

030914H

E.2 Lead Project Scientist

E.2.1 Preflight

- PR 1. Participate in general mission briefing.
- PR 2. Determine specific mission and flight requirements for assigned aircraft.
- PR 3. Determine from field program director whether aircraft has operational fix responsibility and discuss with AOC flight director/meteorologist unless briefed otherwise by field program director.
- PR 4. Contact HRD members of crew to:
 - a. Assure availability for mission.
 - b. Review filed program safety checklist
 - c. Arrange ground transportation schedule when deployed.
 - d. Determine equipment status.
- PR 5. Meet with AOC flight director and navigator at least 3 hours before take-off for initial briefing.
- PR 5. Meet with AOC flight crew at least 2 hours before take-off for crew briefing. Provide copies of flight requirements and provide a formal briefing for the flight director, navigator, and pilots.
- PR 6. Report status of aircraft, systems, necessary on-board supplies and crews to appropriate HRD operations center (MGOC in Miami).
- PR 7. *Before take-off*, brief the on-board GPS dropsonde operator on times and positions of drop times.
- PR 8. Perform a radio check with headsets. Make sure everyone's headsets is work properly.
- PR 9. Collect "mess" fee (\$2.00) from all on-board HRD flight crew members

E.2.2 In-Flight

- _____ 1. Confirm from AOC flight director that satellite data link is operative (information).
- _____ 2. Confirm camera mode of operation.
- _____ 3. Confirm data recording rate.
- _____ 4. Complete Form E-2.
- _____ 5. Check in with the flight director to make sure the mission is going as planned (i.e. turns are made when they are supposed to be made).

E.2.3 Post flight

- _____ 1. Debrief scientific crew.
- _____ 2. Report landing time, aircraft, crew, and mission status along with supplies (tapes, etc.) remaining aboard the aircraft to MGOC.
- _____ 3. Gather completed forms for mission and turn in at the appropriate operations center. [**Note:** all data removed from the aircraft by HRD personnel should be cleared with the AOC flight director.]
- _____ 4. Obtain a copy of the 10-s flight listing from the AOC flight director. Turn in with completed forms.
- _____ 5. Determine next mission status, if any, and brief crews as necessary.
- _____ 6. Notify MGOC as to where you can be contacted and arrange for any further coordination required.
- _____ 7. Prepare written mission summary using form E-2 p.3 (due to Field Program Director 1 week after the flight).

D. —Equipment Status (Up ↑, Down ↓, Not Available —, Not Used O)

Equipment	Pre-Flight	In-Flight	Post-Flight	# of DATs or Expendables
Aircraft	✓			
Radar/LF	✓			
Radar/TA (Doppler)	✓			
Cloud Physics	✓			
Data System	✓			
GPS sondes	✓			
AXBT/AXCP	✓			
Workstation	✓			
Videography	✓			

REMARKS:

Longitude (°)

Mission Summary
Storm name

YYMMDDA# Aircraft 4_RF

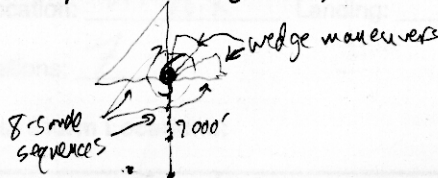
Scientific Crew (4 RF)

Lead Project Scientist Lovell Seaman, Rogers
 Radar Scientist Leighton
 Cloud Physics Scientist _____
 Dropwindsonde Scientist Rogers, Lovell Seaman
 Boundary-Layer Scientist _____
 Workstation Scientist Leighton
 Observers _____

Mission Briefing: (include sketch of proposed flight track or page #)

Fly to storm at 15,000ft, descend to 7000' begin Fig. 4 from S-N, dropping 8 sondes on inbound leg. Complete 1 circuit downwind on inner edge of eye wall; coordinate w/ 43 for outbound leg. Repeat 8-sonde sequence, complete Fig. 4 pattern. Do wedge maneuvers for Paul Chang at 7000'.

Mission Synopsis: (include plot of actual flight track)





Evaluation: (did the experiment meet the proposed objectives?)

