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THE EFFECT OF AMPHIBIOUS FLOATS ON THE POWER-OFF

STABILITY AND CONTROL CHARACTERISTICS

OF A TWIN-ENGINE CARGO AIRPLANE

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NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

MEMORANDUM REPORT

for the

Materiel Command, U.S. Army Air Forces

THE EFFECT OF AMPHIBIOUS FLOATS ON THE POWER-OFF

STABILITY AND CONTROL CHARACTERISTICS.

OF A TWIN-ENGINE CARGO AIRPLANE

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SUMMARY

Power-off wind-tunnel tests of a l/ll-scale model of a twin-engine cargo airplane equipped with amphibious floats are reported herein. The tests were conducted in the Ames 7- by 10-foot wind tunnel at the request of the Army Air Forces Materiel Command. Longitudinal and lateral stability and control characteristics were investigated for three flap positions.

At any given angle of attack, the floats have a negligible effect on the lift coefficient. The longitudinal destabilizing effect of the floats is equivalent to a 2-percent M.A.C. shift of the neutral point. The floats-on full-load stability is, however, greater than the floats-off full-load stability because of a 3-percent M.A.C. shift forward of the full-load center of gravity when the floats are added. The directional stability is reduced by the floats an amount equal to $\Delta dC_n/d\psi = 0.0004$. Three of four tail variations tested to compensate for this loss in directional stability proved satisfactory. The floats do not change the control characteristics of either the elevator or rudder. The measured drag increment due to the floats is $\Delta CD_p = 0.0095$. The test results indicate that, if one of the three skid fins is added, the

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longitudinal and lateral stability and control characteristics of the airplane will be as satisfactory floats on as floats off.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Army Air Forces Materiel Command, tests were conducted in the Ames 7- by 10- foot wind tunnel on a 1/11-scale model of a twin-engine cargo airplane. The purpose of the tests was to determine the effect of amphibious floats on the power-off longitudinal and lateral stability and control characteristics of the airplane and to determine the drag increment of the floats and the float gear.

The stability and control characteristics of the airplane in the floats-off condition were taken as a measure of satisfactory characteristics for the floats-on condition. Accordingly, corresponding floats-off and floats-on tests were made. The tests included yaw runs with several additions of tail area to improve the directional stability.

The tests were conducted during the period of November 14 to November 30, 1942, inclusive. All the data included herein previously have been transmitted in preliminary form.

MODEL

A 1/5-scale model of a two-engine cargo airplane was used in these tests. The full-scale dimensions of the airplane are given in table I. No attempt was made to check the model dimensions. The configuration key of the model, corresponding to the data presented, is given in table II. A three-view drawing of the airplane showing the relative positions of the normal gear, the floats, and the float gear is presented in figure 1. The model mounted in the tunnel is shown in the standard configuration, less tail, in figure 2, and in the standard configuration, floats on, in figure 3. Figure 4 shows the detail of the flaps and the float gear.

CCEFFICIENTS AND CORRECTIONS

All results are presented in the form of standard NACA coefficients referred to the stability axes, a mutually

perpendicular system with the origin at the center of gravity. In this system, the Z-axis lies in the plane of symmetry and is perpendicular to the relative wind direction; the X-axis is also in the plane of symmetry and is perpendicular to the Z-axis; and the Y-axis is perpendicular to the plane of symmetry. A definition of coefficients and notation used in this report follows:

lift coefficient $\left(\frac{\text{lift}}{qS} = \frac{\text{force along the Z-axis}}{qS}\right)$ CT. force along the X-axis QS CD' at zero yaw C_{Y} ' Lateral-force coefficient $\left(\frac{\text{lateral force}}{qS}\right)$ $= \frac{\text{force along the Y-axis}}{aS}$ (pitching moment pitching-moment coefficient Cm' = moment around Y-axis) qSc = C_m' at zero yaw (<u>yawing moment</u> qSb Cn yawing-moment coefficient = moment around Z-axis

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$$C_{l}' \text{ rolling-moment coefficient } \left(\frac{\text{rolling moment}}{qSb}\right)$$

$$= \frac{\text{moment about X-axis}}{qSb}$$

$$C_{D_{p}} \text{ parasite drag coefficient } \left(C_{D} - \frac{C_{L}}{\pi}\right)^{2}$$

$$q \text{ dynamic pressure } \left(\frac{1}{2}\rho V^{2}\right)$$

$$S \text{ wing area}$$

$$\overline{c} \text{ mean aerodynamic chord (N.A.C.)}$$

$$b \text{ wing span}$$

A aspect ratio (b^2/S)

Subscript

()_t due to tail.

