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A Systems Engineering Approach to Analyzing Weather Input Sensitivities of the Joint Precision Air Drop System

David L. Gemas

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A SYSTEMS ENGINEERING APPROACH TO ANALYZING WEATHER INPUT SENSITIVITIES OF THE JOINT PRECISION AIR DROP SYSTEM

THESIS

David L. Gemas, Captain, USAF

AFIT/GSE/ENY/07J-01

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AFIT/GSE/ENY/07J-01

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THESIS

Presented to the Faculty

Graduate School of Engineering and Management

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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Science

David L. Gemas, BA

Captain, USAF

June 2007

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A SYSTEMS ENGINEERING APPROACH TO ANALYZING WEATHER INPUT SENSITIVITIES OF THE JOINT PRECISION AIR DROP SYSTEM

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Abstract

 The United States Air Force is partnering with the United States Army as well as allied nations to develop a revolutionary advance in logistical support known as the Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS). The focus of this study is to develop a process to quantitatively analyze system sensitivities to various types of weather inputs and the corresponding effect on system accuracy. Weather balloons were used to provide representative "truth" to which forecast weather could be compared. Each data type was fed into the JPADS Mission Planner to produce navigation points which could then be compared statistically. The process was tested on a limited data set to provide a first look at the variables of forecast resolution and "lead-time." Initial results indicate best system accuracy is achieved for lowest forecast resolution (i.e., 45 km vs. 5 km data) and shortest lead-time (i.e., <12 hrs vs. >12 hrs). This result will not only allow for better accuracy of JPADS, but also reduce bandwidth and transmission time necessary to send weather forecast data to the warfighter.

Acknowledgements

 Only one name goes on the front of this thesis, but it could not have been written if not for the efforts and inputs of many people. First, I wish to thank the team of Lt Col Steven Fiorino and Mr Ron Lee, my thesis advisor and sponsor respectively. They've been working this project since the beginning and shared an enormous enthusiasm that was truly infectious. I can honestly say that they made this experience fun! I also wish to express my gratitude to Dr David Jacques for bringing me and this thesis into the Systems Engineering program as a package deal, then letting me run with it.

 I am also greatly indebted to one of AFIT's previous graduates, Capt Ryan Eggert of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate, Advanced Architecture and Integration Branch. Capt Eggert's branch is working on their own piece of the JPADS pie known as WICID. His programming skills were invaluable and provided the means to greatly increase both the speed and accuracy of data preparation for this study. There was also Mr Bob Holt at Planning System Inc (PSI) and Mr Thomas Fill at Draper Labs. Both of whom fielded a whole host of questions about the inner working of the Mission Planner. Without the efforts of Ms Mary Bedrick, AFWA Det 3, there would have been nothing to study. She patiently answered (and sometimes re-answered) my weather questions. Finally, my many thanks to my AFIT instructors, like Maj Sam Wright and Lt Col Mark Abramson who helped push back the darkness with the light of understanding.

Thank God, it is done!

D. Gemas

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A SYSTEMS ENGINEERING APPROACH TO ANALYZING WEATHER INPUT SENSITIVITIES OF THE JOINT PRECISION AIR DROP SYSTEM

I. Introduction

Background

 In the modern world of precision engagement with weapons such as the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) allowing for accuracy measured in feet, the airdrop community has had to soldier on with low precision tactics and techniques that would be recognizable to their Vietnam era counterparts. The Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS) is a family-of-systems developed to bring the sort of precision capability found in Global Positioning System (GPS) guided munitions to the airlift community. As such, JPADS is often touted as "the JDAM for logistics."

 The purpose of this thesis is to investigate the impact of weather data inputs on the accuracy of JPADS, specifically the JPADS Mission Planner (JPADS-MP) and the navigation outputs it creates from this weather data. Despite the conceptual similarities between JDAM and JPADS, the airdrop mission poses problems for accuracy not faced in the precision guided munition mission. A JDAM class munition falls at high velocity through the atmosphere and, while guided, still follows a relatively ballistic trajectory. As such, the precision of JDAM type munitions is not greatly affected by the weather they pass through between the launching aircraft and their target. The JPADS chute loads are quite different as they truly do fly as a paraglider. Since they are unpowered, proper energy management during their decent is critical in hitting their designated Point-

of-Impact (PI). In order to achieve the desired level of precision, a Guided Parachute requires knowledge of the state of the atmosphere in which it will fly. This thesis examines the current methods used for weather data ingestion by JPADS and determines best practices for the *as-is* system. It will conclude with recommendations for further research to develop an improved *to-be* system.

Scope

 Even as this thesis is being written, JPADS is evolving. At present, it is undergoing the Joint Military User Assessment stage of its Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) testing program at the US Army's Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). Despite the continued evolution, JPADS is already operating in the combat theatre. The fact that JPADS is already in use serves to focus the domain of this thesis. This research is the product of techniques from weather forecasting, operations research, and systems engineering. Any one of these fields can find a rich source of problems for study in the JPADS program. However, there is a pressing, operational question at hand. As the system stands today, in the field, how do we make it as accurate and precise as possible? Other organizations are already pursuing studies of the Guidance, Navigation, and Control algorithms for JPADS. That leaves the question of weather impacts.

Problem Statement

 Airdrop operators require an evaluation of the sensitivity of the JPADS-MP to weather inputs. To quantify this sensitivity, it is necessary to first identify what weather

products are used by JPADS-MP and what they are used for. To achieve a manageable scope, this study will focus on two weather products usable by the JPADS-MP: Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) Forecasts and Weather Balloons. The immediate goal is to statistically compare the various types of forecasts generated by AFWA to actual weather sampled by weather balloons and thus determine the best operational practice. Of even greater value, though, is the process that will be developed to achieve this goal, as it will continue to be useful to the program as an analytical process beyond this initial research.

Research Objectives, Questions, and Hypotheses

Research Objective.

 The objective of this study is to analyze the weather sensitivities of the Joint Precision Air Drop System. To do this requires the development of a standardized, statistically sound, method of comparing weather inputs to the JPADS-MP. This research will then use this process to perform an initial analysis to answer the Research Question.

Research Question.

 This research will perform an initial analysis of AFWA weather forecasts to determine which, if any, provide better planning accuracy for the airdrop mission when used as input to the JPADS-MP.

Investigative Questions.

- 1. How does weather affect JPADS? (i.e., how does the JPADS-MP ingest and use weather data? What are the outputs?)
- 2. How does the JPADS-MP use weather data to generate navigation outputs?
- 3. How can the navigation outputs from the JPADS-MP be converted to a statistically comparable format?
- 4. What different types of AFWA forecasts are available?
- 5. How are weather balloons made available to the JPADS-MP?
- 6. What statistical tests and tools can be used to analyze the weather sensitivities of JPADS?

Hypotheses.

 A key objective of this study is to apply statistics in order to get a quantitative understanding of how JPADS is sensitive to weather inputs. As previously mentioned, JPADS is already operating, both in test and in the field, and is doing so with certain qualitative assumptions about the best practices to use regarding weather inputs. JPADS has already made great strides in accuracy, but more is desired. To get there, qualitative assumptions must give way to quantitative results.

 The statistical tests used in this study are relatively simple. In general, the Null Hypothesis (H_0) will be that the given distribution cannot be rejected; while the Alternate Hypothesis (H_a) will be that the given distribution is rejected. All statistical tests in this study will be performed at $\alpha = 0.05$.

Methodology in Brief

 A standardized mission will be used in the JPADS-MP, with the different weather products being used to generate navigation outputs. These outputs will then be converted into a common Northing vs. Easting error format which is functionally like the Miss Distance charts used by the JPADS Guided Parachute systems. The data will then be

subjected to statistical examination to determine Goodness-of-Fit for Bivariate Normality (a typical distribution for this type of data). Finally, the means and variances of the different data groups were compared to identify the best weather forecast type for use.

Document Structure

 Chapter 2 is a literature review which will provide a more in depth discussion of the topics introduced in Chapter 1. The chapter will begin with an abbreviated history of airdrop then progress to a brief description of the JPADS system, as well as provide some insight into weather forecasting and weather products used by JPADS-MP. Chapter 3 details the means by which the research was accomplished. It includes further information on how the weather data was converted into a useful format for statistical analysis as well as the details of that analysis. Chapter 4 reports the results of the analysis and Chapter 5 provides a summary of the overall research effort as well as presents avenues for further research.

Limitations

 The research documented in this thesis is limited to the analysis of historical data rather than a fully designed original experiment. As such, the analysis in this research must use data which was intended for other purposes. In this case, not all potentially available forecasts were recorded. While there are sufficient data points to extract statistical significance, care must be taken in interpreting the results so as not to over generalize beyond what the data supports.

 The weather balloons that were used as a basis of comparison for the forecast data were, of course, actually launched to support the aircraft operations of the JPADS ACTD. This makes it necessary to check the data for unanticipated correlations. Additionally, it is worth noting that the primary research question, i.e. the accuracy of various forecast products, was originally raised by AFWA Det 3. It was decided to use the JPADS-MP as an analysis tool rather than analyze the various weather data products directly. This indirect method was chosen for two reasons. First, the JPADS-MP must perform an internal analysis in order to generate navigational outputs; and second by using the actual mission planning tool the operators use, the warfighter is assured of a result with immediate operational application.

 Finally, all forecast data used for this thesis was collected for YPG and used the Penn State University/National Center for Atmospheric Research Mesoscale Model 5 (MM5) forecast model. This analysis will need to be reaccomplished when AFWA changes from MM5 to the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model. Time limitations prevented attempting to gather data from areas other than YPG. It is therefore worthwhile to use caution in applying the results of this research to other locales before additional data can be reviewed. The methodology used in this thesis will allow for such additional analysis with ease. This is an advantage of using the JPADS-MP as an analysis tool.

