Antenna control room, the local oscillator reference signals from there to 85-3, and to transmit the receiver control and monitor signals. The receiver control and monitor computer is located at the Interferometer Control Building.

2.0 S and X Receiver Package

The receiver is mounted in a standard NRAO Green Bank front end box 60" by 28" by 28" supported in the focus and polarization mount by a 45" diameter circular flange. The receiver box is kept at a temperature of 25 C + or - 3 C with thermoelectric heat pumps and a proportional controller. The block diagram, parts list and a photograph of the receiver are shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. As shown on the block diagram both the right and left hand circularly polarized signals are received. The two polarizations at each frequency are designated X-R, X-L and S-R, S-L. The signal flow is from the feed through the low noise amplifier. After amplification in the low noise amplifier the signals are limited in frequency by the band pass filters. The RF amplifiers increase the signal level ahead of the mixer to minimize the mixer contribution to the overall noise temperature. The Intermediate Frequency signals from the mixer are amplified and detected to get the total power for monitoring receiver performance. The X-R and S-R IF signals along with the 500 MHz Local Oscillator reference signal are combined in the IF triplexer. The ALC amplifier provides a constant input level of 0 dBm to the optical transmitter which sends the signals through the fiber to the 140-foot antenna control room.

2.1 S and X Feed

A dual-frequency dual-polarized feed was designed for this receiver. It illuminates the reflector antenna with an f/d of .43 with minimum spillover. From feed patterns obtained on the test range the computed aperture efficiency was 58% at S-Band and the spillover and scattered noise was 6 Kelvin. At X-band feed patterns predicted 58% aperture efficiency and 3 Kelvin spillover. The antenna efficiency was measured as 52 % at S-band and 34% at

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X-band on 85-3. An outline drawing of the feed is shown in Figure $4.^{1}$

2.2 Dewar Assembly

The receiver uses low noise HEMT amplifiers cooled to 15 Kelvin with a closed cycle helium refrigerator system. The S-band inputs to the dewar are through rectangular wave guide. The X-band input is a circular waveguide with the polarizer inside the dewar. Typical gain and noise temperatures for the S-band channels are 33 dB and 12 Kelvin. The X-band noise temperatures at the dewar flange are 14 Kelvin with a gain of 35 dB.²

2.3 Local Oscillator System

The local oscillator system generates the X-band and S-band signals at 7600 MHz and 2000 MHz. These signals are phase locked to reference derived from a step recovery diode comb generator driven by a 100 MHz crystal oscillator. Phase changes through the step diode are minimized by comparing the 500 MHz comb output with a 500 MHz reference signal from the Hydrogen Maser and controlling the phase of the 100 MHz crystal oscillator to keep the phase difference constant.

The local oscillators can be switched on and off from the control computer. This allows one to determine if offsets exist in the total power monitors used for system temperature measurements.

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2.3.1 Phase Detector Module

A phase detector, loop amplifier and lock indicator module was developed for use in the three phase lock loops in the receiver front end and one in the interface at the 140 foot. The schematic and parts list are shown in Figure 5 and 6. Signal and reference input levels are 0 dBm. The mixers M1 and M2 perform as phase detectors. The signal input to the lock detector mixer M2 is shifted 90 degrees by the lumped constant quarter wave transmission line so it's output is maximum when the oscillator and reference are locked. If the lock indicator level drops below -.5 volt level set by pot K1, power is applied to the 555 timer to generate a square wave. This signal is injected into the loop amplifier to sweep the oscillator frequency to aid in attaining lock. The phase detector module is used for the S-Band LO, X-Band LO, and 100 MHz phase locked loops. The X-Band and S-Band LO phase lock loops have 200 MHz inputs to the phase detector and the 100 MHz phase lock loop has 500 MHz signal and reference inputs. The phase lock loop natural frequency and damping are set by R14, C15 and R13. As shown on the parts list these are different for each VCO to compensate for the different tuning sensitivities.³

