

## **Manouchehr (Mike) Mohajeri (7/27/23)**

### **Three Memorable Years at COMSAT**

Mike (Manouchehr) Mohajeri

I joined the Systems Planning Division of COMSAT Corporation in August of 1975. At that time Dr. Harry Van Trees was the Director of that division. He was reporting to Jack Harrington who was the Vice President for Engineering at COMSAT. Dr. Van Trees was the one who hired me to work in the Future System Studies Department whose manager was Jorge Feunzlida. I had met Dr. Van Trees in 1966 when I started my graduate work at MIT. He was my graduate advisor and my master's thesis supervisor. I also took several graduate courses with him. He was an outstanding professor!

My colleagues in the Future System Studies Department were Pat Rivlan, John Martin, Bill Schnicke and Omar Atia. I have many fond memories of working with these colleagues, under Jorge Feunzalida's leadership. The primary focus of our work at that time was future system planning for the INTELSAT system. My concentration was in telephony traffic distribution over several satellites in a region, such as the Atlantic region. To facilitate that process. I developed a software package in FORTRAN language which was later incorporated in the Long-Term System Planning software by COMSAT Labs, under the leadership of Dr. Will Cook. Will was a wonderful and gentle person to work with!

Another project that I was involved with while working at COMSAT was the ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) project, developing packet switching communication over satellite. This research project was spearheaded by Linkabit corporation of San Diego, California. At COMSAT, this project was led by Estil Hoversten, assisted by Stan Ruthchild of COMSAT Labs. Stan was a great engineer who worked on the hardware aspects of the project. Estil was a wonderful colleague and great friend to work with. He later joined Linkabit corporation which is the present-day QUALCOMM.

As known to many, the Advanced Research Project Agency Network (ARPANET) was the first world-wide packet-switched network with distributed controls and one of the first computer networks to implement the TCP/IP protocol suite. Both technologies became the technical foundation of today's Internet.

My three memorable years of work at COMSAT ended when in December of 1978 I was recruited by Peter Schultze to work at INTELSAT. That led to 16 years of my very fulfilling career at INTELSAT. Peter was the Section Chief of Operational Planning Studies at INTELSAT. He had worked at COMSAT before joining INTELSAT.

While working at INTELSAT, together with my colleagues, we developed many position papers that were presented to the INTELSAT Board of Governors and/or its Planning Committee. During those presentations, I was often grilled by some of my COMSAT friends/colleagues, representing the US Signatory. So, as can be seen, my association with my COMSAT colleagues did not end with my employment at INTELSAT.

After retiring from INTELSAT in December 1994, I continued doing some consulting work for COMSAT Laboratories for several years. That association ended in late-2000, concluding a roughly 25-year working and affiliation with COMSAT corporation.