Transit 5A Satellite Will Aid Mariners

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A guiding star whirled through the heavens today in the form of a man-made satellite.

Sailors who have used the North Star for centuries to calculate their positions, will be able to use the Transit 5A Satellite for the same purpose as it broadcasts its position every two minutes.

Ships receiving the signal can measure the distance to the satellite by radar, and from this they can compute their position at sea.

The satellite will be of particular use to Polaris missile-launching submarines. They must know their exact position before firing the missiles.

Transit 5A was launched into polar orbit yesterday from Point Arguello, Calif. Meanwhile, 3,000 miles away at Cape Canaveral, a Polaris A2 submarine missile rocketed off from a land pad and made a successful 1,500-mile test flight.

The A2 was modified to carry the guidance system for the advanced A3 model, which has a longer range but which has failed on all six of its test flights to date.

Another missile, an Atlas intercontinental ballistic, didn't fare as well as the Polaris A2. The Atlas blew up about a minute after launching at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., but no one was injured in the test firing.