The prime is used to denote coefficients referred to stability axes that differ from coefficients referred to wind axes.

All tests were run at a dynamic pressure q of 75 pounds per square foot corresponding to a Reynolds number (based on M.A.C.) of 1,700,000.

Tares were obtained on the model by mounting it in the tunnel in the inverted position with a strut image system (fig. 5). The tares were taken as the change in the coefficients resulting from the addition of the image system. Stream-inclination corrections were also determined by use of the image system. Tunnel-wall corrections are defined in the appendix.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The center-of-gravity (c.g.) locations and weights of the twin-engine cargo airplane are presented in figure 6 for the standard and empty cargo condition, with floats on and floats off. A summary of figure 6 is given as follows:

Condition		Gross weight (1b)	Horizontal position from M.A.C. leading edge	Vertical position from M.A.C. leading edge	Vertical position from thrust line
Floats	Standard cargo	29,000	20,80	-9•95	-2.68
on	Hmpty cargo	20,277	11.85	-16.75	-9.48
Floats off	Standard cargo	26,000	23.40	1.06	8.34
	Empty cargo	16,600	18.85	-1.69	5•59
Note: The c.g. position is measured parallel and perpen- dicular to the fuselage reference line in percent of the M.A.C.					

From the preceding table it is seen that the addition of the floats shifts the c.g. position (airplane loaded) about 3 percent M.A.C. forward and about 9 percent M.A.C. down. For this reason the longitudinal stability at zero yaw is summarized in the discussion below with respect to the two loaded o.g. locations. All data are presented with respect to the floats-on c.g. location except in the summary plot (fig. 10) wherein data are presented about the c.g. location corresponding to both the fully loaded floats-off and floats-on conditions.

The relocation of the c.g. position will have but a negligible effect on control-surface effectiveness and on the lateral-stability characteristics. The only noticeable

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change in the C_m ' vs ψ curves will be roughly a constant shift. (The amount can be obtained from the summary longi-tudinal stability characteristics at zero yaw.)

Longitudinal Stability and Control

Longitudinal stability at zero yaw. The effect of the floats on the longitudinal characteristics at zero yaw is shown for flaps up in figure 7, for flaps down 15 in figure 8, and for flaps down 45 in figure 9. The stability is summarized in figure 10. Figure 11 presents the effect of the float gear with flaps down.

At any given angle of attack, the floats reduced the lift a very small amount ($\Delta C_{\rm L} \cong 0.05$) at low values of $C_{\rm L}$, flaps up and flaps down, while at values of $C_{\rm L}$ near $C_{\rm Lmax}$ the reduction in lift is $\Delta C_{\rm L} \cong 0.03$ flaps up and zero flaps down (figs. 7 to 9, inclusive).

The effect of the floats about any fixed c.g. position is to reduce the stability by $\Delta dC_m/dC_L = 0.018$ flaps up, and $\Delta dC_m/dC_L = 0.024$ flaps down 15° and 45°.

The values of dC_m/dC_L of figure 10, for the respective c.g. positions floats on and off summarized in the following table, indicate that the airplane in the loaded condition will exhibit a greater degree of stability floats on than floats off since the full-load c.g. shift more than compensates for the decreased dC_m/dC_L previously noted.

Condit	cion	ac _m /ac _L	c.g. position and loading	
Flaps up	Floats off	-0.166	(3) of figure 6	
	Floats on	-0.180	(1) of figure 6	
Flaps down 15 ⁰	Floats off	-0.160	(3) of figure 6	
	Floats on	-0.164	(1) of figure 6	
Flaps down 45°	Floats off	-0,153	(3) of figure 6	
	Floats on	-0,162	(1) of figure 6	

Due to the floats, however, there is a negative shift in the C_m value at zero lift corresponding to approximately 1° of elevator.

The effect of the float gear on the stability (fig. 11) is small and is sensibly constant with C_{I} , and with flap position. The pitching-moment increment added by the gear is $\Delta C_m = -0.005$.

Pitching-moment characteristics in yaw.- The effect of the floats on the forces and moments in yaw are shown for flaps up in figures 12 and 13, for flaps down 15° in figure 14, and for flaps down 45° in figure 15.

The increment of C_m' added by the floats is independent of the angle of yaw within the yaw range obtainable with the rudder ($\psi = \pm 15^{\circ}$). Because the C_m' increment in yaw due to the float gear was independent of the yaw angle and therefore may be obtained from figure 11, the results are not presented.