2.4 Analog Optical Fiber Link

The analog optical fiber link transmits the S and X band Intermediate Frequencies to the VLBI equipment at the 140-foot antenna. The link consists of an optical transmitter, an optical receiver and the interconnecting fiber. The transmitter and

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receiver operate at optical wavelength of 1300 nanometer. The laser diode transmitter is amplitude modulated by the radio frequency signals. An rf band of 10 to 1000 MHz can be transmitted through this link. Single mode fibers are used to carry these To minimize the noise from the optical broadband signals. transmitters the reflections in the fiber must be low. Low reflection optical connectors were installed on the transmitters and receivers. Fusion splices were used to interconnect the buried fiber with the antenna and control building fibers. There are four single mode fibers from the 85-3 Front End Box down the antenna to the Interferometer Control Building. There, two fibers are spliced to buried cable that goes to 85-1 and then on to the 140-Foot This run is 2.6 kilometers long and contains four Control Room. splices with low reflection connectors on each end and has an optical loss of about 8 dB. The buried cable contains four single mode fibers for use with the analog links and four multimode fibers for digital links.

The rf transmission loss with the transmitter connected directly to the receiver is about 15 dB. The maximum input power level is +10 dBm, and with narrow band signals the S/N at the receiver is 70 dB. When broadband signals are transmitted through the link, the noise level increases due to intermodulation. With the 200 MHz wide S-Band IF and the 400 MHz X-Band IF signals transmitted on the same link, the S/N at the 140 control room is 26 dB or more.

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2.5 Phase Calibration

The phase calibration system uses the Mark III VLBI Phase and Group delay calibrator to generate the 1 Mhz comb of frequencies. These signals are combined with the noise calibration signals as shown on Figure 1 and injected into the cal port on the dewar. The X-R channel has the phase cal but it has been removed from the X-L channel to increase the level in X-R. Both S-R and S-L channels have the phase cal signals. The input 5 MHz to the delay calibrator antenna unit is produced by dividing the 500 MHz local oscillator reference signal by 100.

2.6 Receiver Control and Monitor

The receiver has six power supply voltages as well as twenty other analog signals which are monitored and displayed at the Interferometer Control Building. There are also separate on/off controls for each of the local oscillators and the noise calibration signals. The control and monitor is implemented using a VLBA standard interface board mounted in an RFI tight enclosure in the receiver box. This board contains a microprocessor, an A-D Converter and multiplexer as well as digital I/O. Interrogation and control of the board functions is accomplished using a AT class AST personal computer located at the Interferometer Control Building. All functions are read once every two seconds. Interconnections between the two use a fiber optic driver and cable.⁴

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The output from the computer is through the serial port which is operated at 56 kilobaud. The computer controls the antenna as well as the receiver. The computer program is quite complex as it determines which radio source is to be observed from an observing file and transforms the positions from the indicated epoch to 1950 positions. Then it precesses the positions to the current date, corrects for nutation, aberration, and antenna pointing errors and controls the drive motors to position the antenna on the source.

The computer program provides a real time display of the critical antenna and receiver functions as shown in Figure 7. The system temperatures for each of the four receiver channels are displayed. A good indication of the receiver stability is shown by the Rms Temps block. This is a 20 sample running average of the expanded total power rms. The Local oscillator levels and phase lock status are also displayed. The refrigerator second stage temperature and the receiver box temperature are shown along with the cryogenic compressor supply and return pressures. Antenna position and focus and polarization positions are presented.

For diagnosing receiver and cryogenic problems a number of zoom screens can be displayed. These screens show the last 15 minute records of selected functions at one minute intervals. In addition log files are written with all functions logged every 15 minutes as an aid to determining long term trends. The computer also provides manual control screens for testing the receiver and the antenna.⁵

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2.7 System Noise Temperatures

The average system noise temperatures measured on the antenna were 37 Kelvin for the X-band and 36 degrees for the S-band channels. Using measurements in the test mount with the feed pointing up in the sky and the receiver measurements the various contributions to the system temperature were computed as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

85-3 System Noise Temperature Contributions

Channel	X-R	X-L	8-R	S-L
Receiver Temp at Dewar Flange	14	14	12	12
Feed and WG Losses	11	10	11	9
Feed spillover and scatter	7	7	9	9
Sky noise (est)	6	6	5	5

3.0 140-Foot 85-3 Interface

The function of this equipment is to receive the S-Band and X-Band Intermediate Frequencies transmitted from 85-3 over the optical fiber and convert the X-Band IF to the frequencies needed by the VLBI equipment.