Problems:(list all problems)

Fly to 15,000ft, descend to 7000', begin Figure 4 pattern dropping 8 sondes along windward inner eye wall (coord w/ 43). Within eyes perform one downwind circuit about 5 mi. inside eye wall edge, coming down to get wind data from T & radar. Complete Fig. 4 coordinated with 43, doing 8-drop sequences on each leg. Do wedges for Paul Chang after 7000', number of perturbations 180

Lead Project Scientist Event Log

Date 9/14/03 Flight 030914H LPS Rogers

Time	Event	Position	Comments
15:09:22	Takeoff	St. Croix	Takeoff at 150922 UTC from St. Croix
15:28:03	Ferry		Ascending to 15000'
16:14:40	descent	21°52' 66°26'	descend to 7000 heading 350°
16:25:06		22°35' 66°31'	approaching outer band from south
16:27:02	adjustment	22°44' 66°32'	turn right to 355 heading
16:29:22		22°53' 66°33'	border area of connection; multiple bands on S side
16:36:35	drop	S eyewall	drop 1 on inboard
16:36:53	drop	"	drop 2
16:37:12	drop	"	drop 3
16:37:32	drop	"	drop 4
16:37:51	drop	"	drop 5
16:38:12	drop	"	drop 6
16:38:31	drop	"	drop 7
16:38:45	drop	"	drop 8
16:39:47	penetration	23.57° 66.62°	penetrate eyewall
16:39:55		S side of eyewall	top FC wind (60kt), Sfc wind (20kt)
16:47:10	turn	in eye	turn left to 270 heading
16:49:42	turn	eye	turn left along eyewall edge, take 7 obs of eyewall
16:50:50		eye	8-10 mi. inside inner edge (green) eyewall
16:52:43		eye	pentagonal eyewall, very sloped eyewall (460' vertical)
16:54:13		eye	turning within eye still
16:56:35		eye	pentagonal 
17:00:00	center estimate	eye	23°55' 66°40' (geometric center)
17:01:30		eye	pentagonal 
17:04:10	center fix	eye	23°47' 66°45' (pressure center from 43)
17:04:58		eye	appendages blowing in downwind from eyewall
17:10:38	turn	eye	left turn to 090

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Lead Project Scientist Event Log

Date 9/14/63 Flight 030914H LPS Rogers, Landsea

Time	Event	Position	Comments
171710	turn	eye	turn left at center, completing outboard leg
172008	drop	N of eye	drop 1 on outboard leg
172019	"	"	drop 2
172027	"	"	drop 3
172037	"	"	drop 4
172054	"	"	drop 5
172115	"	"	drop 6
172135	"	"	drop 7
172155	"	"	drop 8; little slope in winds; max FL 75 m/s; 62 m/s @ 50 ft
172756	turn	N of eyewall	turn to 20° heading
172758			coordinating w/43 for stepped descent
173011	turn	"	turn left to 270 to coordinate
173245	"	"	turn left to 90, approaching stepped ID
173400	"	"	turn left to 60 to avoid wx
173458	"	"	turn right to 90
173922	"	"	turn left, waiting for 43; SFMR winds are 80 kts
174740	"	"	no longer coordinating w/43; should be 4 ftnd clear slot
174900	turn	"	turn left to 215
175410	"	"	turn right to 234
180211			transiting to west of eye
181200	pattern	W of eyewall	begin inboard leg toward 90
181609	turn	"	turn to 080
182103	drop	in eyewall	drop 1
182123	"	"	drop 2
182143	"	"	drop 3
182202			drop 4
182222			drop 5

Lead Project Scientist Event Log

Date 4/14/03 Flight 030914H LPS Rogers, Land Sea

(2)

Time	Event	Position	Comments
182234	drop	W eyewall	drop 6
182244	drop	W eyewall	drop 7
182252	drop	"	drop 8; max FL 68 kts; sfc 58 w/s
183227	radar interp.	eye	still pentagonal eyewall; rough w/ as slop
"	"	"	winds of an outer eyewall structure roughly li
183735	visual interp.	eye	large eye (150-60 mi.); inner
183750	"	"	low cloud; 4000'-5000'
183825	"	"	SCW top ~4000'-5000'
184123	"	"	very sloped cloud pattern
184358	"	"	rope cloud's coming into eye
184830	turn	eye	turn to 090, start outboard leg
185200	drop	E eyewall	drop 1
185210	"	"	drop 2
185220	"	"	drop 3
185230	"	"	drop 4
185251	"	"	drop 5
185309	"	"	drop 6
185331	"	"	drop 7
185351	"	"	drop 8; max FL 150 kts; sfc 125 kts
185746		east of eyewall	going turn outboard; is it outer eyewall?
190133		"	broader wind field on this side
190230	turn	"	turning to 330, beginning wedges for cloud
190505	"	NE of eyewall	turning to 240, entering eyewall
190658	"	"	turning to 250
190950	"	"	turn to 260
191130	drop	"	drop 1 of Paul Chang pattern (wedge)
191130 191445	drop attempt	"	drop got stuck



