Floyd 990915 I
Lead Scientist Checklist
.... Preflight 9 gm
In-flight 19 gm
Post flight Om
411

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LPS Marks
Radar/warestation MB Black
Dropwindsonde Landsea Air-sea/observer Davies

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15 / 1730 & 30^{\circ} 30^{\prime \prime} & 79^{\circ} 06^{\prime \prime} & 947 \mathrm{mb} & 11
\end{array}
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Mission Plan skit.
$X C D X$ with shortened legs near shore
$A \times B T$ ah GBssonde drops at end points, in eyensll
andegennd BT drops midway tong legs:
2 kegs along shore for SRA mapping of surge, (Sees cettached sheets)

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22 A \times B T S 21 \text { CAD } 1 \text { internal }
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only major change to the plan was leaving off the last Fig, 4, After Track sw along coast to Savannah we tracked to 9 over 41004 then TR NE to CLKNI over FRSNT radial at KMHX. Then we TK along coast for walsh from CLKNI to a point Sol RLTX. Then we lid vaidal from kLTX to by. Af fa fill we departed storm to Macbill.
... problems: Nomajarproblews
1 short data system crash ( <2min)
2 - minor radar Crashes ( $\gg 5 \mathrm{~min}$ )
3 drops had problems when the CNN. guy used the airphone without asking' runued our I st drops over RBLSI. we backed if up later.

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Form E-2 Page 5 of 5

Floyd

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(4)

Lead Project Scientist Event Log

(6)


# Hurricane Recto Plotting Chart 

True at $25^{\circ}$ Latitude, in Degrees and Minutes Date $\qquad$ Flight ID $\qquad$ LBS $\qquad$


Lead Project Scientist Event Log


# Hurricane Recco Plotting Chart <br> True at $25^{\circ}$ Latitude, in Degrees and Minutes 



Note : Label full degrees according to location of the flight area.
jax_map.ps Center Lat: 30.50 Lon: -81.70


clx_map.ps Center Lat: 32.70 Lon: -81.00


mhx_map.ps Center Lat: 34.50 Lon: - 77.00







# Mission Summary 990915I Aircraft 43RF XCDX/Air-Sea Interaction 

Scientific Crew (43RF)<br>Lead Scientist/Radar<br>AXBT<br>Dropsonde<br>Workstation<br>Air-sea interaction Scientist<br>F. Marks<br>P. Davies (author)<br>C Landsea<br>M. Black<br>E. Walsh (NASA/GSFC)

## Mission Briefing:

On Wednesday 15 September N43RF was tasked to do a single plane XCDX/Air-Sea Interaction experiment into Hurricane Floyd while it passed E of Jacksonville, FL with a takeoff from Tampa International at 1830 UTC recovering back in Tampa (this mission was almost scrubbed the night before because of equipment problems during the surveillance flight, but AOC was sure they could fix those in time to get this mission off). The plan called for three rotated figure-4 patterns at $8,000 \mathrm{ft}$ altitude with 120 nm legs with AXBT and GPS sonde drops on the ends of the legs, 75 nm from the center, near any C-MAN or buoys (see Table 3), and in the eyewall on all cardinal directions. Three drops were also planned in the eye on the first and fourth, and sixth (last) passes through the center. We also planned two legs along the coast on the NW side of the storm where the radial legs were abbreviated for storm surge mapping and to collect some off-shore flow GPS sondes to augment the windfields at landfall experiment on the next flight. There were also three instrumented towers and a DOW (see Table 1) along the coast that we hoped to overfly. Unfortunately, no synoptic drops are available for this mission as N49RF was tasked to do a synoptic surveillance mission in Hurricane Gert.