A 500 MHz signal referenced to the Hydrogen Maser is generated and transmitted to the 85-3 front end as a local oscillator

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reference. It provides a round trip monitor through the fiber from the 140-Foot to 85 -3 of the 500 MHz phase shift. A block diagram and parts list are shown on Figure 8: 140-FOOT - 85-3 INTERFACE BLOCK DIAGRAM.

The X-Band IF is converted down to the range required by the MK III VLBI equipment by mixing with 500 MHz derived from the Hydrogen Maser. A listing of the S-Band and X-Band IF Converter Frequencies are tabulated below. The first oscillator is at 2000 MHz for the S-Band channels and 7600 MHz for the X-Band channels.

TABLE 2

VLBI IF Converter Local Oscillator Frequencies

8-Band Channels			X-Band Channel			nels
1	217.99	MHz	1	1:	10.99	MHz
2	222.99	"	2	12	20.99	11
3	237.99	11	3	1!	50.99	11
4	267.99	11	4	2:	10.99	11
5	292.99	19	5	32	20.99	11
6	302.99	11	6	4(0.99	11
			7	4	50.99	"
			8	47	70.99	11

The diode switch is used to assure the 500 MHz reference is properly locked to the hydrogen maser before the signal is sent to the receiver. When the 100 MHz VCXO is locked to the maser the

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switch closes and transmits the 500 MHz reference to the 85-3. Operating this way, the 100 MHz lock/unlock message on the 85-3 Control and Monitor Computer screen indicates lock only when both of the 100 MHz oscillators in the front end box and in the 140 Foot Interface are locked. A Hewlett Packard Vector Voltmeter is used to measure the phase shift experienced by the 500 MHz signal transmitted through the optical fiber to 85-3 and back. Delay changes of 200 picoseconds in twelve hours through the 2.6 kilometer run of buried and exposed fiber are typical and are caused by outside temperature changes.

4.0 Acknowledgement

J. Oliver and W. Shank did layout, assembly, and wiring of most of the component boxes used in the receiver system. They also were involved with the installation, breakout and splicing of the optical fiber cable. R. Weimer designed the receiver control and monitor interface which was assembled by W. Vrable.

J. Cercone designed and wrote the computer program used for receiver and antenna control. R. Weimer and F. Ghigo have added additional features to the program.

G. Behrens designed the S and X Band Feed which was fabricated by the Green Bank Machine Shop. R. Norrod designed the dewar assembly which was assembled and tested by R. Simmons.

D. Williams and T. Henderson assembled the cryogenic compressors and associated lines and controls.

S. White designed the 500 to 5 MHz converter used to drive the antenna phase cal unit.

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REFERENCES

- 1. S and X Band Feed Measurements, G. H. Behrens.
- 2. EDIR No. 283, "A S/X, Four Channel, Cryogenic Dewar Package," R. D. Norrod (April 1989).
- 3. VLA Electronics Memo No. 180, "Phase Lock Loop Parameters of F2 and F3 Modules," A.R. Thompson (March 1989).
- 4. Electronics Division Technical Note 152, "Optical Fiber at Green Bank,", R. B. Weimer (April 20, 1989).
- 5. "Controlling the 85-Foot Radio Telescope at Green Bank," J. A. Cercone, P.E., Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery, West Virginia (1989).