Lead Project Scientist Event Log

Date 9/14/63 Flight 030914H LPS Rogers, Land Sea

Time	Event	Position	Comments
192018	radar interp.	eye	nearly circular eyewall now
192221	"	"	nearly completely concentric eyewall
193052	turn	eye	turn to 060, begin outbound
193258	"	"	turn to 330, setting up for inbound
193547	"	"	turn to 060
193703	radar interp.	"	3 notches on LF ahead on inner eye
194239		east eyewall	max sfc wind 175 kts; FL 155 kts
194655	turn	east of eyewall	turn to 330
195158	"	NE of eyewall	turn to 210
195240	drop center call	NE of eyewall	29 27 24°N 67°17'N (geometric center)
200020	drop	NE eyewall	drop 1 of wedge inbound
200110	"	"	drop 2
200135		NE eyewall	outer eyewall FL wind of 140 kt
200217	"	"	drop 3
201629	turn	eye	heading 60, starting outbound leg
202842	turn	NE of eyewall	turn to 270
203748	drop	Northern outer eyewall	drop 1 of inbound wedge
203940		"	140 kt FL, as strong as inner eyewall now
204124	drop		drop 2
204340	drop		drop 3
2055	Turn to north	outbound of eye	
2059	North eyewall	ft winds 145 kt	SEMR 120 kt
2100	1st sonde		
2103	2nd sonde		
2105	Outer north eyewall	ft winds	140 kt (moat 125 kt)
		SEMR 100 kt	(no 2nd peak)
2106	3rd sonde		

3

4

5

Lead Project Scientist Event Log

Date _____

Flight 03 0914 H

LPS ROGERS/LANDSLE

Time	Event	Position	Comments
2110	Turn back to 180° to go back over splashes		
2120	N eyewall again - south bound		
2122	Back in eye - 107° to get AVAPS		
2132	eye drop - bud drop		
2135	Drop one		
2136	Eyewall on south side + 2nd drop		Ft. Peak 115kt SEMR 115kt
2138	Drop 3		
2141	Outer eyewall	Ft Level 125 kt SEMR 100	(no 2nd peak)
	Outer eyewall has become more dominant		
	reflectivity wise (40 vs 35) and at flight level		
	but not at surface		
2151	Turn to NW to fly back over drops -		
2159	Inbound - SE Outer Eyewall		
2202	Inner SE eyewall		
2204	eye - eye is now ~40nm (started 50)		
	+ outer eyewall is ~80nm		
2213	Back in South eyewall headed		Ft. wind 120kt SEMR 110kt
2214	1st drop		
2215	2nd drop		
2219	3rd drop - Outer eyewall		Ft. 130kt SEMR 105kt (small max)
2228	heading home to St. Croix		