Longitudinal control at zero yaw. - The elevator effectiveness at zero yaw with floats off and floats on is presented for flaps up in figures 16 and 17, for flaps down 15° in figures 18 and 19, and for flaps down 45° in figures 20 and 21.

The addition of the floats with the flaps up and the flaps down 15 does not change the elevator effectiveness for deflections within the range normally used ($\delta_0 = 0$ to -20°) but the effectiveness at deflections greater than -20° appears to be a function of both flap position and floats (figs. 16 to 19, inclusive). With the flaps down 45°, the elevator effectiveness for the full range of elevator deflection ($\delta_0 = 0^{\circ}$ to -25°) remains unchanged by the addition of the floats.

In the $C_{L_{max}}$ region, flaps down 45°, the value of C_m ($\delta_c = 0^\circ$), for the floats on c.g. location, is more positive floats on than floats off (fig. 9). This characteristic will remain unchanged for any given c.g. position. The allowable forward c.g. location on the standard airplane is 11 percent M.A.C. (reference 1), while the empty cargo, floats on, c.g. location is 11.85 percent M.A.C. (fig. 6). This more rearward c.g. position combined

with the fact that the floats do not affect the elevator effectiveness when the flaps are down 45° , indicate that the airplane will be as satisfactory in landing floats on as floats off. In addition, the ground effect will be less when landing with floats or float gear than when landing with normal gear.

Longitudinal control in yaw.- The elevator effectiveness in yaw with floats off and floats on is presented for flaps up in figures 22 to 25, for flaps down 15° in figures 26 and 27, and for flaps down 45° in figures 28 and 29.

For any of the three flap positions, the addition of the floats resulted in no change in elevator effectiveness in yaw. For the several values of $C_{\rm L}$ at which investigations were made, the change in trim due to the addition of floats is small and sensibly constant within the yaw range $(\psi = \pm 15^{\circ})$ to which the rudder will trim (figs. 12, 13, 14, and 15). For any given c.g. location that may be obtained on the airplane with floats on, the elevator characteristics in yaw should, therefore, be as satisfactory as on the standard cargo airplane.

Lateral Stability and Control

Lateral stability in yaw.- The effect of the floats on the lateral-stability characteristics in yaw is presented flaps up in figures 30 and 31, flaps down 15° in figure 32, and flaps down 45° in figure 33. Details of the four tail variations tested are shown in figure 34 and photographs of the tail variations mounted on the model are shown in figures 35(a) to 35(d). The directional-stability results are summarized in figure 36.

The roll stability while slightly increased is not adversely affected by the addition of the floats.

The destabilizing increment of directional stability due to the floats $(\Delta dC_n/d\psi \cong 0.0004)$ was virtually independent of flap position, angle of attack, and tail (figs. 30 to 33, inclusive). The condition of least stability (climb, $C_L \cong 0.9$, flaps up) was chosen for determining the tail variations required to compensate for the loss. In figure 36 the destabilizing effect of the floats, tail off, is $\Delta dC_n/d\Psi = 0.00041$ and tail on is $\Delta dC_n/d\Psi = 0.00034$. The yawing moment of the tail, floats off, is $dC_{nt}/d\Psi = -0.00193$ and floats on is $dC_{nt}/d\Psi = -0.00200$. On the basis of these results, an increase in tail area of 17 percent would be required if the aspect ratio, taper ratio, and tail length were held constant. As an alternative to an entirely new vertical tail, the modifications in figure 34 providing additional area were tested. Because of the low effectiveness of low aspect ratio surfaces, the areas added were somewhat more than twice $0.17 S_V$.

The remainder of the data of figure 36 indicates that any of the three skid fins tested will be adequate to compensate for the loss in directional stability.

The large rectangular skid fin tested had 33 percent more area than the small rectangular skid fin but did not add to the directional stability. The addition of the vertical fin extension actually reduced the stability from -0.00086 to -0.00080 (fig. 36). These characteristics may be accounted for by the change in effective tail length due to the addition of area ahead of the existing fin.

The reversal in the curve of $C_n vs \psi$ near zero yaw (fig. 36) was not investigated, since it was not a result of the floats. It apparently is not causing undue difficulty in flight. The reversal may very well be a discontinuity in sidewash angle affecting the vertical tail, caused by a stall in the wing-fuselage juncture. At higher Reynolds numbers such a discontinuity would probably be decreased or climinated.

Directional control in yaw.- The effect of the floats on the rudder effectiveness is shown for flaps up in figures 37 to μ 0, inclusive, for flaps down 15° in figures 41 and 42, and for flaps down 45° in figures 43 and 44. The rudder effectiveness with the several tail variations installed is shown in figures 45 to 48, inclusive.