## Mission Synopsis

Takeoff was delayed till 1945 UTC to allow the AOC engineers to work on the main and radar data system problems from the previous flight. The delay was exacerbated by the fact that the planes were at Tampa International because of cross winds the night before. The delay worked to our advantage as it gave us more possible overlap with the Windfields at Landfall mission scheduled for an 0300 UTC takeoff later that night. The delay also worked to NHC's advantage as it put our mission in between the two AFRES missions, providing data at a critical time $<12 \mathrm{~h}$ before landfall. The AOC engineers did a phenomenal job and we only took off a little over an hour later than originally scheduled.

We took off at 1948 UTC and tracked to an IP 120 nm SW of the storm center. We reached the IP $<45 \mathrm{~min}$ later ( 2030 UTC ) descending to $8,000 \mathrm{ft}$. After dropping a sonde we tracked NE to the center (Fig. 1) running the TA radar in F/AST so the flight director (Damiano) could get a good fix. The LF radar showed the radar eye was still very large ( $60-70 \mathrm{~nm}$ diameter) with the strongest reflectivities $N$ of the center extending $>200 \mathrm{~nm}$ from the center (Fig. 2). The S eyewall reflectivity was fairly weak, but it still appeared closed, with the same major band from the day before extending $100-160 \mathrm{~nm}$ from the center. We dropped our first eyewall sonde (see Table 4) followed by the first AXBT (which failed, attached log) SW of the center at 2053 UTC with surface winds of 63 kt which agreed fairly well with the SFMR estimates. At 2059 UTC we fixed the center (see Table 2) dropping a sonde and AXBT (SST $28.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, MLD 90 m ). The sonde had very little wind (peak winds of 8 kt ) and a central pressure of 950 mb ( 18 mb higher than the day before). We continued tracking NE doing an eyewall drop and AXBT (SST $27.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, MLD 90 m ) on the NE side of the storm at 2104 UTC with a peak wind of 104 kt well above the surface. We hit our turn point 100 nm NE of the center at 2130 UTC dropping a sonde and then tracked W to a C-

MAN FBLS1 (Folly Island, SC) roughly 100 nm NW of the center passing over and dropping a sonde on buoy 41004 at 2147 UTC. The second leg of the first figure-4 started at 2202 UTC roughly 100 nm NW of the center along the SC coast. This run to the center we set the radar in normal scan mode for EVTD and instructed the flight director to not making any major track changes. As we approached we dropped two AXBTs outside the eyewall to sample the Gulfstream (see attached log). We did an eyewall drop and AXBT on the NW and SE side of the center, but we passed about 10 nm SW of the circulation center at 2225UTC. We dropped two more AXBTs on the outbound leg to the SE reaching a point 120 nm SE of the center at 2252 UTC where we dropped a GPS sonde only. Unfortunately, the eyewall was too large to do an EVTD analysis so one was sent back to NHC.

The second figure-4 started at 2311 UTC (Fig. 3). We turned inbound to the W and dropped a GPS sonde tracking W to the center. We dropped two more AXBTs outside the E eyewall and a combo (GPS sonde and AXBT) in the E and W eyewall and an AXBT in the eye (\#14) at 2340 UTC. We finished the outbound leg with a combo drop 60 nm W of the center and then a GPS sonde drop at 0008 UTC 120 nm W of the center. We tracked SE to a point 120 nm S of the center reaching it at 0040 UTC, dropped a GPS sonde and tracked N to the storm center. We dropped 3 AXBTs on the inbound leg the last one 60 nm S of the center. We dropped an eyewall sonde S of the center at 0103 UTC and a center drop at 0109 UTC. The eyewall sonde had very little wind all the way to the surface and a mean boundary layer wind of 0 kts and a 951 mb central pressure. We proceeded N to the coast dropping 2 GPS sondes in the N eyewall and at the endpoint 100 nm N of the center near KLTX (see table 3) at 0134 UTC. Also on this leg we dropped our last two AXBTs in the N eyewall and 60 nm N of the center.