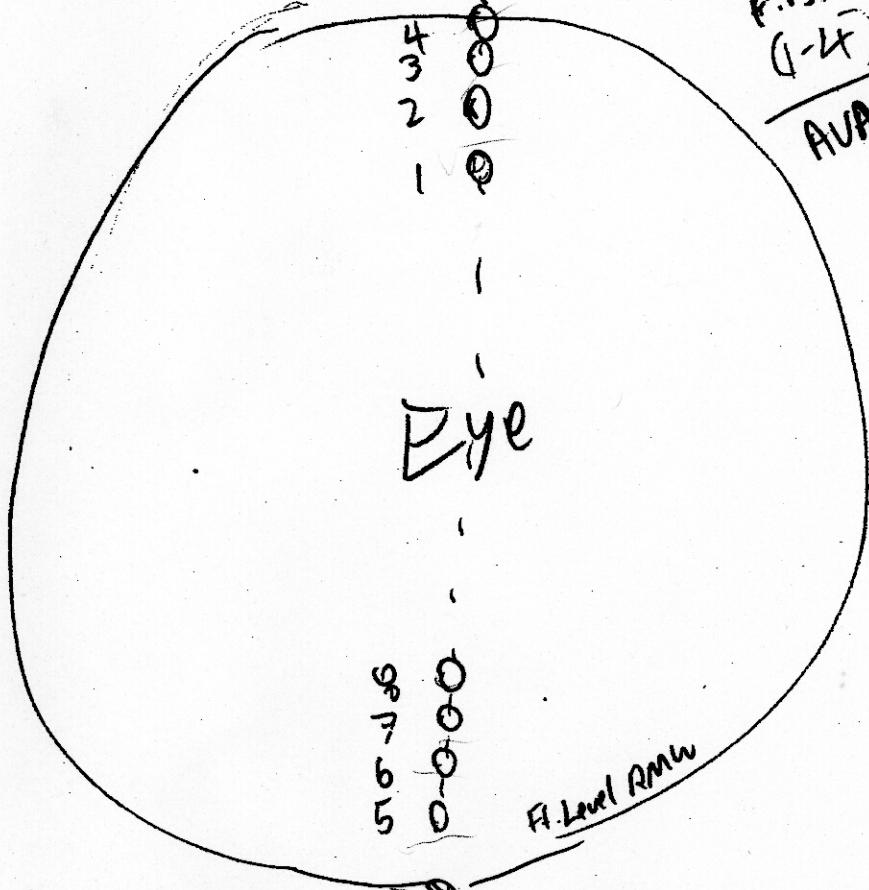
2132 eye
2135
2136
2138

2

Ft. wind 120kt
SEMR 110kt

Ft. 130kt
SEMR 105kt (small max)

OUTBOUND



8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

10 seconds
First 4
(1-4)

AVAPS 1

20 seconds
second 4
(5-8)

AVAPS 2

8
7
6
5

A. Level Amw

INBOUND

4
3
2
1

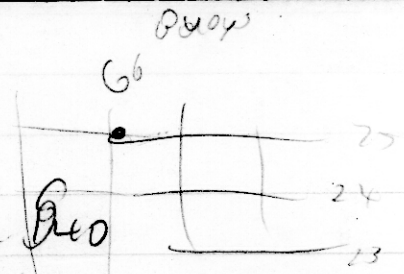
20 seconds first
4
(1-4)

AVAPS 2

10 seconds
second
4
(5-8)

AVAPS 1

Isabel 14 th / 09Z	290°-11 kt	23.3	65.2	140
12hr	114 th / 10Z	23.8	66.8	140
24	15 th / 06Z	24.5	68.5	135
36	1 / 19Z	25.5	69.5	130
48	16 th / 06Z	26.5	70.5	125
72	17 th / 06Z	29	72.5	120
96	18 th / 06Z	33.1	75	110
120	19 th / 06Z	39.5	77	100



11:15 takeoff
 42 7000
 43 12,000
 11:00 takeoff

12 drop sequence?
 100 mi SW

42-8 bracket Ft level RMW
 43-4 inside Ft level RMW
 coordinate pass

50 mile logs

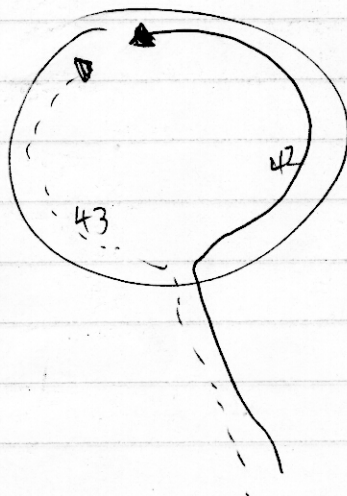
SSE + NW side
 all sides
 9 sandes

lead
 42 vt 43 1ft first pass

25N
 66W

buoys

43 stepped descent or continuation
 figure 4 -



2055 Turn to north outbound
 2059 North eyewall ft winds
 145 kt SFMR - 120 ft
 2100 1st sande 2103 2nd sande
 2105 2nd eyewall
 Ft. Winds 140 kt (mont to 125 kt)
 SFMR 100 kt (no peak)
 2106 - 3rd sande -
 2110 Turn back to 180°
 to go back over drop splashes
 2120 - N eyewall going in -