FIGURE 1

ITEM QTY. NAME MANUFACTURER/PART NO. 1 1 I IS/X FEED ASSEMBLY INRAD GREEN BANK	SPECIFICATIONS IDUAL FREQUENCY 2215 TO 2305 AND 8200 TO 8400 MHZ FEED	
10 1 S/X DEWAR PACKAGE INRACI GREEN BANK 20 2 S-BAND MIXER IRHG DM2-4A	IELECTRONICS DIVISION INTERNAL REPORT NO. 283	
21 4 ISOLATOR APPLIED ENG CON, 9-801 22 2 IBANDPASS FILTER IREACTEL 3C2-8400-450S	2-11 11 1108 BANDWIDTH 8180 TO 8620 MHZ 0.408 INSERTION LOSS AT 8400 MHZ	
23 2 IRF. AMPLIFIER MITEQ AMF-2A-8286-45 24 2 IX-BAND MIXER TRIANGLE MICRO, FP50 M	18 DB GAIN 8.2 TU 8.6 GHZ NF 2.9 DB. +15DBM 1 DB PT, 15VDC 72 MA. C2 9DB CONVERSION LOSS, 30 DB ISOL L-R RF, AND LO 5 TO 15 GHZ	
25 I III AND & SU LAW DELINKAU GREEN BANK 26 I PUWER DIVIDER ANAREN 40267	14 TO 8 GHZ IN PHASE POWER DIVIDER	
28 2 IBANDASS FILTER IREACTEL 582-2300-2305	11 11 DB BANDWIDTH 2164 TO 2435 MHZ INSERTION LOSS 0.6 DB AT 2300 MHZ	
30 1 PUVER DIVIDER ANAREN 40266 31 1 UF TRIPLEXER INRAIL GR 8172130003	2 TO 4 GHZ IN PHASE POVER DIVIDER 1350 MHZ INV PASE FILTER 500 MHZ HIGH PASS 500 MHZ BANDPASS	
32 1 ALC AMPLIFIER AVANTEK ALC 1000M 33 1 ANALOG OPT. LINK TX GEN OPTONICS AST1300	5 TE 1000 MHZ MAX GAIN 52 DB, DUTPUT ODBHLS/H CIRCUIT ADDED +5V L IODBM INPUT NEMINAL, I TE 1.5 GHZ BANDPASS	EVELING
34 2 VOLT CONT. OSC. ICOMM. TECH. C7306 35 2 ICOUPLER. 20 DB ITRIANGLE MICRO. C0-432	+15 DBM 7400 TO 7600 MHZ. 20VDC SUPPLY 300 MA. 14 TO 8 GHZ, 20 +5DB COUPLING	
36 2 IMIXER ARE ACRIECH MX7500 37 2 IF AMP APLIED ENG CONS, 8285	36 DB GAIN 5 TO 200 MHZ	
38 2 IPHASE DETECT.200MHZ INRAD GB B17213A002 39 1 COUPLER TRIANGLE MICRUCU-431	10DBM SIGNAL AND REFERENCE INPUTS 14-8 GHZ 10+-0.5DB COUPLING	
40 1 ICUUPLER, 10 DB IMARDA MUD.40138-10 41 1 VULTCONTISC, MITEO DICICO1902120PAFI	: +28DBM DUTPUT 1.9 TO 2.1 GHZ. 20VDC SUPPLY 130 MA.	