After completing the first two figure-4s we decided to leave out the last figure-4 out, in favor of a third leg along the coast N of the storm to capture the storm surge as the center was only 75 nm offshore (the N eyewall was only 45 nm off shore). After the second figure-4 we tracked SW along the beach mapping the surge with Ed Walsh's scanning radar altimeter (SRA) dropping GPS sondes in the offshore flow near Folly Island (FBLS1) and in a heavy rainband near Savannah, GA.(Fig. 4). From there we tracked to the center over buoy 41004, then from the center NE on a radial toward the WRS-88D KMHX (Moorehead City, NC) and C-MAN CLKN7 (Cape Lookout, NC) passing over C-MAN FPSN7 (Frying Pan Shoals). From there we tracked WSW along the coast for SRA mapping of the storm surge from CLKN7 to a point due S of the WSR-88D KLTX (Wilmington, NC) passing very close to the 3 instrumented towers and the DOW (see Fig. 4). From there we flew a radial from KLTX to the center, departing the storm to return to MacDill AFB.

## Accomplishments

WOW!! After the mission the previous day this mission was pure heaven. The only major change from the plan was leaving the last figure-4 out, adding a third leg along the coast N of the storm to capture the storm surge as the center was only 75 nm offshore (the N eyewall was only 45 nm off shore). This extra leg allowed Ed Walsh and the AOC crew to get some experience trying to fly along the coastline in the dark and a lot of heavy rain. This portion of the mission was joy to experience as the navigator (Rathbun) and pilots (McKim and Kenul) worked closely with Ed to have the plane weave back and forth across the beach keeping all turns $<10^{\circ}$ so the SRA beam stayed near the beach

We managed to get GPS sondes at the extremities of the pattern on all the legs providing a very good mapping of the edges of the vortex. Overall the GPS sondes worked nearly flawlessly, the one exception being when the CNN reported picked up the Airphone on the coastal run at the end of the first figure-4 causing us to lose signal completely on 2 sondes (one a backup of the first) and partially on a third over C-MAN FBLS 1 (Folly Island, SC). The AXBT drops also were very good, with $17 / 22$ providing excellent SST and MLD info as the storm interacted with the Gulf Stream as it approached landfall. The Doppler radar data on the last coastal leg would be excellent for comparison with the two WSR-88Ds and the DOW which started recoding near the time of our overpass.

## Problems:

Thanks to the phenomenal job the AOC engineers (Terry Lynch, Jim Barr, and Richard McNamara) did after all of the problems we encountered during the previous mission, no major problems were encountered. The main data system worked nearly flawlessly, the radar data system suffered only a few brief hangups (the TA reflectivity was still 6-8 dB low), and the AVAPS and HAPS communications were great! The only disappointment was caused by a CNN reporter using the Airphone without permission causing us to lose signal completely on 2 sondes (one a backup of the first) over C-MAN FBLS1 (Folly Island, SC) and partially on a third when we were on our first coastal run.

Frank Marks

Table 1: Locations of University 10 m meteorological tower deployments. A DOW was also located at the Topsail Beach location. Mobile mesonets operated in the Cape Fear area of southeastern North Carolina.

| Tower location | Latitude (N) <br> (deg min) | Longitude (W) <br> $($ deg min) $)$ | University |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Southport Airport | 3355 | 7815 | Texas Tech |
| Wilmington Airport | 3416 | 7755 | Texas Tech |
| Topsail Beach. | 3423 | 7739 | University of Oklahoma tower |
|  |  |  | and DOW |

Table 2: Center fixes for Floyd from N43RF and the Air Force (AFRES) on 15-16 September (*Landfall occurred over Bald Head Island at Cape Fear). Sea level pressures were provided in some eye drops. N43RF did not get a center fix on the second pass through the center ( $\sim 2225$ UTC).

| Time <br> (UTC) | Latitude (N) <br> (deg min) | Longitude $(\mathrm{W})$ <br> $($ deg min) | Aircraft |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 2059 | 3120 | 7856 | N43RF, 950 mb |
| 2302 | 3149 | 7846 | AFRES, 950 mb |
| 2340 | 3201 | 7841 | N43RF |
| 0109 | 3216 | 7834 | N43RF, 951 mb |
| 0229 | 3244 | 7808 | N43RF |
| 0343 | 3304 | 7818 | N43RF |