Sibel

030914 H 1

i1441, trk

9	60166	16:42:46		
	62134	17:15:34	comp 2	1655 - 1725
	66449	18:27		
9	67628	18:47	comp 2	1822 - 1852
9	72503	20:08:	comp 3	2000 - 2028 ? 55-55
9	74923	20:48	comp 4	2035 2000
make 9	* 77468	21:31:08	comp 5	2119 - 2144
9	79777	22:09:37	comp 6	2157 - 2222

030914 I 1

see i1441, trk

9	62138	17:15:38	comp 1	1655 - 1725
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1/5 row 66 60 30

.5 JET



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Tropical Prediction Center
 National Hurricane Center


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Hurricane ISABEL

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000
 WTNT43 KNHC 141459
 TCDAT3
 HURRICANE ISABEL DISCUSSION NUMBER 34
 NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL
 11 AM EDT SUN SEP 14 2003

SATELLITE IMAGERY SUGGESTS THAT ISABEL HAS WEAKENED DURING THE PAST 6 HOURS OR SO. EYEWALL CLOUD TOPS HAVE WARMED TO ABOVE -70C AND THE THREE SATELLITE AGENCIES HAVE COME IN WITH A CONSENSUS INTENSITY ESTIMATE OF T6.5...OR 127 KT. THE EYE REMAINS VERY DISTINCT AND CIRCULAR...ALBEIT WITH AN UNUSUALLY LARGE 40 NMI DIAMETER. THE INTENSITY HAS ONLY BEEN DECREASED SLIGHTLY DOWN TO 135 KT SINCE THE EYE HAS BECOME EMBEDDED DIRECTLY IN THE CENTER OF THE CENTRAL DEEP CONVECTION. SUCH PERFECT SYMMETRY OFTEN INDICATES A CYCLONE STRONGER THAN SATELLITE THE ESTIMATES...WHICH WAS THE CASE YESTERDAY. RECON WILL IS SCHEDULED TO INVESTIGATE THE HURRICANE THIS AFTERNOON.

THE INITIAL MOTION ESTIMATE IS 290/10. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO PREVIOUS FORECAST TRACK OR REASONING. SATELLITE FIX POSITIONS HAVE BEEN COMING IN ON TOP OF THE PREVIOUS FORECAST TRACK AND THE LATEST 06Z NHC MODEL GUIDANCE IS ALSO NOW STRONGLY CONVERGENT ABOUT THE PREVIOUS FORECAST TRACK. THERE WAS A SLIGHT WESTWARD SHIFT TO THE MODEL CONSENSUS...BUT THERE IS NOW MUCH LESS DIVERGENCE AMONG THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL MODELS THROUGHOUT THE FORECAST PERIOD. UNFORTUNATELY...THE MODELS ARE NOW IN EXCELLENT AGREEMENT WITH ISABEL MAKING LANDFALL ALONG THE CENTRAL U.S. EAST COAST IN ABOUT 4 DAYS. THERE IS STILL UNCERTAINTY ON WHERE THE EXACT LANDFALL COULD OCCUR SINCE THE DEVELOPING CENTRAL U.S. TROUGH COULD DEEPEN AND DIG SOUTHWARD MORE THAN IS FORECAST BY THE GLOBAL MODELS...WHICH COULD LEAD A MORE NORTHWARD MOTION AND LANDFALL FARTHER UP THE EAST COAST THAN WHAT IS CURRENTLY FORECAST. UNFORTUNATELY...ALL OF THE MODEL GUIDANCE AGREE ON A LARGE AND STRONG NORTH-SOUTH ORIENTED RIDGE REMAINING EAST OF ISABEL...WHICH SHOULD PREVENT THE POWERFUL HURRICANE FROM RECURVING OUT TO SEA. LANDFALL ALONG THE U.S. MID-ATLANTIC COAST SOMEWHERE BETWEEN NORTH CAROLINA AND NEW JERSEY BETWEEN 4 OR 5 DAYS IS APPEARING MORE AND MORE LIKELY.