II. Literature Review

Overview

 The Joint Precision Air Drop System is intended to address several recognized capability gaps. It is a family of systems that includes, but is not limited to, the JPADS Fly-Away Kit and several candidate guided parachute systems. This chapter will begin with a brief discussion of the historical environment that led to JPADS. It will then progress to a description of the systems that comprise JPADS. This will be cursory as JPADS is well covered in other documents and is not the actual focus of this thesis. Attention will be given to aspects of the JPADS-MP which were of specific use in this thesis. The chapter will conclude with a review of the weather data types and formats used in this research.

Historical Background

 On 16 January, 1784, an American living abroad in France penned a letter to a friend concerning a revolutionary technology he had recently observed. The technology in question was a balloon capable of lifting two men into the air. This American saw more than a mere curiosity in the balloon. In fact, he had an extraordinarily prescient vision of what would stem from the invention.

On that day he wrote:

…where is the prince who can afford so to cover his country with troops for its defense, as that ten thousand men descending from the clouds might not in many places do an infinite deal of mischief, before a force could be brought together to repel them?

The writer of this letter was Benjamin Franklin. On 10 September, 1944, more than 160 years later, a copy of this quote was kept on the desk of another American located in England. This American was Lieutenant General Lewis H. Brereton and on that day in September, he was responsible for planning Operation MARKET – the allied airborne invasion of Holland (11:122).

 Operation MARKET-GARDEN was a combined airborne and land based invasion. The First Allied Airborne Army was to drop in Holland and hold key bridges along the route to and across the Rhine. This was Operation MARKET. The British XXX Corps armored unit would drive up a narrow corridor of advance, relieving the airborne units as it went, until it crossed the Rhine. This was Operation GARDEN. If successful, it could have brought about an early end to the war. However, this was not to be.

 MARKET-GARDEN would require three major airdrops of troops over three days. Once on the ground, the airborne units would require airdrop resupply. While it would be difficult to identify any one element that led to the failure of MARKET-GARDEN as being decisive, the lack of precision airdrop capability is clearly significant. History records abysmal airdrop accuracy. British airborne troops "watched in despair as thirty-five Stirling bomber-cargo planes dropped supplies everywhere but on the [drop] zones. Of eighty-seven tons of ammunition, food and supplies destined for the men of Arnhem, only twelve tons reached the troops. The remainder, widely scattered to the southwest, fell among the Germans" (11:376). This was not the first or the last time that airdrop would inadvertently supply the enemy rather than the defenders.

Figure 1. C-47's performing low altitude airdrop during Operation MARKET-GARDEN. (Source: [http://www.qmfound.com/airborne2.gif\)](http://www.qmfound.com/airborne2.gif)

 In April of 1972, the forces of North Vietnam launched their Easter Offensive. It was an effort to overrun South Vietnam in one stroke. The key to South Vietnam was the capitol in Saigon. North Vietnamese forces planned to launch from Cambodia and drive the 90 mile distance down Highway 13 to the capitol. On this highway, approximately 26 miles from the Cambodian border, sat the city of An Loc. It was here that a major battle would ensue that would lead to a two month long siege. By 1972, the majority of American ground units have been withdrawn. The Army of the Republic of South Vietnam (ARVN) had about 6,000 troops in An Loc to defend against more than 35,000 North Vietnamese forces (19). It would fall to American air power to sustain them.

Figure 2. Route of attack on An Loc and surrounding area. (Source: http://www.vnafmamn.com/Valiant_Anloc.html)

Airdrop crews flying in support of the forces on the ground at An Loc faced a lethal curtain of fire including .51 caliber, 37mm, and 57mm Anti Aircraft Artillery (AAA) (9). On 11 May, the first SA-7 Strela, Infrared guided, Man Portable Air Defense (MANPAD) weapon was fired in the vicinity of An Loc (19). Prior to this time, the only technique that afforded an adequate level of precision was the Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System (LAPES). But such tactics proved to be suicidal in face of the anti-air environment around An Loc. The $374th$ Tactical Airlift Wing had an operating detachment at Tan Son Nhut Air Base and was tasked with the airlift mission for An Loc (9). They developed revolutionary techniques for high altitude airdrop called Ground Radar Aerial Delivery System (GRADS) and Adverse Weather Aerial Delivery System (AWADS). These techniques allowed for improved accuracy for airdrop from above 12,000 feet (2). The 374^{th} also developed new parachute methodology. They devised a method for airdrop using a smaller 26 foot diameter "ring-slot" high velocity parachute

than the standard 64 foot diameter G-12 parachute canopy. The ring-slot chute served not to decelerate the load, but to stabilize it at it fell. Careful packaging allowed most types of loads to survive the landing (9).

Figure 3. C-130 performing LAPES cargo drop during the siege of Khe Sahn in 1968. (Source: http://www.qmfound.com/khe_sanh1.jpg)

Figure 4. 26' Ring Slot High Velocity Parachutes in flight. (Source: <http://www.pioneeraero.com/pop-ups/2-14-IMAGE1.htm>)

These new techniques allowed the defenders of An Loc to hold out against the overwhelming odds they faced. The Easter Offensive failed and South Vietnam survived for another three years. For the airdrop forces involved, the final tally of losses were 15

aircrew casualties, numerous wounded aircrew members, 37 aircraft damaged, and the loss of 2 C-123 and 3 C-130E aircraft (19).

The techniques developed by the $374th$ in the support of An Loc would last far beyond that South East Asian battlefield; more than 30 years later, versions of them are still in use. Airdrop would continue to play a key in military operations all over the world. Operations JUST CAUSE, PROVIDE PROMISE, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM and others would see airdrop being called on time and again. In the intervening years, the threats faced by the aircrews in Vietnam have only intensified. Reaching an adequate level of precision using conventional techniques now places aircraft and their crews at unacceptably high risk.

 The airdrop mission has evolved beyond the 1970's era solution. Methods are needed to operate outside the Weapons Engagement Zone (WEZ) of MANPADS and AAA while reaching totally unprecedented levels of precision. It is additionally desirable that airdrop be able to operate at an offset from the desired PI. Such a capability will allow covert teams to be resupplied via airdrop without their position being highlighted by overflight of the drop aircraft. Fortunately, threats and requirements are not the only thing to have evolved since the 1970's.

 Since the advent of the Global Positioning System (GPS) in the 1990's more and more military systems have come to rely upon the navigation technology. The Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) revolutionized precision engagement and has virtually become a household word. It would not take long for the technology that made the JDAM possible to begin transiting to the airdrop world. The stage is finally set for the Joint Precision Airdrop System – JPADS.

Joint Precision Air Drop System Overview

 In traditional airdrop, the aircrew must fly the aircraft to a specific point in the sky, known as the Computed Air Release Point (CARP). The CARP is calculated using variables such as payload weight, drop altitude, aircraft velocity vector, wind velocity vector, and location of the intended Point of Impact (PI). One CARP corresponds to one PI. Miss the CARP and you miss the PI. Of course, hitting the CARP does not guarantee that you will hit the PI, but it is the point of maximum likelihood given the quality of the data input into the calculations. This is where weather sensitivities become important to understand.

 JPADS is intended to revolutionize how airdrop works. This is about more than bringing GPS precision to CARP calculations though. JPADS is a Family of Systems that allows for precision airdrop to one or more PI from medium to high altitude with the option of significant standoff range (i.e., without the need to fly directly over the PI as in traditional airdrop). These capabilities allow for significant operational flexibility. For example a single aircraft could, in a single airdrop pass, drop loads to different PIs. Alternately, one or more aircraft could drop loads from a broad Launch Acceptability Region (LAR) to hit a single PI from various launch points.

Figure 5. JPADS Guided Parachute drop capabilities (6)

These capabilities are important for tactical advantage as well as safety since JPADS allows aircrews to drop from altitudes and standoff ranges which are safe from enemy surface-to-air threats and terrain. And finally, the ability to drop on a PI without direct over-flight serves to further protect the aircraft and crew as well as to prevent highlighting the location of the PI and the airdrop recipient. Figure 6 shows the JPADS Systems Architecture Operational View (OV-1) Diagram. The OV-1 is a graphic depicting the high-level operational concept of the JPADS architecture.

Figure 6. JPADS OV-1: Overall view of system activity. (6)

 JPADS Ph ysical Components.

JPADS consists of a roll-on/roll-off system suite for the aircraft, a mission planning element, and a variety of specialized Guided Parachute systems. The Air Force is the program lead for developing the aircraft systems which consists of the JPADS Fly-Away Kit, JPADS Mission Planner (JPADS-MP) software, and Global Positioning System (GPS) Dropsondes. The US Army has responsibility for the development of the Guided Parachute systems.

JPADS Fly-Away Kit.

 The JPADS Fly-Away Kit is self-contained unit designed to give roll-on/roll-off JPADS system capability for an airlift platform such as the C-130 or C-17. The kit contains a Precision Air Drop System (PADS) software configured Panasonic CF-29 Toughbook (also known as the PADS Laptop Computer or PLC), a Global Positioning System Retransmission System (GPS – RTS), the Advanced PADS Interface Processor (APIP), and all necessary connections for the system and the aircraft. Figure 7 shows the JPADS Fly-Away Kit in its stowed and unstowed configuration. With its case, the Fly-Away Kit weighs 75 lbs. The Kit is developed by Planning Systems Inc, Draper Labs, and the Forecast Systems Lab of the NOAA (6).