Table 3. Buoy, C-MAN, and WSR-88D locations for the 19990915I Floyd flight.

| Site ID | Latitude <br> $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right)$ | Longitude <br> $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{W}\right)$ | Location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 41001 | 34.68 | 72.64 | E. HATTERAS |
| 41002 | 32.28 | 75.20 | S. HATTERAS |
| 41004 | 32.51 | 79.10 | EDISTO |
| 41009 | 2880 | 80.18 | CANAVERAL |
| 41010 | 28.89 | 78.55 | CANAVERAL EAST |
| DSLN7 | 35.15 | 75.30 | Diamond Shoals Light, NC |
| CLKN7 | 34.62 | 76.52 | Cape Lookout, NC |
| FPSN7 | 33.49 | 77.59 | Frying Pan Shoals, NC |
| FBIS1 | 33.68 | 79.89 | Folly Island, SC |
| KLTX | 33.9894 | 78.4289 | Wilmington, NC WSR-88D |
| KMHX | 34.7761 | 76.8761 | Moorehead City, NC WSR-88D |
| KCLX | 32.6555 | 81.0422 | Charleston, SC WSR-88D |

Table 4: Splash locations of sondes transmitted during the 19990915I Floyd mission. Here MBL= mean boundary layer wind (fffdd; fff = wind direction in deg and dd $=$ wind speed in kt), LST WND $=$ height of last wind (meters), and SST $=$ sea surface temperature (tenths of ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ).

| \# | Sonde id | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Time } \\ & \text { (UTC) } \end{aligned}$ | Lat. ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{N}$ ) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Lon } \\ & \left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{W}\right) \end{aligned}$ | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 992435213 | 2029 | 30.03 | 80.59 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 32064 |
| 2 | 992455375 | 2053 | 30.97 | 79,10 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 31077 EYEWALL 225 |
| 3 | 992435029 | 2058 | 31.35 | 78.92 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 00000 EYE SST 281 |
| 4 | 992455377 | 2103 | 31.62 | 78.72 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 10583 EYEWALL 045 SST 279 |
| 5 | 992435021 | 2114 | 32.09 | 78.15 | MBL WND 12072 LST WND 010 RAINBAND SST 287 |
| 6 | 992455378 | 2129 | 32.82 | 77.27 | MBL WND 13057 LST WND 013 RAINBAND |
| 7 | 992435141 | 2147 | 32.68 | 78.90 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 08554 RAINBAND |
| 8 | 992435017 | 2201 | 32.49 | 80.16 | LST WND 010 RAINBAND |
| 9 | 992455373 | 2220 | 31.55 | 79.07 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 34592 EYEWALL 270 SST 275 |
| 10 | 992435030 | 2230 | 31.16 | 78.33 | LST WND 011 MBL WND 22598 EYEWALL 135 |
| 11 | 992435060 | 2251 | 30.22 | 77.14 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 20568 SST 265 |
| 12 | 992435142 | 2328 | 31.97 | 77.80 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 15099 EYEWALL 090 SST 284 |
| 13 | 992435145 | 2311 | 31.81 | 76.47 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 16566 SST 283 |
| 14 | 992435144 | 2344 | 32.01 | 79.06 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 36087 EYEWALL 270 SST 283 |
| 15 | 992435212 | 2349 | 32.06 | 79.42 | LST WND 010 RAINBAND SST 275 |
| 16 | 992435146 | 0007 | 31.87 | 80.77 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 35054 |
| 17 | 991515069 | 0108 | 32.27 | 78.57 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 01502 EYE |
| 18 | 992455379 | 0039 | 30.27 | 78.37 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 25545 |
| 20 | 990838041 | 0053 | 31.25 | 78.38 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 27569 SST 277 |
| 21 | 991515070 | 0102 | 31.89 | 78.38 | LST WND 048 MBL WND 25089 EYEWALL 180 |
| 22 | 984925203 | 0114 | 32.64 | 78.67 | EYEWALL 315LST WND 010 |
| 23 | 991845324 | 0116 | 32.77 | 78.66 | LST WND 010 MBL WND 05582 EYEWALL 315 SST 26 |
| 24 | 991845309 | 0134 | 33.82 | 78.58 | MBL WND 06041 LST WND 010 |
| 25 | 991845302 | 0146 | 33.12 | 79.20 | MBL WND 35568 LST WND 010 RAINBAND |
| 26 | 990838039 | 0154 | 32.69 | 79.85 | MBL WND 34073 RAINBAND |
| 27 | 991845323 | 0225 | 32.54 | 78.66 | MBL WND 31586 LST WND 028 EYEWALL 270 |
| 28 | 991845308 | 0234 | 33.04 | 78.23 | MBL WND 09597 LST WND 014 EYEWALL 000 |
| 29 | 991435052 | 0245 | 33.49 | 77.64 | MBL WND 12071 LST WND 013 RAINBAND |
| 30 | 991845166 | 0306 | 34.69 | 76.84 | MBL WND 12549 LST WND 010 |
| 31 | 991218016 | 0336 | 33.43 | 78.41 | MBL WND 06076 EYEWALL 315 |
| 32 | 991845310 | 0338 | 33.30 | 78.42 | MBL WND 03589 EYEWALL 315 |