ONLY MINOR FLUCTUATIONS IN INTENSITY ARE EXPECTED FOR THE NEXT 3 DAYS AS ISABEL IS FORECAST TO MOVE OVER SLIGHTLY WARMER WATER AND REMAIN IN A FAVORABLE DOUBLE-OUTFLOW PATTERN. HOWEVER...BY 96 HOURS...ISABEL IS EXPECTED TO BE ACCELERATING NORTH-NORTHWESTWARD UNDER INCREASING SOUTHERLY UPPER-LEVEL FLOW. HOWEVER...ALL OF THE MODELS ARE IN GOOD AGREEMENT ON THE CENTRAL CORE OF ISABEL REMAINING EAST OF THE STRONG JETSTREAM AND UNDER 20-25 KT 200 MB WIND. THIS WOULD TEND TO KEEP ISABEL STRONGER THAN WHAT THE SHIPS INTENSITY MODEL IS INDICATING...ESPECIALLY SINCE ISABEL WILL BE MOVING OVER THE WARM GULFSTREAM SOUTH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA OUTER BANKS AT THAT TIME. THEREFORE...LITTLE OR NO SIGNIFICANT WEAKENING IS EXPECTED TO OCCUR UNTIL AFTER LANDFALL OCCURS.

- Eyewall Wind Profiles**
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FORECASTER STEWART

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

INITIAL	14/1500Z	23.7N	66.3W	135 KT
12HR VT	15/0000Z	24.2N	67.9W	135 KT
24HR VT	15/1200Z	25.2N	69.6W	135 KT
36HR VT	16/0000Z	26.1N	70.6W	130 KT
48HR VT	16/1200Z	27.2N	71.6W	125 KT
72HR VT	17/1200Z	30.0N	73.2W	120 KT
96HR VT	18/1200Z	34.5N	75.5W	110 KT...NEAR NORTH CAROLINA
120HR VT	19/1200Z	41.0N	77.5W	70 KT...INLAND

23.8 172
66.7

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Miami, Florida, 33165-2149 USA
Todd.Spindler@noaa.gov

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Page last modified: Sunday, 14-Sep-2003 15:03:14 GMT

Subject: Isabel 030915H Flight summary

Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 14:10:12 -0400

From: CHRIS LANDSEA <CHRIS.LANDSEA@NOAA.GOV>

To: Neal M Dorst <Neal.M.Dorst@noaa.gov>, Peter Black <Peter.Black@noaa.gov>, Michael L Black <Michael.Black@noaa.gov>, Robert Rogers <Robert.Rogers@noaa.gov>, Paul S Chang <Paul.S.Chang@noaa.gov>

030914H - Isabel

Paul Chang - LPS (Chris Landsea reporting)

This mission, in conjunction with NRF43, was an Ocean Winds experiment (main emphasis is to collect SFMR/scatterometer/GPS winds in high wind/rain regions) that was piggy-backed with some CBLAST work on 43 in their doing a stepped descent. The flights were coordinated on this day with 43, in doing the 12 sonde sequence (8 from 42 straddling the flight level RMW and 4 from 43 straddling the surface RMW), circling the eye and in starting the stepped descent by 43.

The flight pattern first consisted of a figure four with passes from south to north and then west to east with eight drops launched straddling the flight level RMW in each quadrant. After first penetrating the eye, a circumnavigation of the eye was done to allow radar mapping of the storm in full scan mode. The circumnavigation within the eye was done (in conjunction with 43) about 8 nmi inside the inner edge of the eyewall. (The eye was a rather large 50 nmi diameter at that point.) After exiting the eye to the north, we began coordination with 43 for their stepped descent. However, the location they had chosen contained too much precipitation and they had to break off of the formation to search for a new location. We ended coordination with 43 at that time (1747 UTC) and continued the figure four. At 1902 UTC, we completed the figure four with the 32 sondes launched. Then there were six wedge patterns flown, where on an inbound leg three sondes were launched in the eyewall (drops called by the LPS) followed by an immediate outbound leg where the plane was routed over the splash location of the middle drop. (This would allow a

direct comparison of SFMR/scatterometer with drop data. However, the last three wedge patterns were done with launches done going outbound and the last wedge pattern did not include the fly-over the splash location.) Thus there were a total of 50 sondes launched and seven eye penetrations. Of these 50 sondes, 3 had no data (1 no launch detects, 1 failed, 1 sonde stuck in the tube), 2 had no winds, but 31 were processed and transmitted. (Because of AVAPS limitations, only 4 of the 8 sonde sequence could be sent to HAPS in real-time. These were sent to HAPS in the ferry home, but only a few could be processed and transmitted before landing in St. Croix.) Of the drops processed, only 4 had winds within 15m of the surface. Peak winds recorded: 150 kt flight level (north eyewall ~1720 UTC), 120 kt SFMR (north eyewall ~1720 UTC), 117 kt drop surface (east eyewall 1852 UTC) and 160 kt MBL (1852 UTC).