42 1 ILLUTLER 2008 INTERN 10515-20 43 1 MIXER MINI-CIRCUITS 2LV-11 44 1 IDAXE NET 500 MUT INTERN 10516-20	LD AND RF 5 TO 2000 MHZ IF 10 TO 600 MHZ 9 DB MAX CONV. LOSS	
45 1 IVOLT CINT, DSC. VECTRON CL233-9516	DUTPUT +7DBH MIN +15 VDC SUPPLY 124 DR GATA A TO 150 WHZ 1 DR PY + 295 DRM 24VDC 64	
47 1 COMB GENERATOR HEWLETT PACKARD 33002 48 1 QUADPLEXER-1 NRAD GB D17213P005	A 7400, 1800, 500, AND 200 MHZ DUTPUTS	
49 1 POWER DIVIDER MINICIRCUITS ZESC 2-1 50 1 IAMPLIFIER INRAG GB	TVD-VAY IN PHASE 5 TO 500 MHZ	
51 1 DIPLEXER-1 INRAD GB B17213A003 52 1 IAMPLIFIER INRAD GREEN BANK	15 MHZ LOW PASS, 300 MHZ HIGH PASS, GAIN 23 DB AT 5 AND 500 MHZ IGAIN 30 DB AT 500 MHZ	
53 1 PHASE CALIBRATOR INRAD/HAYSTACK		
55 11 IS-BAND NUISE SOURCE INTER, MIC VV, NUR2628- 56 11 IS-46HZ HYBRID IDHINAF UMMI-SPECTA 20154-3		
57 1 18-1247 HULSE SLUKCE INTER, HIC/ V. NUKOUSE 58 1 18-1247 HYBRID IANAREN 10018-3 59 2 1000 FRIDE FO		
60 I LANALOG OPT LINK RX GENERAL OPTRONICS ASR	1300	
62 2 DETECTOR	1 308 BV 7350 TO 7450 STOP BAND ATTEN > 3008 AT 7200 AND 7600	
64 1 1800HHZ BP FILTER IREACTEL 482-1800-50511 65 1 AMPLIFIER AVANTEK UTI 1003	308 BV 1775 TO 1825, STOP BAND ATTEN. > 30 DB AT 1700 AND 1900 MH	
66 1 308 COUPLER 10MNI-SPECTRA 20156-3 67 2 1250 MHZ LP FILTER K&L 4L120-1250/17400-0	/0 3DB PT AT 1250 MHZ. > 60DB DOWN AT 7400 MHZ	
68 2 450 MHZ LP FILTER REACTEL 4L2-450-511 69 1 1500/5 MHZ CONVERTER INRAD GREEN BANK	3DB DOWN AT 450 MHZ	
		NATIONAL BADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
		GREEN BANK, WV 24944
אמדרי דת גמס דנ	PARTS LIST INSERT BLOCK PL. ATTRIBUTE TAGS ARE SPECS.	MOU TITLE 85-3 S&X REC'VR
MANUF, NA	E, Q, ND. WHICH WERE DEFINED IN THAT DRDER.	
		734534 1C364 374 MTD

