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1989-08

## Resume of Richard Christopher Olsen, 1989-08

Olsen, Richard Christopher

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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## RESUME OF RICHARD CHRISTOPHER OLSEN

Richard Christopher Olsen was born in Alhambra, CA on November 20, 1952. He attended the University of Southern California as an undergraduate, from 1970–1974, majoring in Physics. While there, he worked as a research assistant for Dr. Masaru Ogawa, studying molecular spectroscopy. He worked briefly for Hughes Aircraft, in the area of semiconductor processing, while beginning graduate studies at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). At UCSD, he specialized in space physics, working under the direction of Dr. Elden Whipple and Carl McIlwain. He received his degree in 1980.



Upon graduation, he moved to the University of Alabama in Huntsville. At UAH, he worked with the UAH and NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center scientists in the analysis and modelling of satellite data. His initial appointment as a research associate was followed by promotion to a research faculty position (1982). He moved to NPS in 1987, as an associate professor of Physics. At NPS, he teaches in the space systems curriculum, as well as the weapons curriculum.

The interactions between orbiting satellites and the near-earth environment have been the consistent focus of his research. His thesis work was on the electrostatic charging of satellites due to the ambient (magnetospheric) plasma encountered at geosynchronous orbit. This work was followed by analysis of techniques for passively controlling or actively modifying the charge on a satellite. This work is important for satellite survival. Present activities are focused on development of active experiments for charge control on the POLAR and Cluster satellites, analysis of data from the SCATHA satellite, and development of computer codes to simulate charging.