The addition of floats with the normal tail made no change in rudder effectiveness (figs. 37 to $l_{\rm eff}$, inclusive). The angles of yaw to which the rudder trimmed were slightly larger ($\Delta \Psi = -1^{\circ}$ at $\delta_{\rm r} = 20^{\circ}$) with the floats on because of

the reduction in stability caused by the floats.

Of the four tail variations tested, none makes any change in rudder effectiveness in the range of yaw angles to which the rudder will trim. For deflections within the unstalled rudder range, the rudder angles for trim in yaw with the tail additions in place are essentially the same as the floats-off normal tail, rudder angles for trim.

Drag Effects

When the floats are added to the airplane the tail wheel (which is nonretractable) will be removed. As shown on figure 49, substitution of the floats for the retracted main landing wheels causes a high-speed drag increment of $\Delta C_{Dp} = 0.0110$, while the drag decrement due to the removal of the tail wheel is $\Delta C_{Dp} = 0.0015$. Thus, the net increase in drag due to the change in the alighting gear is $\Delta C_{Dp} = 0.0095$.

The drag increment due to the extension of the four wheels in the float for land landings is $\Delta C_{Dp} = 0.0070$, as shown by the results of figure 11.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions drawn from the power-off tests of the l/ll-scale model of the twin-engine cargo airplane equipped with amphibious floats are:

1. At any given angle of attack, the floats have a negligible effect on $C_{T_{\rm e}}$ for all flap positions.

2. The longitudinal stability of the airplane for all flap positions is reduced by an amount equivalent to a 2-percent M.A.C. shift in neutral point by the addition of the floats.

3. The floats-on stability corresponding to full-load floats-on c.g. position is slightly greater ($\Delta dC_m/dC_L \not\in 0.01$) than the floats-off stability corresponding to full-load floats-off c.g. position. Due to the floats, however, there is a negative shift in the C_m value at zero lift corresponding to approximately 1° of elevator.

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4. The float gear added a negative increment to C_m , equivalent to 0.25° of elevator movement, which was constant in pitch and yaw.

5. The elevator effectiveness was unaffected by the fleats. The airplane in landing should be as satisfactory fleats on as fleats off.

6. The directional stability was reduced by the floats $(\Delta dC_n/d\psi \cong 0.000l_1)$, but three of the four tail variations tested compensated for the loss.

7. The rudder effectiveness was unchanged by the floats or the tail variations.

8. The drag increment due to the floats is $\Delta C_{D_n} = 0.0095$.

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APPENDIX

The tunnel-wall corrections are defined as follows: $\Delta a^{\circ} = (\delta_{W} + 0.017 \ \overline{c}) \frac{S}{C} C_{L} \times 57.3 = 0.94 \ C_{L}$ $\Delta C_{D} = \frac{\delta_{W} C_{L}^{2} S}{70} = 0.0143 \ C_{L}^{2}$ $\Delta C_{m} = -\delta_{t} \frac{SC_{L}}{C} \frac{dC_{m}}{di_{t}} \times 57.3 = 0.019 \ C_{L}$ where $\delta_{W} = 0.1235$

 $\delta_{t} = 0.087$

C = 70 sq ft = tunnel cross-section area

 $\frac{dC_{mt}}{di_{t}} = -0.033/dogroe (computed)$

S = 8.16 sq ft

 \overline{c} = 1.047 ft

REFERENCE

1. Anon.: Proliminary Handbook of Maintonance Instructions for the Douglas Commercial Model DC-3 Transport Airplane, Air Service Command, Air Force Section, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohlo, May 15, 1942. (Technical Order No. 01-40NL-2)

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TABLE I

FULL-SCALE DIMENSIONS OF THE TWIN-ENGINE CARGO AIRPLANE

Item	Wing	Horizontal Tail	Vortical Tail
Area	987 ft ²	206.5 ft ²	110.2 ft ²
Span	94.58 ft	26.7 ft	11.23 ft
Aspect ratio	9.06	3.45	1.145
M.A.C	11.52 ft		
Flap (Type)	Split	Simple (Balanced)	Simple (Balanced)
NACA Section	2215 root 2206 tip	Modified 0012	Modified 0012
Taper ratio	0.300	0.231	0 . 264

Length from c.g. to clovator hinge line, $l_{\rm H} = 39.7$ ft Length from c.g. to rudder hinge line, $l_{\rm V} = 38.3$ ft

	Novable Surfaces		
Itom	Elevator	Rudder	Flap (Split)
Area aft hingc	62.2 ft ²	35.8 ft ²	83.5 ft ²
Span	26.7 ft	9.26 ft	41.5 ft
Total surface area affected by	176.6 ft ²	84.0 ft ²	552 ft ²
Chord			2.01 ft (const.)