Floyd
Weds 15 September
AXBT drops from 43, flight 15.48 to 01.10 Thurs a.m. (local time)
Pete Davies' incomplete, unscientific, and frankly incompetent record thereof
Notes.

1. I missed a few, either because they were duds, or because I was trying to write notes on something else at the drop point. Ergo after the first eight I recorded I learned from Barry D that the next drop was \#12. So my drop \#'s aren't all correct.
2. I started off trying to be over-precise, but rapidly realized that multiplying 55 by 1.5 was too challenging for me to do it too often. Also Mike Black was consistently estimating a shade higher mixed layer depths than me, \& as I assumed a fair likelihood that he knew what he was doing better than I did, after that I settled for rounder numbers. With that in mind ...

BT\# comment
1 dud

2 28.1C, 77.5meters
3 27.8C, 75 meters, maybe more
$4 \quad 28.7 \mathrm{C}, 45$ meters, maybe more
5 dud
$6 \quad 26.5 \mathrm{C}$, and a weird looking graph 90 meters with two big spikes in it
7 28.4C, 30 meters
8 22.6C, rapid drop-off after 10 seconds. Capsized/sunk?
9
10
11 realized here I'd missed a few ...
12 26.4C, 90 meters
13 28.3C, 60 meters (MB had 28.5C/80 meters on this one)
14 28.0C, 90 meters
15 28.3C, 90 meters
16 28.3C, 30 meters
17 27.6C, 180 meters? Chris Landsea: "Is it floating?"
Mike Black: "Write it down. It doesn't make sense."
18 27.1C, 75 meters
19 dud
20 27.7C, 90 meters
21 I think I missed one ...
2225.8 C, \& appears to be floating again.

Or, Frank Marks: "The mixed layer depth is infinity."





## Center Lat: 33.00 Lon: -78.00



990915i Sondes Transmitted to NHC 15-16 September 1999, Hurricane Floyd




$$
\begin{aligned}
& G \\
& \text { movement } \\
& 360 / 15 \mathrm{kts} \\
& 20 z \\
& 31.179 .1 \\
& 2 \phi z \\
& 31.579 . \phi \\
& \downarrow
\end{aligned}
$$

C-MAN
FBIS 132.68 79.89
buay
41004
$\begin{array}{ll}32.51 & 79.1\end{array}$
41008

Crew:
Marks
MBlach caudsea Walsh Davies

t