Figure 7. JPADS Fly-Away Kit components. (1)

JPADS Guided Parachute Family.

 Presently, several system types are under consideration. Among these are the Affordable Guided Airdrop System (AGAS), the Screamer, and the Sherpa. Each system differs in approach to the guided airdrop problem solution as well as in overall performance capabilities. This section will provide background on each system and how it fits into the JPADS architecture.

Affordable Guided Airdrop System (AGAS).

 Developed in joint venture by Vertigo Inc and Capewell, AGAS is a family of systems for precision airdrop of loads from 200 to 10,000 pounds. It is intended to provide high accuracy and precision at low cost by utilizing off the shelf parachutes and rigging components and is essentially a strap-on guidance kit for the standard Container Delivery System (CDS). The AGAS system is compatible with existing inventory parachutes such as the G-12 and the 26' Ring Slot High Velocity Parachute. The heart of the system is the Autonomous Guidance Unit (AGU). The JPADS-MP generates a Wind

Profile which is used to calculate a wind corrected flight trajectory. This trajectory is passed on to the AGAS AGU. The AGU monitors the actual flight path as compared to the nominal flight path. The flight path is then adjusted by "slipping" the parachute control risers. The Figure below displays the AGAS mission profile.

Figure 8. AGAS flight profile with Wind Profile corrections. (Source: [http://www.vertigo](http://www.vertigo-inc.com/agas)[inc.com/agas\)](http://www.vertigo-inc.com/agas)

In testing, AGAS has proven to be highly accurate, and typically has the smallest Circular Error Probable (CEP) of the candidate systems. However, it also has the least horizontal standoff capability among the candidates at approximately 5 km. AGAS loads typically have a 14-15 minute Total Time Aloft. The following figure shows example AGAS miss distances and their associated CEPs.

Figure 9. Sample drop score card and CEP achieved by the AGAS Guided Parachute system. (Source: [http://www.vertigo-inc.com/agas/cep.jpg\)](http://www.vertigo-inc.com/agas/cep.jpg)

Sherpa.

 The Sherpa guided parachute system is the product of Mist Mobility Integrated System Technology (MMIST). Sherpa is a family of four systems with load capacities ranging from 265 lbs to 2200 lbs. The Sherpa system uses a large Ram Air Parachute (RAP) which gives the system a significant glide range and maneuverability. The RAP affords Sherpa a horizontal standoff range of up to 20 km from a drop altitude of 25,000 feet. A unique feature of Sherpa is the option to provide terminal guidance via a hand control unit. Otherwise, the Sherpa uses an AGU to correct for windage errors with respect to the preplanned trajectory calculated by the JPADS-MP.

Figure 10. MMIST Sherpa prepares to land. (Source: [http://www.mmist.ca/Sherpa.asp\)](http://www.mmist.ca/Sherpa.asp)

The following chart shows a series of Sherpa 2200 miss distances with associated 100, 200, and 300 m CEPs. Sherpa is a Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) system already in

use with US Marine Corps.

Figure 11. MMIST Sherpa sample drop score card and CEP. (Stoker, 2006)

Screamer.

 Strong Enterprises with Robotek Engineering have developed the Screamer Precision Cargo Delivery System. The Screamer is unique in that it uses an undersized Ram Air Drogue (RAD) rather than a full size canopy. The RAD serves to stabilize and decelerate the payload as well provide steering capability. The use of the RAD also allows for a rapid decent from altitude and improved resistance to wind effects. However, due to its small size, the Screamer RAD is incapable of slowing the payload down for landing. This is accomplished by the deployment of one or more standard round, unguided parachutes (typically one or more G-11 parachutes) once the payload nears the surface. Once the recovery chute is deployed, the Screamer is considered to be ballistic, which is to say, at the mercy of the low-altitude winds. The figures below show the phases of Screamer flight, first under the RAD and then moments after the deployment of the Recovery Parachutes.

Figure 12. Phases of Screamer Flight. (17, 10) As with the other systems, Screamer navigation is accomplished via an AGU which

compares its real-time position with a preplanned trajectory using onboard GPS. The

Screamer has a glide ratio of 2.6:1. From a drop altitude of 25,000 feet, it has a standoff distance of about 7.2 miles and has a Total Time Aloft of approximately 8.6 minutes. The following Figure show example miss distances for the Screamer system and its associated CEPs.

Figure 13. Scream drop score card and CEP. (10)

Joint Precision Airdrop System – Mission Planner (JPADS-MP).

 The JPADS-MP is a combination of the PLC and the PADS software. Its ultimate use is to ensure that the cargo arrives at the desired PI. Figure 14 shows the functional design of JPADS as well as the data flow structure.

Figure 14. JPADS-MP system layout. (1)

The box at the center of the Figure shows the functions performed by the JPADS-MP. As can be seen, data flows into the JPADS-MP from the GPS dropsonde, Combat Track II messages, NIPRNET/SIPRNET, and from user input. Data flows out of the JPADS-MP to the user and to the Guided Airdrop Systems. A more comprehensive picture comes from the JPADS SV-4 System Functionality Description diagram in Figure 15.

Figure 15. JPADS SV-4, Systems Functionality Description. (6)

 These two diagrams (Figures 14 and 15) are important to providing the answer to the first Investigative Question: How does weather affect JPADS? (i.e., how does the JPADS-MP ingest and use weather data? What are the outputs?) The next diagram is a simplified version of the SV-4. All non-weather related items and data flows have been removed. This Systems Engineering product answers where weather enters the system and how that data flows within the system accomplish its functions.

Figure 16. Weather Data Flows within JPADS.

In this color coded, streamlined version of the SV-4, the data flow is easy to follow. Looking at the functions at the bottom of the flow, we find (as one would expect) the AGU and the aircraft navigation system. What stands out as the critical function lies one step above these: Generate CARP – the Computed Air Release Point, a function of the PLC. The flows shown here are the primary ones available to operational users. There are options not shown here. These include Pilot Reports (PIREPS), Ballistic Winds, and

Climatology. However, it turns out that the critical path is the same in all cases. The PADS Laptop Computer (PLC) requires at least two inputs to calculate the CARP: mission data and at least one type of weather data. The next sections will discus these inputs as well as the CARP in more detail.

Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) Weather Forecasts.

 The JPADS-MP uses 4 Dimensional forecast models in order to generate the best CARP solutions. These forecasts are called 4 Dimensional as they include x, y, and z spatial coordinates as well as a temporal coordinate. AFWA generates forecasts for YPG in three levels of resolution: 5km, 15km, and 45km. In 4 Dimensional forecast models, resolution refers to how closely spaced the data weather data points are on the x/y grid plane. Thus, 5km spacing is high resolution, containing much more data than a resolution with 45km spacing of grid points. Obviously, higher resolution means a larger data file, and thus greater band-width for transmission and longer download times.

 The 5 and 15km models are run every 12 hours and the 45km model is run every 6 hours. One model run simulates 24 hours of weather. To get a forecast for a given time, say 1200Z, several options are available. The 5 and 15km forecasts are initiated at 0600Z and 1800Z. To get a forecast valid for 1200Z, you could use the model initiated on the current day at 0600 and take the predicted weather conditions 6 hours after model start. An 0600Z start time plus 6 hours lead time equals a valid time of 1200Z. Alternately, the 1800Z start time from the previous day with an 18 hour lead time also results in the desired 1200Z valid time on the current day. If the 45km resolution is

considered, five more forecasts (three from the current day and two from the previous) are available to predict the conditions at 1200Z.

 A unique aspect of weather forecasting is that models are initiated "dry." This means that data such as humidity, dew point, and pressure are fed into them, but not information on precipitation or cloud effects. It is left to the model's weather physics to generate this information. This results in a certain amount of spin-up time being required by the model before it begins to provide realistic forecast results. It is this feature which calls into question how model lead time affects forecast accuracy.

 A collection of these forecasts as well as corresponding weather balloon soundings covering the JPADS ACTD test activity from 20 June 2005 to 5 December 2006 has been provided by AFWA Detachment 3 for the purposes of this research. A list of the weather balloons specifically used for this analysis is included in Appendix H. This data is used to determine which forecasts can be used for CARP generation.

Computed Air Release Point (CARP) and Launch Acceptability Region (LAR).

 Certainly, one of the keys to precise airdrop is positioning the drop aircraft in the proper position in space with respect to the PI, taking into account the variables of aircraft velocity as well as the wind velocity at each altitude from the drop level down to the ground. This point in space is traditionally known as the Computed Air Release Point (CARP). One of the chief functions of the JPADS-MP is creating a highly accurate CARP. This is accomplished by taking into account aircraft type, altitude, heading, airspeed, position, and ramp-angle, as well as parachute type, load weight, et cetera. To these variables, a final key ingredient is added: the wind profile. While the payloads are

guided, they are unpowered and cannot regain kinetic energy once spent. This makes a good knowledge of the air mass they are to fly through critical to hitting the PI. This CARP is then input (by hand) into the drop aircraft navigation system. Although a precise formulation of the CARP is not as critical for Guided Parachute systems, JPADS-MP is also used to improve the accuracy of cheaper, unguided parachute systems such as the High Velocity Container Delivery System (HV-CDS). Thus, operators need the best possible weather estimate to ensure accurate airdrop.