The most prominent features of the hurricane on this day were the eyewall changes during the flight. Early on (1630 UTC) Isabel had a 50 nmi diameter eye, which was pentagonal in shape. By about 1830 UTC a distinct outer eyewall was beginning to form from the rainbands present. By 2030 UTC the outer eyewall flight level winds had a secondary wind maximum that was as strong as the inner eyewall's, though no secondary wind maximum was observed yet from SFMR at the surface. By 2130 UTC, the outer eyewall winds were stronger than the inner winds. The radar reflectivity signature was also stronger in the outer eyewall (40 dbz) versus the inner eyewall

(35 dbz) by this time. By 2230 UTC, a secondary wind maximum finally was apparent at the surface with the SFMR, though there still remained a larger wind peak at the surface in the inner eyewall. By the end of being on-station in Isabel, the inner eyewall had contracted to about 40 nmi and the outer eyewall was about 80 nmi. A difference in this flight from the one on the day before was that the cloud tops in the eye were somewhat lower, allowing our plane at 7000' altitude a better view of the eye. The eyewall appeared to be quite sloped (as seen visually and by the tail radar) with perhaps a slope of 60 degrees off vertical, though most of this was likely above flight level. Similarly to yesterday's mission, radar filaments were observed extending from the inner eyewall cyclonically into the eye with spacing and length on the order of a couple nmi.

In conjunction with WAF43, was an Ocean Winds experiment (main emphasis is to collect SFMR/scatterometer/GPS winds in high wind/rain regions) that was piggy-backed with some CBLAST work on 43 in their doing a stepped descent. The flights were coordinated on this day with 43, in doing the 12 sonde sequence (8 from 42 straddling the flight level RMW and 4 from 41 straddling the surface RMW), circling the eye and in starting the stepped descent by 43.

The flight pattern first consisted of a figure four with passes from south to north and then west to east with eight drops launched straddling the flight level RMW in each quadrant. After first penetrating the eye, a circumnavigation of the eye was done to allow radar mapping of the storm in full scan mode. The circumnavigation within the eye was done (in conjunction with 43) about 8 nmi inside the inner edge of the eyewall. (The eye was a rather large 50 nmi diameter at that point.) After exiting the eye to the north, we began coordination with 43 for their stepped descent. However, the location they had chosen contained too much precipitation and they had to break off of the formation to search for a new location. We ended coordination with 43 at that time (1747 UTC) and continued the figure four. At 1902 UTC, we completed the figure four with the 32 sondes launched. Then there were six wedge patterns flown, where on an inbound leg three sondes were launched in the eyewall (drops called by the LPS) followed by an immediate outbound leg where the plane was routed over the splash location of the middle drop. (This would allow a

direct comparison of SFMR/scatterometer with drop data. However, the last three wedge patterns were done with launches done going outbound and the last wedge pattern did not include the fly-over the splash location.) Thus there were a total of 50 sondes launched and seven eye penetrations. Of these 50 sondes, 3 had no data (1 no launch detects, 1 failed, 1 sonde stuck in the tube). 2 had no winds, but 31 were processed and transmitted. (Because of AVAPS limitations, only 4 of the 8 sonde sequence could be sent to HAPS in real-time. These were sent to HAPS in the ferry home, but only a few could be processed and transmitted before landing in St. Croix.) Of the drops processed, only 4 had winds within 15m of the surface. Peak winds recorded: 150 kt flight level (north eyewall -1720 UTC), 120 kt SFMR (north eyewall -1720 UTC), 117 kt drop surface (east eyewall 1852 UTC) and 160 kt MBL (1852 UTC).

The most prominent features of the hurricane on this day were the eyewall changes during the flight. Early on (1630 UTC) Isabel had a 50 nmi diameter eye, which was pentagonal in shape. By about 1830 UTC a distinct outer eyewall was beginning to form from the rainbands present. By 2030 UTC the outer eyewall flight level winds had a secondary wind maximum that was as strong as the inner eyewall's, though no secondary wind maximum was observed yet from SFMR at the surface. By 2130 UTC, the outer eyewall winds were stronger than the inner winds. The radar reflectivity signature was also stronger in the outer eyewall (40 dbz) versus the inner eyewall