

Andrew Lopatin (7/15/23)

COMSAT followed my professional life long after I left. Some time after Lockheed purchased COMSAT, I was even offered to become head of COMSAT Labs as I was working for Lockheed at the time. Ha ha! It was a sales job, certainly not appropriate for me. I saw Dr. Evans at the recent picnic and was tempted to tell him of this. But I'm sure he wouldn't remember me, so I didn't.

I also got in trouble at Lockheed because I honestly stated that we at COMSAT Labs had built a spacecraft phased array antenna 25 years earlier than Lockheed. The Lockheed manager hated me thereafter.

Life is funny. What kind of input are you seeking? A COMSAT VP once asked me if he should call the NASA administrator to encourage my selection as an Astronaut Mission Specialist, since the NASA administrator had previously worked for our VP when they were both at the FAA. I foolishly said no. So many stories . . .

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Interesting. When COMSAT's interests became more inclined to basketball than satellites, I moved to Intelsat, eventually assuming Erland's position, responsible for the satellites in orbit. I spent many hours before the BG/T, often watching COMSAT vs. France during procurements. Especially when I had to defend our selections for TC&R, computers and such. Then Bill English came over to Intelsat as well.

In the end, it felt like the French pretty much took over Intelsat's engineering, but that's another story. I still see Jean-Luc interviews at launches, even now.