 Since the Guided Parachute systems have the energy to fly to the PI from a large area, the JPADS-MP calculates a Launch Acceptability Region (LAR) in addition to the CARP. The LAR is an elliptical region which represents the approximate area in space from which a Guided Parachute system could successfully reach the designated PI given the weather inputs to the JPADS-MP. Mathematically, it is the solution space containing all feasible CARPS for the Guided Parachute systems for a given set of PI coordinates and weather inputs. It is important to note that this region is an approximation intended to give aircrews a good idea of the system limitations. The edge of the LAR should not be considered a precision measurement for drop purposes. To deal with this and other uncontrollable variables (such as the true weather vs. forecast) a safety factor of 11% is subtracted from the LAR ellipse. The safety factor is a user definable option within the JPADS-MP.

 Figure 17 shows a comparison of airdrop missions using traditional, non-JPADS planning, as well as JPADS planned guided and unguided drops. Note that for unguided drops, only one CARP is available to hit the PI; while for guided drops an elliptical area

defined by an Early, Nominal, and Late CARP (the Launch Acceptability Region) is sufficient to hit the PI.

Figure 17. Comparison of Flight Profiles for traditional vs. guided airdrop options.

Screamer Recovery Chute Opening Point (OP).

 In addition to the CARP/LAR, a third calculation is made by the JPADS-MP in support of the Screamer Guided Parachute system. Unlike the AGAS and Sherpa, the Screamer requires an additional AGU command beyond the CARP/LAR computation. This is for the recovery chute Opening Point (OP), also called the *pickle-point*. The correct calculation of this point is critical to hitting the PI since the Screamer payload is

no longer guided from there. Figure 18 demonstrates the particular case of the Screamer system and its sensitivity to correct weather forecasting. The conic section indicates the volume of space in which the Screamer system has sufficient energy to maneuver to reach the Opening Point (OP) calculated by the JPADS-MP. Once the OP is reached, the Screamer payload is carried to the ground by the low-level winds. As Figure 18 shows, if these winds are correctly forecast, Screamer can hit the PI with high accuracy.

Conversely, poor forecasting leads to missing the PI.

Figure 18. Screamer Flight Profile and weather sensitivities.

GPS Dropsonde.

 This is a GPS instrumented unit that falls under parachute at a known velocity (typically 70 fps). The dropsonde is released from an aircraft to gather a sounding of the true weather in close geographical and temporal proximity to the planned airdrop location and time. The weather data gathered from the dropsonde can be integrated in flight with the preflight mission planning forecast to improve the preflight planned CARP/LAR and OP.

 A natural assumption is that updating the CARP/LAR and OP generated from premission forecasts with sampled atmospheric data should improve their estimates. There are, however, potential faults in this assumption. First, dropsondes take time – both to fall and for their data to be assimilated into the model. In order to ensure adequate time, combat tactics call for dropsondes to be employed no later than ten minutes prior to the planned airdrop. Since airdrop missions are typically flown at approximately 150 mph, this equates to a minimum difference of more than 25 miles between where the atmosphere was sampled and where the actual drop will occur. It is easily conceivable that a dropsonde could be sampling weather on one side of a mountain ridge and the airdrop take place on the other side in completely different weather conditions. Additionally, in tests, dropsonde data reception becomes unreliable at low altitude – precisely the time when accurate information is most critical.

 Finally, there is the afore mentioned 11% factor of safety. This margin of safety is essentially energy in the bank for the on board guidance system to use should it encounter unexpected weather during descent. The question then becomes, is a dropsonde likely to ever dictate moving the LAR more than 11%, particularly considering the other limitations of dropsonde employment? Since dropsondes are a consumable, they add to mission cost as well as complexity.

 Initial planning for this study called for an analysis of these questions. However, this was de-scoped from the thesis after consulting with Draper Labs concerning the LAR calculation performed by the JPADS-MP version used in this research. As the JPADS-MP continues to evolve, the calculation of LAR will change significantly rendering any work done valueless.

III. Methodology

Research Strategy

 The first challenge with this research was in determining what was meant by weather sensitivity of the JPADS system and how to measure it. The intent was to apply statistical analysis to data, but to what data and how? The obvious answer to the first part of that question was the data recorded by AFWA Det 3 in support of the JPADS ACTD. For each test, a record was kept of the weather balloons launched in support of that day's missions as well as the associated valid weather forecasts. This data covers a period from 20 June 2005 to 5 December 2006. This was a lot of data, over 50 GB worth. The next question is how to analyze it. AFWA Det 3 has already begun looking at a direct, altitude by altitude, comparison between weather balloons and weather forecasts. This research compared the forecast wind velocity (heading and speed) against observed wind velocity for the three different forecast resolutions and various lead times. It was this initial research that prompted this thesis.

 The JPADS-MP served as a means for providing an *apples-to-apples* analysis of the weather input options within the context of the Mission Planner, something which would be very useful to the user community. This is possible since the JPADS-MP can perform its navigational computations from either the forecasts alone or the weather balloons alone. This capability allows for the creation of Northing vs. Easting error comparisons, much like the Miss Distance charts for the various Guided Parachute systems shown previously in Chapter 2. To execute this, a standard mission scenario is used for evaluating all input data. The scenario is detailed as follows:

Mission Name: N (for due North Run-In heading) Drop Aircraft: C-130 Run-In: 360° Magnetic Weather Reference Point: YPG Site 16 (Weather Balloon Launch Location) Lat: N 33 19.800 Lon: W 114 19.800 Elevation: 1421 ft MSL Drop Altitude: 17500 ft AGL Airspeed: 135 KIAS Magnetic Variation: 12.346 W (deg) Total Ramp Load(s): 1 Loads To Drop This Pass: 1 Exit Location: RAMP Stick Type: Single Aircraft Altimeter Setting: 29.92 inches Hg Chute/System Type: Screamer Total Rigged (All-up) Weight (lbs): 8000 Flight Station (load c.g.): 677 Stick Position: Left Glide Safety Factor: 0.89 PI: YPG JPADS Center PI PI Coordinates: N 33 19.612/W 114 22.226 PI Elevation: 1249 ft MSL Ballistic Chute Type: 2 G11 Steerable Chute Type: 850 Sq-Ft (Screamer 10k System)

This *N* mission was used to generate CARP and OP navigation data from the historical weather data. These were then grouped by resolution for analysis. Analysis was performed in Excel, Matlab, and JMP 6. There are two stages to the analysis; the first compares the three resolutions, and the second compares lead time. The comparison variables are the population mean and variance. To ensure that the N mission was not introducing error, a second mission was tested on the 5 km data set. This *S* mission differed only in the Run-In heading of 180° Magnetic. The results indicated virtually no difference from the CARPs calculated in the N mission. The remainder of this chapter will detail how the N Mission was entered into the JPADS-MP and how the resulting data was captured and evaluated.

JPADS-MP Operation – N Mission

The JPADS-MP is developed by Draper Labs and Planning Systems Inc (PSI), and a complete user's manual is available from them. This discussion will be limited to the aspects of the JPADS-MP that were used in the execution of this research. Appendix G contains a sequence of figures that will provide the reader with sufficient familiarity with the JPADS-MP Graphical User Interface (GUI) to recreate the steps taken in this research. Upon starting the JPADS-MP, the user is presented with the main GUI page as shown in following figure:

Figure 19. JPADS-MP main GUI.

 For this study, the coordinates for Site 16 at YPG are used for the weather forecast reference point as this is the location from which the weather balloons were launched. This representative mission was created using an actual test point from the ACTD program, the only modification being a change in the Run-In heading to a cardinal direction. As a result, the PI is set as being the JPADS Center PI target at YPG, as used in testing. This is located 3.7 km from Site 16. It may have been better for the purposes of this analysis to have set Site 16 to be the PI. Unfortunately, this was realized too late for implementation. However, any error incurred by this is believed to be minimal when considering that the highest weather resolution was 5 km.

Figure 20. Weather GUI

 The *Weather GUI*, shown in Figure 20, is where most of the work in this research was done. The next step is to acquire weather data. This is done by selecting one of the

options under the Weather Acquisition section. The options relevant to this research are: Dropsondes, 4D Forecast, Balloon, and Climatology.

 The JPADS-MP uses the 4D Forecasts generated by AFWA. These come in a format known as GRidded Information in Binary format (GRIB) files. Once these are downloaded, the *Browse* button is used to point the Weather Source GUI to the location of required GRIB files. Once the appropriate path is specified in the "GRIB Files Location" field, select the "Acquire Forecast" button. This will read the weather forecast into the JPADS-MP Environmental Data folder.

Figure 21. Weather GUI with 4D Forecast loaded.

 In Figure 21, the 4D Forecast inventory now shows an increment of one and the Wind File Production section now has the options for wind file generation via LAPS Forecast. The Local Analysis and Prediction System (LAPS) is the most advanced

modeling method included within the JPADS-MP. It allows complex modeling of wind interaction with terrain features such as how wind will flow over or around terrain obstacles. Select either the *Best Available* or *LAPS Forecast-only* (available under *Full Options*) to begin Wind File production.

Figure 22. JPADS Main GUI CARP Solution TAB after successful CARP calculation.

Selecting *Compute* CARP will now automatically open the CARP solution tab. The CARP section shows the Latitude and Longitude of the Early, Nominal, and Late CARPs which also define the boundaries of the LAR. In order to collect this data, an Optical

Screen Reader tool was developed by Captain Ryan Eggert of the Air Force Research Laboratory Advanced Architecture and Integration Branch.

 The Screen OCR tool reads the values in the Early, Nominal, and Late CARP coordinate boxes and copies them to a text file. In doing so, it also converts them from a DDD MM.mmm format to a DDD.dddddd format. The conversion to decimal degrees allows for easier mathematical operations later. Additionally, the Screen OCR copies the coordinates for the Screamer OP from its memory location and writes it to the same text file.