TABLE II

NODEL CONFIGURATION KEY

Symbol Item
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
p Floats less main landing gear S Standard configuration, $WBNEL_RHVL_T$
a Angle of attack of fuselage reference line with relative wind (corrected for wind-tunnel interference and stream angle)
au Uncorrected geometrical angle of attack of fuselage reference line
It should be noted in the configurations tested that when the floats were installed, the main gear (L_R or L) and the landing wheel (L_T) were removed and a filler block was placed in the tail wheel hole (fig. 3(a)).

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FIG. 1-

THREE VIEW DRAWING OF THE TWIN-ENGINE CARGO AIRPLANE



Three-quarter front view



Three-quarter rear view

Figure 2.- Model in the standard configuration less tail (S-HVI_T).

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Three-quarter front view



Three-quarter rear view

Figure 3.- Model in the standard configuration plus floats $(S-pI_{2R}-L_T)$.



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Three-quarter front view.



Three-quarter rear view.

Figure 4.- Model showing detail of flaps and float gear (S + pL_1L_2 + F^{45} - L_T).



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Figure 5.- Image strut system with model inverted.





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FIG 12 - EFFECT OF FLOATS ON Q, CD, AND CM. MODEL IN YAW, Qu =-10, FLAPS UP, TAIL ON AND OFF. RUCDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL



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FIG. 14 - EFFECT OF FLOATS ON CL, CO AND CM, MODEL IN YAW, CL = 6°, FLAPS DOWN 15°, TAIL ON AND OFF. RUDDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL



FIG. 15- EFFECT OF FLOATS ON CL, CD AND CM, MODEL IN YAW, CL = 6°, FLARS DOWN 45°, TAIL ON AND OFF. RUDDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL



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FIG 22 ELEVATOR EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MODEL IN YAW, FLOATS OFF, FLAPS UP, Qu=-1°, RUDDER NEUTRAL



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FIG. 24-ELEVATOR EFFECTIVENESS OF, THE MODEL IN YAW, FLOATS OFF, FLAPS UP, du=6°, RUDDER NEUTRAL





FIG. 26 - ELEVATOR EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MODEL IN YAW, FLOATS OFF, FLAPS DOWN 15°, au= 6°, RUDDER NEUTRAL



FIG 27-ELEVATOR EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MODEL IN YAW , FLOATS ON , FLAPS DOWN 15°, Que 6°, RUDDER NEUTRAL



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FLOATS ON, FLAPS DOWN 45°, du= 6°, RUDDER NEUTRAL





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EFFECT OF FLOATS ON LATERAL STABILITY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MODEL AT α_{u} = 6°, FLAPS UP. TAIL ON AND OFF. C_{L} = .9 RUDDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL .

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FIG 32 - EFFECT OF FLOATS ON LATERAL-STABILITY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MODEL AT du=6°, FLAPS DOWN 15°, TAIL ON AND OFF, CZI.15 RUDDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL

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RUDDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL .





Figure 35(a).- Model with triangular skid fin (V_1) .



Figure 35(b).- Model with small rectangular skid fin (V_2) .

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Figure 35(c).- Model with large rectangular skid fin (V_{a}) .



Figure 35(d).- Model with vertical fin extension (V_4) .



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FIG 36 - DIRECTIONAL STABILITY OF THE MODEL WITH VARIOUS TAIL MODIFICATIONS . FLAPS UP, OC4 = 6° C2 = 0.9 RUDDER AND ELEVATOR NEUTRAL.





FIG 38 - RUDDER EFFECTIVENESS IN YAW, NODEL WITH FLOATS ON, FLAPS UP, Qu =-1°, CLE.25, ELEVATOR NEUTRAL



FIG 39 - RUDDER EFFECTIVENESS IN YAW, MODEL WITH FLOATS OFF, FLAPS UP, dueG, C.S.9, ELEVATOR NEUTRAL







FIG. 42 - RUDDER EFFECTIVENESS IN YAW, MODEL WITH FLOATS ON, FLAPS DOWN 15°, du = 6°, C = 1,15, ELEVATOR NEUTRAL





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FLOATS ON, FLAPS UP, ELEVATOR NEUTRAL, C. SO.9.



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FIG. 49 - MINIMUM DRAG CHARACTERISTICS, MODEL WITH FLOATS ON AND OFF. TAIL ON, FLAPS UP.