

Flight Summary GRIP 01 Sept 2010

General Information

Flight date- 01 Sept 2010

Flight duration - 5.1 hours

Crew – Mike Giles, John Bain

Instruments flown: HRAD, REVEAL

Flight Log

Engine Start	5:35 pm	Takeoff	5:53 pm	Approach	10:45 pm
Data Rec On	6:10 pm	Begin Descent	10:00 pm	Landing	11:03 pm

Gear extension/retractions

Gear Up	5:53 pm						
Gear Down	10:12 pm						

Weather Observations

Weather in across Florida was widely scattered cumulus clouds, offshore the same until we approached the outer edge of the storm. From about 150nm of the storm center the clouds were obscured by a continuous outflow stratus layer. I would estimate this to be at 40 to 45K ft. As we flew closer to the storm darkness prevented any good observation of the clouds below.

Flight Profile

We flew to the first way point as planned and then adjustments to the location of the planned way point pattern were received via communication over the iridium phone. We flew 13 waypoints which allowed for three legs that were tangent to the eye wall and orthogonal to the flight path of the NOAA P3 aircraft. The legs were west to east, east to west, then north to south. We flew most of the first two legs at 56 – 57K ft. we were able to reach 60K on the last third of the second leg and reached 61K ft by the end of the last leg.

Instrument Notes

- The instrument worked with out any indicated failures
- The Nav data recorder was turned on late, SEO error.

GPS Problem

The GPS lost coverage when our altitude reached 58-59K ft. At 9:05pm we descended to 57K ft and re-obtained GPS coverage. We then climbed back to 59-60Kft and coverage was again lost. It appears that the GPS problem is altitude dependant.

Waypoint time LOG:

6:17 Crossed the East Coast

7:15 WP2A (waypoint 2)

7:29 WP3B (waypoint 3 as amended in flight)

7:41 WP4B

7:49 WP5C

8:05 WP6C

8:16 WP7C

8:30 WP8C

8:47 WP9C

9:03 WP10C

9:11 WP11A

9:26 WP12A

9:39 WP13A

10:21 Crossed East coastline