 The method of building text files for analysis is to segregate the data by weather balloons. The Screen OCR allows for a new file to be opened and then to append subsequent data to this file. First, the CARP/LAR/OP is calculated for a weather balloon. This data is saved to a new file bearing the date and time of the balloon launch as the file name. Next, the CARP/LAR/OP is calculated for each weather forecast that was valid for the time of that weather balloon launch. Each new data set is appended to the text file resulting in a file similar to the one shown below:

\Box D \Box 20050620 1414Z Data.txt - Notepad							
File Edit Format View Help							
33.255633 33.259800 33.254900 33.259850 33.254900 33.263250 33.258950 33.256417 33.255267	-114.387967 -114.377733 -114.380117 -114.377450 -114.380650 -114.379650 -114.377250 -114.379283 -114.380717	33.361117 33.365283 33.360383 33.365333 33.360383 33.368733 33.364433 33.361900 33.360750	-114.360333 -114.350117 -114.352500 -114.349833 -114.353033 -114.352033 -114.349633 -114.351667 -114.353100	33.326595 33.327322 33.326797 33.327315 33.326780 33.327645 33.327232 33.326815 33.326870	-114.371227 -114.370378 -114.370388 -114.370340 -114.370485 -114.370165 -114.370293 -114.370515 -114.370397	WX Balloon 15km Data 15km Data 5km Data 5km Data 45km Data 45km Data 45km Data 45km Data	1414Z \triangleq 0600 ini 1800 ini 0600 ini 1800 ini 0000 ini 0600 ini 1200 ini 1800 ini
$\vert \cdot \vert$							\blacktriangleright

Figure 23. Sample text file record of CARP and OP calculations from the JPADS-MP captured by the Screen OCR program.

 As can be seen, each line represents a different weather input: weather balloon on the first line, followed by weather forecasts of varying resolution and initialization time. The coordinates of the CARPs and OP are to the left of the metadata. Capt Eggert also developed a CARP Analysis tool to generate Northing and Easting data from the raw coordinates captured by the Screen OCR.

 The CARP analysis tool functions by comparing each weather forecast to the weather balloon data in line one of the text file. This results in a file similar to the one shown in Figure 24, below:

Figure 24. Sample text file containing output from the CARP Analysis Tool.

 In this file, the data represents error in the forecasting. A value in the Nominal NS column of -40.578024 means that particular forecast generated a Nominal CARP coordinate that was 40.578024 m South of the correct Nominal CARP coordinate as defined by the Nominal CARP calculated from the weather balloon (an actual sampling of the atmosphere). Also note that, while the resolution data is unchanged, the initialization time has been replaced by the Lead-Time. This is accomplished by simply taking the difference between the weather balloon launch time and the forecast

initialization time. The data from each weather balloon (and its corresponding forecasts) is saved in a folder named for the day the balloons were launched on.

 Once all the data has been run through the JPADS-MP and the final Northing/Easting data has been saved, the whole lot is read into Microsoft Excel. Excel is used to organize the data into continuous columns by resolution and then order them according to Lead-Time. The first order of business was to determine if a separate analysis would need to be performed on the Early, Nominal, and Late CARPS. However, comparing scatter diagrams for each type of CARP indicated this was unnecessary and that the Nominal CARP would suffice for all.

 Each resolution is then entered into Matlab to test for Bivariate Normality. This test is taken from Walsh and Lynch's discussion on the Multivariate Normal Distribution (16:2). It was possible to code the test they describe into Matlab to produce a Goodnessof-Fit test for scaled distances to a Chi-Squared Distribution with n degrees of freedom. These are then fit to a regression model. The R^2 adjusted for the fit then give an indication of the GoF, where linearity correlates to normality. The Matlab input script and function are included in Appendix E and F, respectively.

 Having passed this test, the data sets are then entered into JMP 6 for detailed analysis. JMP 6 was used to perform Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) as well as Multivariate Analysis. This was first performed for the full data set of each resolution in order to characterize each and determine if one was more favorable than the others in terms of mean (error) and variance. Then, each set was subdivided in order to examine the effect of Lead-Time on sample mean and variance. For 5 and 15 km data, there was insufficient data for anything other than a morning vs. afternoon comparison. The 45 km data, however, was sufficient to group Lead-Times into seven bins of three hours each. The Lead-Times for 45 km resolution range from approximately 2 to 23 hours.

IV. Results and Analysis

First Look

 Before commencing the statistical analysis, the first objective was to verify that earlier assumptions made in setting up the test were valid. The following diagram is a scatter plot showing CARP data generated from the comparison of 5km weather data to their corresponding weather balloon derived CARP. The points on the graph show the error in the forecast based CARP with respect to the "true" weather balloon based CARP. The first check was to ensure that it would not be necessary to test the Early, Nominal, and Late CARPs individually, but rather, that one category would suffice for all. This chart shows that the errors for each type of CARP are perfectly correlated and validates the concept of analyzing only the Nominal CARP as a representative for the whole.

Figure 25. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting Errors for Early, Nominal, and Late CARPs.

 The next chart compares the N Mission used in this study with a notional S Mission. The only difference being a Run-In heading of 180° magnetic as opposed to 360° magnetic. The purpose of this test is to determine if the aircraft velocity vector played a significant role in the observed CARP errors. As can be seen below, there is excellent correlation between the N and S Missions, discounting any such concerns.

Figure 26. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting errors of Nominal CARP comparing results from N and S Missions.

Figure 27 shows the results of the full data set. The upper chart shows the CARP errors in Northing and Easting between weather balloon and weather forecast inputs; the lower chart displays the same errors for the Screamer OPs.

Figure 27. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting errors of Nominal CARPs at 5, 15, and 45km Resolution

Figure 28. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting errors of OPs at 5, 15, and 45km Resolutions

Goodness of Fit (GoF) Testing for Bivariate Normality

 The next assumption to check is that of Bivariate Normal distribution of the data. As mentioned in Chapter 3, this is accomplished by fitting a line to a comparison of scaled distances to a Chi-Square distribution. As can be seen in the figure below, The CARP error data is a good fit to Bivariate Normal. However, the OP data is strongly influenced by outliers which, when included in the line-fit calculation, cause the OP data to fail the GoF test. Exclusion of these outliers allows for fits (shown in green on the charts) with R2 adjusted in the range of 0.98 – 0.99; clearly an excellent fit. Unfortunately, using historical data, there is no way to account for the cause of these outliers. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, they will not be removed.

Figure 29. Bivariate Normal Goodness-of-Fit test applied to CARP data (top row) and OP data (bottom row) at 5, 15, and 45km Resolution (columns 1,2, and 3 respectively).

 Since this establishes Bivariate Normal as a good distribution to describe the data, we now move on to analyzing the data in that light. The next series of figures will display statistical data necessary to answer whether there is an ideal weather forecast resolution for calculating the CARP.

 Figure 30 shows the CARP error scatter for the 5, 15, and 45km resolution data. The green lines indicate the mean value for Northing and Easting. The solid red line is the Least Squares regression fit and the broken red lines indicate the 95% confidence interval around the fit. The fit is indicative of the correlation between Northing and Easting. The aqua line and shaded region is the 95% density ellipse for the data set. It is worth noting that in both the 5 and 15km resolutions, H_0 (there is no correlation between Northing and Easting) cannot be rejected at $\alpha = 0.05$. However, for the 45km resolution, H₀ is rejected at α = 0.05. This can been seen in Figure 30, as the 95% confidence interval for the 45km data does not include a line of zero slope.

Figure 30. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting errors with mean errors (green lines), correlation (solid red line), 95% confidence interval on correlation (dotted red line), and 95% density ellipse displayed for 5, 15, and 45km Resolutions.

 This positive correlation was unexpected. As with the question of outlier data in the OP analysis, there is no clear cut answer to the source of this correlation. It does call into question the N Mission setup as a possible explanation. Weather data (both balloon and forecast) records wind direction using true headings. However, aircrews typically plan using magnetic headings. Since the N Mission borrowed its details from an actual mission, aircraft Run-In headings were entered using magnetic headings. The magnetic variance at YPG is approximately 13°. It is unknown if this plays a role in the observed correlation or not as there was insufficient time for testing after the discovery of the anomaly.

What is clear from these figures is the effect of resolution on both the means and variance of CARP errors. General improvement in mean error is seen as resolution decreases from 5km to 45km. However, the finer resolutions (i.e., 5 and 15km) have lower variance than does the 45km resolution. Additionally, all three resolutions exhibit a marked Northing error. The following tables provide summary statistics for Figure 30. The sample means and standard deviations are contained in the Correlation Table. Complete output from JMP 6 is included for all data in Appendix B, C, and D.

Linear Fit

5km N/S = 104.20727 + 0.0403265 5km E/W 15km N/S = 111.32849 + 0.0493597 15km E/W 45km N/S = 72.951882 + 0.1476738 45km E/W

Summary of Fit

Analysis of Variance

Correlation

Figure 31. JMP 6 Statistical Output for 5, 15, and 45km Resolution CARP data.

 The answer to the question of resolution appears to be that that 45km data provides the lowest mean error, but the greatest variance. The next question is that of the effect of Lead-Time on CARP error. Figures 32 and 33 show the frequency of Lead-Times for each data set. Recall that Lead-Time is the delta between forecast initialization and the planned drop time. Since the historical data used was never intended for this type of study, it presents certain difficulties which will now be addressed.

