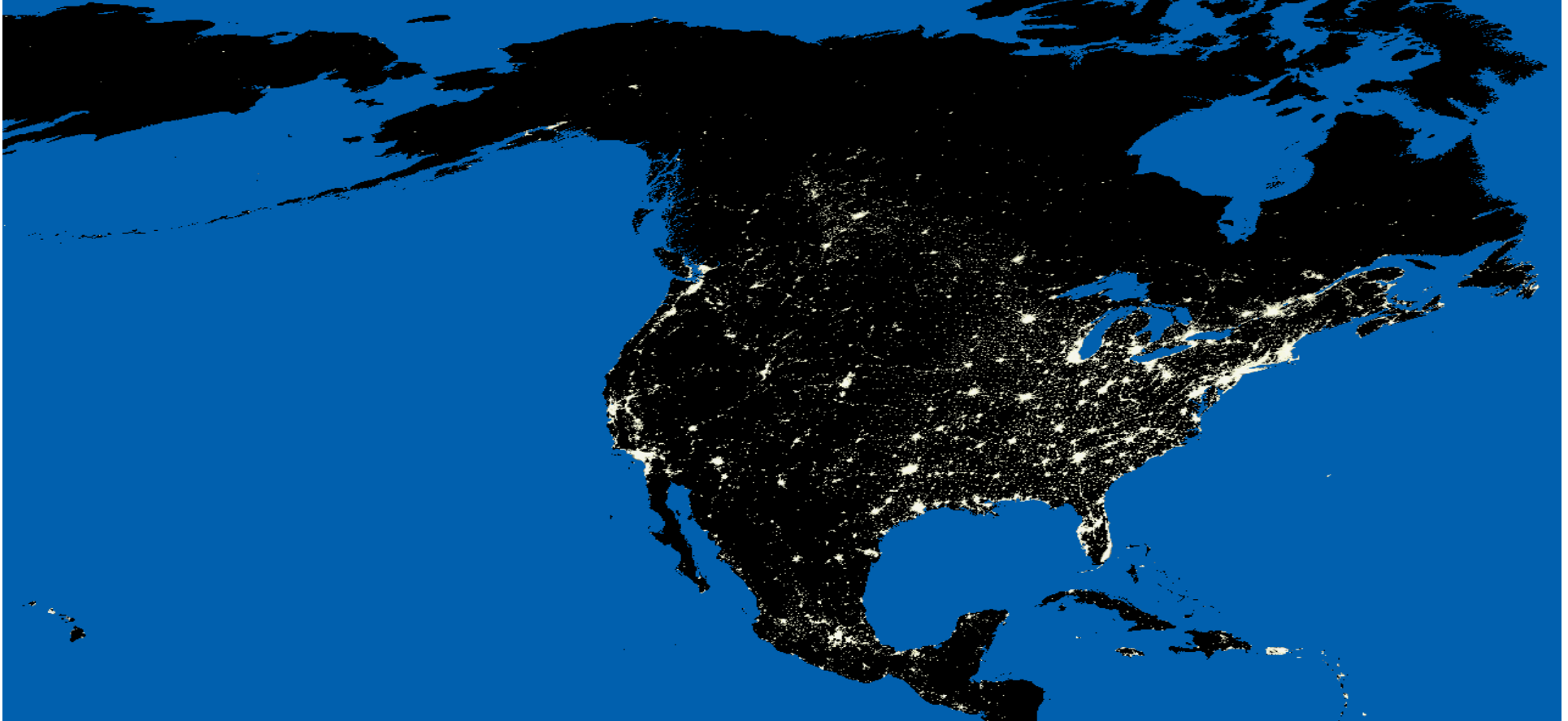




# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service



**This North American sector from the Nighttime Lights of the World was derived from satellite images acquired by the U.S. Air Force Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) Operational Linescan System (OLS). At night, the visible light observed by the OLS is intensified to permit detection of clouds illuminated by moonlight. The light intensification makes it possible to observe the lights from cities, towns, and villages. NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center serves as the nation's archive for DMSP data. NGDC scientist have developed algorithms to combine the cloud-free portions of OLS observations from many nights to produce composite images showing the light for entire continents.**

**The image presented displays the light from city lights and gas flares - the stable lights of the USA.**

**Courtesy - National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, Colorado.**

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