FIGURE 2

85-3 S and X Receiver Parts List





S and X Receiver Front-End Box







FIGURE 5

Phase Detector Loop Amplifier and Lock Indicator Schematic

			PARTS LIST		
ITEM	QTY		DESCRIPTION MANUE	ACTURER PART NUMBER	
1	4	ALAZAJA4	AMPLIFIER ,RF	AVANTEK MSA-0304	
2	3	DA1, DA2, DA3	OP- AMP	ANALOG DEVICES AD OP-07	
3	1	MV1	TIMER	SIGNETICS 555	
4	2	M1, M2	MIXER PHASE DETECTOR	MINI-CIRCUITS MPD-2	
5	4	R1,R2,R3,R4	RESISTOR 5% 1/2W 300 DHM		
6	6	R5,R6,R7,R8,R9,R10	RESISTOR, CHIP 5% 20 OHM	DALE CRCW1206	
7	2	R11.R12	RESISTOR, CHIP 5% 51 OHM	DALE CRCW1206	
8	1	R13	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W CIGHZ LOOP AND USE 1K DHM	(2GHZ - 2.75K DHH) (7.6 GHZ - 5K DHH)	
9	1	R14	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W (1 GHZ LOOP ANP USE 9.76 M	DHHO (2 GHZ - 100 DHHO (7.6 GHZ - 475 DHHO	
10	1	R15	RESISTOR, 1K, 5% 1/2 W		
11	1	R16	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 511 OHM		
12	1	R17	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 10K DHM		
13	1	R18	RESISTOR, 1%, 1/4W 10K OHM		
14	1	R19	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 511K OHM		
15	1	R20	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4V (JGHZ LOOPAMP USE 49.9K D	N) (2GHZ - 665K (1HH) (7.6 GHZ - 665K (1HH)	
16	1	R21	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 470 OHM		
17	4	R22,R23,R24,R25	RESISTOR 1% 1/4W 10 K OHM		
18	1	R26	RESISTOR 1% 1/4W 100K OHM		
19	1	R27	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 10K DHM		
20	1	R28	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 20K OHM		
21	1	R29	RESISTOR, 1% 1/4W 10K DHM		
22	1	R30	RESISTOR. 1% 1/4W 2.5M DHM		
23	13	C1, C12, C14	CAPACITOR, CHIP .1 UF		
24		C13	CAPACITOR, CHIP 1000PF		
25	1	C15	CAPACITOR. 0.047 UF		
26	1	C16	CAPACITOR, 47 UF		
27	1	C17	CAPACITOR. 1UF		
28	5	C18.C19.C21.C22.C23.C24	CAPACITOR, CHIP ,1 UF		
29	1	C25	CAPACITOR, CHIP .(15PF FOR 200 MH	Z PDX6.2 PF FOR 500 MHZ PDX	
30	1	C20	CAPACITOR. 1 UF		
31	1	K1	POTENTIOMETER, 1K 1 TURN BO	URNE CERMET TRIMMER TYPE 3329H	
32	1	KS	POTENTIOMETER 20K ITURN		NOTE 1: 40 nH Ind. 4T on .1 dia.
33	4	L1.L2.L3.L4	INDUCTOR. 4.7uH		16 nH Ind 3T on .064 dia, form
34	Ż	L5.L6	INDUCTOR. 1.5 uH		
35	2	L7.L8	INDUCTOR. (40 nH for 200 MHz PD) (16 nH for 500 MHz PD) (NOTE 1)	NATIONAL PADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATOR
36	2	Q1.Q2	TRANSISTOR, 2N3904		GREEN BANK. WV 24944
37	1	Q3	TRANSISTOR, 2N2219		MULTOID SEX THUS PHASE DETECTOR
38	3	D1.D3,D4	DIODE, 1N456		RECEIVERS
39	1	D2	DIODE, ZENER 5V		MATERIAL MANN IN J.R. COE 575/80
					SHET)

	-3 Anten	na Status		05-1	790	2448027.5	JD	14:	41:29 '
VLBI Rovr Normal			Antenna Status Normal			00:58:19 LST			
	Sys.Temp.	Rms Tmp	LO locks	Contro Box Tm	l Сомрі р 2∄.5	uter Automat C 15K 16	ic .0 K	-Anto RA	enna 01:08:16.
XR XL SR	45.92 33.71 41.63	0.038 0.022 0.005	TCK TCK	Outside 19.9 C Dew 14.4 C Wind 4.4 MPH Pr 695.0 mm				HA DEC	-00:09:55 01:29:39.
SL	45.30	0.000	LCK	—Drive- rate	-Polar- 1.0	Declinat 0.0	ion—	-Comi RA	manded 01:08:08.
100) MHZ		LCK	dir limit	West 	South		HA Dec	-00:09:49 01:31:57.
-Cryogenic Compressor Supply Pressure 269.20psi Return Pressure 59.60 psi Refrig. Drive 0.78 Amps				Focus Polari:	vii mm zation	193 192		-Erro Ha DEC	or 00:00:00. 00:00:02.
So	Source ObProc RA DEC UT off Task name date UT on UT off								
234 010 011	5–167 TRAC 6+013 TRAC 9+041 TRAC	CAL 23:45 CAL 01:06 CAL 01:19	-16:47 14 01:19: 14 04:06: 14	: 37:58 : 50:29 : 55:58	nav072m nav072m pulsar.	u. 05-15-90 ua 05-16-90 o 05-16-90	17:5 00:0 18:1	5:00 0:00 5:48	23:59:58 18:15:48 23:59:58
1611	HAIN F1-Main F2-Zoom F3-Log F4-Task F5-Man F6-Help F7-Exit F8+ant F10-STOP!								

FIGURE 7

85-3 Antenna Status