 Testing at YPG typically occurs in two temporal groups: before noon and after noon local time. Since the 5 and 15km forecasts are only generated twice per day (at 0600Z and 1800Z), there are significantly less data points available for the Lead-Time study at these resolutions than for the 45km data (which is generated every 6 hours). Ideally, there would be at least thirty data points for each hour of Lead-Team to allow for a complete comparison; unfortunately that is not the case. In order to ensure enough data for statistical significance, Lead-Times must be grouped together in "bins." Due to the general paucity of data at the 5 and 15km resolution, these were lumped into two bins at the natural break point in the histogram. This compares Short Lead-Times (8 to 17 hours) to Long Lead-Times (17-24 hours).

Figure 32. Lead-Time Histogram for 5 and 15km Resolution data.

 The 45km data is more extensive, but still requires grouping for best results. In this case there are seven bins containing three hours of data each with a range from 2 hours of Lead-Time out to 23 hours – a much more complete set of observations.

Figure 33. Lead-Time Histogram for 45km Resolution Data.

 The analysis begins as before; this time with Northing and Easting error plots differentiated by Lead-Time as well as Resolution. We then move on to a One-Way Layout to further investigate the behavior of the means and variances as Lead-Time is adjusted.

Figure 34. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting errors for 5 and 15km Resolution sorted by Lead-Time bins as well as the associated statistical data.

Figure 35. Results of JMP 6 Oneway Layout Analysis for 5km Resolution data. Northing data is on the left side of the figure and Easting is on the right for ease of comparison.

 Figure 35 is a combination of the JMP 6 output for the 5km resolution forecast data. It allows for a side-by-side comparison of the means and variances of both the Northing and Easting data. The first two graphs show the distance errors with their associated bin number. The inner set of blue dashes indicates the mean of that set and its confidence interval. The outer set of blue dashes indicates 1 Standard Deviation. The red rings to the right of the chart are a visualization tool for comparing means. When this data is displayed in JMP 6, selecting one ring will cause it to be highlighted with a thick red ring (as opposed to a standard thin, black ring). Subsequently, all groups whose means are not significantly different change from black rings to red rings. Groups with significantly different means become gray. This test indicates that there is no significant difference in the means of Lead-Time bins 1 and 2 in either the Northing or the Easting data. The lower portion of the table is a test to verify that the variance between the bins is not significant. JMP 6 applies five different methods to this evaluation. In each case, the high p-Value indicates failure to reject H_0 : the variances between bins are equal. Figure 36 presents the same analysis for the 15km resolution data with comparable results.

Figure 36. Results of JMP 6 Oneway Layout Analysis for 15km Resolution data. Northing data is on the left side of the figure and Easting is on the right for ease of comparison.

 Again, means and variances do not appear to vary significantly between Lead-Times at 15km resolution. We move on now to the 45km resolution data. Figures 37 and 38 display the CARP error data for each of the seven Lead-Time bins of the 45km data. In this sequence of charts, the Easting mean remains relatively close to zero with the greatest deviation occurring in Lead-Time bin 5, which represents data Lead-Time of 15 to 17 hours. Of more interest are the results of the Northing mean. For the first two bins $(2 - 8$ hours Lead-Time), the Northing mean is very close to zero. The precise values of the means are highlighted in Figure 39. The trend of the Northing error mean is generally worse beyond 8 hours of Lead-Time.

Figure 37. Scatter Plot of 45km Resolution Northing and Easting error sorted by bin, Bins 1 – 4.

Figure 38. Scatter Plot of 45km Resolution Northing and Easting error sorted by bin, Bins 5 – 7.

Bin 5 is again the location of largest mean error, this time for the Northing error. Additionally, Bin 5 shows the greatest level of potential correlation between Northing and Easting error.

 The next series of tables presents the Oneway Layout for the 45km resolution forecast data. There are some differences in the data presented here due to the addition levels (i.e., bins) available for comparison. First is the Tukey-Kramer HSD (Honestly Significant Difference) Test in addition to the pair-wise Student's t Test.

Figure 39. JMP 6 Oneway Layout Analysis of 45km Resolution data, Part 1.

Figure 40. JMP 6 Oneway Layout Analysis of 45km Resolution data, Part 2 .

 As previously mentioned, the rings to the right of the data plots are a visual tool for comparing the means of each group Based on the Student's t Test, we see two groups of similar means: 1,2,3, and 4 in the first group and 5,6, and 7 in the second. A

green line has been added to the plot to indicate zero mean error. The black line on the plot displays the overall mean error. As can be seen, the first grouping of means fall below the black line while the second grouping lies above it. This corresponds (as expected) with the scatter plot data indicating generally greater error as Lead-Time increases, with the greatest error located in bin 5. Note the data table for the Student's t comparisons. Cells highlighted in red indicate a p-Value less than α = 0.05 and thus a rejection of H_0 : no significant difference in means between bins.

 The Tukey-Kramer HSD Test is used here in addition to the Student's t because the number of observations in each bin is unequal. In such conditions, Tukey-Kramer is intended to provide a conservative test for difference in the means. In this case, the Tukey-Kramer result differs from the Student's t, indicating that that H_0 cannot be rejected under that test. For the Easting error data, both Student's t and Tukey-Kramer fail to reject H_0 , which is wholly expected from a visual inspection of the plot.

 In both cases, bins with shorter Lead-Times display smaller Standard Deviations, and hence, smaller variance. However, the testing suite for equal variance fails to reject $H₀$: no significant difference in variances between bins. The complete JMP 6 report is available in Appendices B, C, and D.

 Next we will briefly examine the Screamer Opening Point (OP) error scatter plots. The improvement in overall error as compared to the CARP calculations is immediately apparent. These diagrams are on a 300x300m plot as opposed to the 1250x1250m plots for CARP errors. The radius for 95% density ellipse radius is about 150m at all resolutions. Additionally, it is not possible to reject H_0 (no correlation between Northing and Easting) for the OPs at any resolution. The mean Northing and Easting errors remain
virtually constant across all three resolutions, as can be seen in Figure 41. It is worth recalling that this data includes anomalous outliers. These were left in the data set as there is no method available for determining their cause (and thus justify their removal) from the historical data.

Figure 41. Scatter Plot of Northing and Easting errors for 5, 15, and 45km Resolution OP data as well as the associated statistical data.

 This chapter concludes with a quick look at Yuma Proving Ground Site 16, the location where this weather data was collected. Figure 42 shows the locations of YPG Site 16 as well as the JPADS Center PI drop zone.

Figure 42. Satellite view of Yuma Proving Ground Site 16 and JPADS Center PI. (Source: Google Earth)

As can be seen in the figure, the average wind at Site 16 follows the local terrain.

Wind in this area can generally be expected to flow up the valley during daylight heating and down the valley during night-time cooling. The effect is shown in the diagram below:

Figure 43. Wind flow effects due to terrain and diurnal heating effects. (15:406)

It is reasonable to believe that this local weather effect may be responsible for the greater variability observed in CARP Easting errors. However, certainty would require testing at other locations. Finally, Figure 44 is a composite image showing a Bivarite Normal distribution generated in Matlab from the 45km data with an overlay of the Eigen vectors of the distribution. The Eigen vectors are collinear with the axes of the ellipse. The angle between the Eigen vectors and the y-axis is approximately 18.7°. While this value is greater than the magnetic variance for the area, it is not by much. Also, it is aligned very closely to the direction of True North, as can been in Figure 44 below:

Figure 44. Overlay of Eigen Vectors on 45km Resolution derived Bivariate Normal distribution along with the approximate relationship to True and Magnetic North.

This argues in favor of the idea that inputting magnetic heading rather than true may be

the cause of the apparent correlation.

V. Summary and Conclusions

The Bottom Line

 This study set out to determine how JPADS-MP outputs were sensitive to weather inputs. The main question being: are there ideal weather inputs to obtain the most accurate outputs? To answer this question required gaining a detailed understanding of how these three entities (input-system-output) interact. Not surprisingly, some questions remain. However there are clear, useful results from this research:

- 45km resolution weather forecast data has lower mean CARP calculation error than does 5 or 15km resolution weather forecast data. (*More accurate*)
- 45km resolution weather forecast data has higher variance in CARP calculation error than does 5 or 15km resolution forecast data. (*Less precise*)
- 2 to 8 hours of Lead-Time offers lowest mean CARP calculation error with least variance.
- Screamer Opening Point CARP calculation errors do not appear to depend upon weather forecast resolution.
- For the JPADS-MP, there appears to be no advantage to using higher resolution weather forecast data. High resolution weather forecasts have larger file sizes requiring greater bandwidth utilization and more time to acquire. Further, they are only run twice daily as opposed to the four times daily run of the 45km resolution data. It is clear that within the context of the JPADS-MP *as-is*, the lower resolution 45km weather forecast data is of greatest value to the user.

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Future Research

 This study actually had two goals: the first, to attempt to answer the stated research question; the second, to determine if further research on this particular topic was needed. The answer to the second question is clearly: yes! Now that there is a better understanding of the system, the best way to achieve definitive results is to conduct a Designed Experiment rather than attempting to make do with historical data. While this is a time intensive process, this study has produced sufficiently interesting results to warrant the effort. Goals for a follow-on study should include the following:

- Gather weather balloon and weather forecast data from several, geographically diverse locations.
- Gather a sufficient number of weather forecasts at each resolution to allow full coverage of potential Lead-Times as well as to avoid the need of grouping Lead-Times into bins (as well as an equal number of observations at each level).
- Determine if entering navigation data using magnetic heading versus true heading is a source of error.
- Attempt to determine cause of the excessive Northing errors.

 The final recommendation for future research is to address deficiencies in the method for acquiring climatology data for JPADS. JPADS-MP uses climatology data as filler whenever data necessary for calculations is not available from the current weather input data. Additionally, climatology may be used as a last resort for mission planning should no other source of weather input be available. At present, climatology is acquired

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by sending a request to the Air Force Combat Climatology Center and waiting for them to provide the data. This can take as long as two weeks. AFIT's Engineering Physics department has developed an excellent software alternative known as the Laser Environmental Effects Definition and Reference (LEEDR), which could allow the JPADS-MP user to have the ability to generate accurate climatology data on the same PADS Laptop Computer that they use for the JPADS-MP. This would require only minor modifications to allow the two programs to talk to each other (certainly a Systems Engineering area of expertise!) and would provide immediate and tangible improvement in the system for the warfighter.

Appendix A: List of Acronyms

Appendix B: 5km JMP 6 Analysis Output

Bivariate Fit of Exp Chi-Sqr By Distance (Nominal CARP)

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = 0.2131093 + 0.7523327 Distance

Summary of Fit

Lack Of Fit

Error 160 14.13812 0.088 Prob > F C. Total 161 630.60603 <.0001

1.0000

Parameter Estimates

Bivariate Fit of Exp Chi-Sqr By Distance (Nominal OP)

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = 0.8372231 + 0.4746891 Distance

Summary of Fit

Analysis of Variance

Parameter Estimates

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = 0.060006 + 0.9201943 Distance

Summary of Fit

Analysis of Variance

Linear Fit

5km N/S = 104.20727 + 0.0403265 5km E/W

Summary of Fit

Analysis of Variance

Parameter Estimates

Bivariate Fit of 5km N/S LTB 1 By 5km E/W LTB 1 (Nominal CARP)

Linear Fit

5km N/S LTB 1 = 58.347947 + 0.1315542 5km E/W LTB 1

Bivariate Fit of 5km N/S LTB 2 By 5km E/W LTB 2 (Nominal CARP)

 \equiv Linear Fit Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.95 ϕ

Linear Fit

5km N/S LTB 2 = 139.95308 - 0.0283622 5km E/W LTB 2

Oneway Analysis of 5km N/S By 5km LT Bins (Nominal CARP)

Means and Std Deviations

Means Comparisons

Comparisons for each pair using Student's t

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Tests that the Variances are Equal

Welch Anova testing Means Equal, allowing Std Devs Not Equal

t Test 1.5695

Oneway Analysis of 5km E/W By 5km LT Bins (Nominal CARP)

Means and Std Deviations

Means Comparisons

Comparisons for each pair using Student's t

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Tests that the Variances are Equal

Welch Anova testing Means Equal, allowing Std Devs Not Equal

t Test

1.8008

Bivariate Fit of 5km OP N/S By 5km OP E/W (Nominal OP)

ELinear Fit Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.950

Linear Fit

5km OP N/S = -3.859172 + 0.1328734 5km OP E/W

Summary of Fit

Analysis of Variance

Appendix C: 15km JMP 6 Analysis Output

Max RSq **Analysis of Variance** Source DF Sum of Squares Mean Square F Ratio Model 1 623.26073 623.261 8858.846 Error 161 11.32709 0.070 Prob > F
C. Total 162 634.58782 60001 634.58782 **Parameter Estimates** Term Estimate Std Error t Ratio Prob>|t| Intercept 0.2023848 0.02819 7.18 <.0001 0.7264998

1.0000

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = 0.8487173 + 0.5074542 Distance

Summary of Fit

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = -0.067938 + 1.0699483 Distance

Summary of Fit

Max RSq 1.0000

Linear Fit

15km N/S = 111.32849 + 0.0493597 15km E/W

Bivariate Fit of 15km N/S LTB 1 By 15km E/W LTB 1 (Nominal CARP)

ELinear Fit Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.950

Linear Fit

15km N/S LTB 1 = 67.491734 + 0.1373675 15km E/W LTB 1

Bivariate Fit of 15km N/S LTB 2 By 15km E/W LTB 2 (Nominal CARP)

ELinear Fit Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.950

Linear Fit

15km N/S LTB 2 = 145.11784 - 0.0144124 15km E/W LTB 2

Oneway Analysis of 15km N/S By 15km LT Bins (Nominal CARP)

Means and Std Deviations

Means Comparisons Comparisons for each pair using Student's t t Alpha

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Tests that the Variances are Equal

Welch Anova testing Means Equal, allowing Std Devs Not Equal

Oneway Analysis of 15km E/W By 15km LT Bins (Nominal CARP)

Means and Std Deviations

Means Comparisons Comparisons for each pair using Student's t t Alpha

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Tests that the Variances are Equal

Welch Anova testing Means Equal, allowing Std Devs Not Equal

1.8758

Bivariate Fit of 15km OP N/S By 15km OP E/W (Nominal OP)

 $\overline{}$ Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.95 ϕ

Linear Fit

15km OP N/S = -1.011746 + 0.0975291 15km OP E/W

Appendix D: 45km JMP 6 Analysis Output

Max RSq 1.0000

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = 0.6325086 + 0.6302233 Distance

Summary of Fit

Lack Of Fit

Analysis of Variance

1.0000

Linear Fit

Exp Chi-Sqr = -0.056533 + 1.0449162 Distance

Linear Fit

45km N/S = 72.951882 + 0.1476738 45km E/W

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 1 = 2.0917632 + 0.1272016 45km E/W LTB 1

Summary of Fit

Analysis of Variance

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 2 = -4.657001 + 0.1945243 45km E/W LTB 2

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 3 = 43.369608 + 0.0618356 45km E/W LTB 3

Summary of Fit

45km N/S LTB 3

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 4 = 48.626014 + 0.1174245 45km E/W LTB 4

Bivariate Fit of 45km N/S LTB 5 By 45km E/W LTB 5 (Nominal CARP)

ELinear Fit Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.95 ϕ

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 5 = 146.66501 + 0.242952 45km E/W LTB 5

Bivariate Fit of 45km N/S LTB 6 By 45km E/W LTB 6 (Nominal CARP)

Linear Fit Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.950

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 6 = 121.5945 + 0.1008843 45km E/W LTB 6

Linear Fit

45km N/S LTB 7 = 137.36229 + 0.1520644 45km E/W LTB 7

Oneway Analysis of 45km N/S By 45km LT Bins (Nominal CARP)

Means and Std Deviations

Means Comparisons Comparisons for each pair using Student's t

t Alpha 1.96643 0.05

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Comparisons for all pairs using Tukey-Kramer HSD

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Tests that the Variances are Equal

Welch Anova testing Means Equal, allowing Std Devs Not Equal

Oneway Analysis of 45km E/W By 45km LT Bins (Nominal CARP)

Means and Std Deviations

Means Comparisons Comparisons for each pair using Student's t

t Alpha 1.96643 0.05

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Comparisons for all pairs using Tukey-Kramer HSD

q* Alpha

Positive values show pairs of means that are significantly different.

Tests that the Variances are Equal

Welch Anova testing Means Equal, allowing Std Devs Not Equal

Bivariate Fit of 45km OP N/S By 45km OP E/W (Nominal OP)

 Ξ Linear Fit $\overline{}$ Bivariate Normal Ellipse P=0.95 ϕ

Linear Fit

45km OP N/S = -1.500542 + 0.0839099 45km OP E/W

Summary of Fit

Appendix E: Bivariate Normal MATLAB Code

```
function [M] = BivarStats(Z)
D = []k = length(Z);x = Z(:, 2);y = Z(:,1);Zbar = [mean(x) mean(y)]';
Sigma = cov([x,y])v = []for i = 1:kxt = (i - .5)/k;Z_i = Z(i,:);
    di2 = (Zi - Zbar)'*(Sigma^-1)*(Zi - Zbar);
    Xsq = chilinv(xt,2);D = [D \cdot \text{di2}, X \text{sq}];end
M = sort(D);
plot(M(:,1),M(:,2),'*')
mu = [mean(x) mean(y)]x1 = -1250:10:1250;x2 = -1250:10:1250;[X1,X2] = meshgrid(x1,X2);F = m\nu pdf([X1(:) X2(:)], mu, Sigma);F = reshape(F, length(x2), length(x1));
h = \text{surf}(x1, x2, F);caxis([\min(F(:)) - .5*range(F(:)), \max(F(:))]);
axis([-1250 1250 -1250 1250 0 2.0e-6])
xlabel('x1'); ylabel('x2'); zlabel('Probability Density');
[V, D] = eigg(Sigma)
```
Note: This script is optimized to view CARP data. In order to view OP data, variables *x1, x2,* and *axis* must be changed to smaller scales to ensure correct plotting of data.

Appendix F: Bivariate Normal MATLAB Input Script

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%% $\frac{1}{3}$ % Bivariate Normal Test Script % $\frac{1}{3}$ %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%% r = menu('Choose resolution to be evaluated','5km','15km','45km','5km OP','15km OP','45km OP');

format compact

if $r == 1$

disp('5km Resolution')

disp('15km Resolution')

disp('45km Resolution')

disp('5km Resolution OP')

disp('15km Resolution OP')

disp('45km Resolution OP')

end

 $[M] = \text{BivarStats}_{f(Z)};$
Appendix G: JPADS-MP Help

JPADS-MP Operation – N Mission

The JPADS-MP is developed by Draper Labs and Planning Systems Inc (PSI), and a complete user's manual is available from them. The following sequence of figures will provide the reader with sufficient familiarity with the JPADS-MP Graphical User Interface (GUI) to recreate the steps taken in this research. Upon starting the JPADS-MP, the user is presented with the main GUI page as shown in following figure:

Figure 45. JPADS-MP main GUI.

In these examples, the *N* mission data already been entered. To begin anew, the user would need to enter a mission name and save the file. Clicking on the *Aircraft* tab allows the user to selects either the C-130 (the default) or the C-17. The next figure shows the *Drop Zone* tab:

Figure 46. Drop Zone GUI

The *Drop Zone* tab allows the user to select the desired PI Wind Forecast Reference Point in terms of Latitude, Longitude, and Elevation. This is the point that the wind file will be centered on. For this study, the coordinates for Site 16 at YPG are used as this is the point from which the weather balloons were launched. This window is also where the aircraft approach data is defined. It is worth noting that the window is titled *Release Pass 1*. A key feature of JPADS is the ability to drop on multiple PIs or make multiple release passes. For this research, only a single Release Pass is used.

The next tab is *Drop Parameters*.

Figure 47. Drop Parameters GUI

This window allows the user to define details of airdrop in terms of Altitude, Airspeed, Date, and Time. The user has the option to manually specify a release point, but that option defeats the purpose of this research and is not used. It is critical for the data and time set here be in agreement with the date and time of the weather data the user intends to use for mission planning, otherwise the results will be invalid. The user must next fill out the *Load & Chute* tab. For full details of options for this page, please refer to the most current PSI published JPADS-MP user's manual.

Figure 48. Load & Chute GUI

For this research, the settings in *Load & Chute* tab are held constant. The guided parachute system is the Screamer with 850 ft^2 parachute. The Ballistic Chute Type is set to two G11 parachutes. The PI coordinates and elevation are set here. This representative mission was created using an actual test point from the ACTD program, only the Run-In heading was changed to a cardinal direction. As a result, the PI is set as being the JPADS Center PI target as used in testing. This is located 3.7 km from Site 16. It may have been better for the purposes of this analysis to have set Site 16 to be the PI. Unfortunately, this was realized too late for implementation. However, any error incurred by this is believed to be minimal when considering that the minimum tested

weather resolution was 5 km. Total Rigged Weight is 8000 lbs at Flight Station 677 on the left side of the fuselage. CNUI ID is set as 1001, but is not needed. The Glide Safety Factor is left at the default setting of 0.89. Finally the user is ready to gather weather data with the *Weather* tab.

Figure 49. Weather GUI

The *Weather* tab is where most of the work in this research was done. The Drop Information shows data copied from the previous tabs. The next step is to acquire weather data. This is done by selecting one of the options under the Weather Acquisition section. The options relevant to this research are: Dropsondes, 4D Forecast, Balloon, and Climatology. In the interest of space, only the 4D Forecast method will be shown here. Other methods work similarly; where there are differences, they are detailed in the

manual. Selecting an option under Weather Acquisition brings up the Weather Source – Acquire 4D Forecast GUI.

Figure 50. Weather Source GUI.

The JPADS-MP uses the 4D Forecasts generated by AFWA. These come in a format known as GRidded Information in Binary format (GRIB) files. Once these are downloaded, the *Browse* button is used to point the Weather Source GUI to the location of required GRIB files. Once the appropriate path is specified in the "GRIB Files Location" field, select the "Acquire Forecast" button. This will read the weather forecast into the JPADS-MP Environmental Data folder. Once this is complete, a *windgui* window opens showing the duration of valid times for the forecast as well as the forecast coverage area.

Figure 51. "windgui" Information Window

The user can then close this window as well as the Weather Source window and return to

the *Weather* tab.

Figure 52. Weather GUI with 4D Forecast loaded.

Here, the 4D Forecast inventory now shows an increment of one and the Wind File Production section now has the options for wind file generation via LAPS Forecast-only, Forecast Only, and Climatology only. These are listed in order of best to worst methods for calculating an accurate wind file. The Local Analysis and Prediction System (LAPS) is the most advanced modeling method included within the JPADS-MP. It allows

complex modeling of wind interaction with terrain features such as how wind will flow over or around terrain obstacles. Select either the *Best Available* or LAPS Forecast-only buttons to begin Wind File production.

Figure 53. Weather GUI during Wind File production and production complete.

The LAPS Wind File production takes a few minutes to run. During this time, the Build Status indicator will be yellow and display "In Progress". This will change to "Complete" and the status bar will be full once the LAPS Wind File has been generated. The "Weather" tab can now be closed to return to main JPADS-MP GUI page. Once here, the user selects the *Calculate* button under the CARP/LAR section. Unless FalconView is installed, do not select generate footprints as it will result in a crash of the JPADS-MP (this option was not used in this research).

Figure 54. JPADS Main GUI CARP Solution TAB after successful CARP calculation.

Selecting *Compute* CARP will automatically open the CARP solution tab. The CARP section shows the Latitude and Longitude of the Early, Nominal, and Late CARPs which also define the boundaries of the LAR. In order to collect this data, an Optical Screen Reader tool was developed by Captain Ryan Eggert of the Air Force Research Laboratory Advanced Architecture and Integration Branch.

Figure 55. Screen OCR Main GUI

The Screen OCR tool reads the values in the Early, Nominal, and Late CARP coordinate boxes and copies them to a text file. In doing so, it also converts them from a DDD MM.mmm format to a DDD.dddddd format. The conversion to decimal degrees allows for easier mathematical operations later. Additionally, the Screen OCR copies the coordinates for the Screamer OP from its memory location and writes it to the same text file. To use the Screen OCR, ensure that the Mission Name is correct. This must match name of the Screamer mission data in memory. It will be mission followed by " R1.scm". Check the type of data from which the wind profile is being generated and type in the launch time for a weather balloon (i.e., 1414Z) or the initialization time for a weather forecast (i.e., 0600 ini). Select "Specify File."

Figure 56. Screen OCR File Save As GUI

If starting a new file (for a weather balloon), enter the file name "YYYYMMDD TTTTZ Data.txt". Otherwise, click the appropriate existing file and select *Save*.

 The method of building text files for analysis is to segregate the data by weather balloons. The Screen OCR allows for a new file to be opened and then to append subsequent data to this file. First, the CARP/LAR/OP is calculated for a weather balloon. This data is saved to a new file bearing the date and time of the balloon launch as the file name. Next the CARP/LAR/OP is calculated for each weather forecast that was valid for the time of that weather balloon launch. Each new data set is appended to the text file resulting in a file similar to the one shown below:

Figure 57. Sample text file record of CARP and OP calculations from the JPADS-MP captured by the Screen OCR program.

As can be seen, each line represents a different weather input: weather balloon on the first line, followed by weather forecasts of varying resolution and initialization time. The coordinates of the CARPs and OP are to the left of the metadata. Capt Eggert also developed a CARP Analysis tool to generate Northing and Easting data from the raw coordinates captured by the Screen OCR. Note that in the Screen OCR created text file the column contain information in the following order:

Early Lat/Early Lon – Nom Lat/Nom Lon – Late Lat/Late Lon – OP Lat/OP Lon – Metadata However, the CARP Analysis tool changes this order to:

Nom NS/Nom EW – Early NS/Early EW – Late NS/Late EW – OP NS/OP EW - Metadata

Figure 58. CARP Analysis Tool Initialization GUI.

Selecting the CARP Analysis tool opens the GUI above. Selecting *Generate Northing*

Easting brings up the *Open* window for file selection.

Figure 59. File selection GUI for CARP Analysis Tool.

After finding the correct file to analyze, select *Open*. This opens the *Save* window.

Figure 60. File *Save As* **GUI for CARP Analysis Tool.**

Be extremely careful to change the file name here, otherwise you will destroy you data as well a getting no results! Northing/Easting data in this study is noted by an "NE" in the file name to distinguish it from the raw data text file. The CARP analysis tool functions by comparing each weather forecast to the weather balloon data in line one of the text file. This results in a file similar to this:

Figure 61. Sample text file containing output from the CARP Analysis Tool.

In this file, the data represents error in the forecasting. A value in the Nominal NS column of -40.578024 means that particular forecast generated a Nominal CARP coordinate that was 40.578024 m South of the correct Nominal CARP coordinate as defined by the Nominal CARP calculated from the weather balloon (an actual sampling of the atmosphere). Also note that, while the resolution data is unchanged, the initialization time has been replaced by the Lead-Time. This is accomplished by simply taking the difference between the weather balloon launch time and the forecast initialization time. The data from each weather balloon (and its corresponding forecasts) is saved in a folder named for the day the balloons were launched on.

Drop Date	#WxBs	WxB File	WxB Launch Time
20050620	$\overline{2}$	08L	1414Z
		11L	1729Z
20050621	$\overline{2}$	07L	1316Z
		10L	1557Z
20050624	3	07Z	1336Z
		08L	1458Z
		10L	1632Z
20050815	3	04L	1126Z
		08L	1403Z
		10L	1615Z
20050816	$\overline{4}$	04L	1100Z
		05L	1148Z
		07L	1350Z
		10L	1709Z
20050817	4	04L	1037Z
		05L	1127Z
		08L	1418Z
		11L	1757Z
20050818	3	03L	1008Z
		05L	1159Z
		09L	1549Z
20050819	3	04L	1053Z
		05L	1151Z
		08L	1441Z
20050912	$\overline{4}$	04L	1114Z
		05L	1205Z
		06L	1255Z
		07L	1409Z
20050913	1	09L	1558Z
20050915	$\overline{2}$	05L	1145Z
		07L	1332Z
20051019	2	04L	1130Z
		07L	1355Z
20051020	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	04L	1111Z
		06L	1303Z
		07L	1356Z
		11L	1813Z
20051021	2	04L	1104Z
		06L	1257Z
20060125	$\mathbf 1$	06L	1234Z
20060126	2	10L	1654Z

Appendix H: Weather Balloon Data Listing

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