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The Measurement of Aircraft Performance and Stability and Control After Flight Through Natural Icing Conditions

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CONTROL AFTER FLIGHT THROUGH NATURAL ICING CONDITIONS

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Abstract

The effects of airframe icing on the performance and stability and control of a twin-engine commuter-class aircraft were measured by the NASA Lewis Research Center. This work consisted of clear air tests with artificial ice shapes attached to the horizontal tail, and natural icing flight tests in measured icing clouds. The clear air tests employed static longitudinal flight test methods to determine degradation in stability margins for four simulated ice shapes. The natural icing flight tests employed dynamic flight maneuvers and a compatible data acquisition system, which was provided under contract to NASA by Kohlman Systems Research Incorporated. This system used a performance modeling method and modified maximum likelihood estimation (MMLE) technique to determine aircraft performance degradation and stability and control. Flight test results with artificial ice shapes showed that longitudinal, stick-fixed, static margins are reduced on the order of 5 percent with flaps up. Natural icing tests with the KSR system corroborated these results and showed degradation in the elevator control derivatives on the order of 8 to 16 percent depending on wing flap configuration. Performance analyses showed the individual contributions of major airframe components to the overall degradation in lift and drag.

Performance modeling methods and MMLE techniques are viable flight test methods for determining the effects of natural ice on aircraft performance and stability and control. These techniques have an advantage over static methods because they provide for a rapid acquisition of flight test data in an environment where test time is constrained by the rate that ice shapes sublimate, melt, or erode. Measurements of stability and control with MMLE are limited to those portions of the flight envelope where aircraft response remains essentially buffet-free.

Symbols and Definitions

C_D aircraft drag coefficient
 C_L trimmed aircraft lift coefficient
 $(C_{L_q} + C_{L_{\dot{\alpha}}})$ MMLE derived state coefficient, per rad
 $C_{L_{\dot{\alpha}}}$ aircraft lift curve slope, per deg

$C_{L_{\delta_e}}$ change in aircraft lift coefficient with elevator deflection (elevator effectiveness) per deg
 C_m aircraft pitching moment, untrimmed
 $C_{m_{\alpha}}$ aircraft static pitching moment parameter, per deg
 $(C_{m_q} + C_{m_{\dot{\alpha}}})$ MMLE pitch damping state coefficient, per rad
 $C_{m_{\delta_e}}$ change in aircraft pitching moment with elevator deflection (elevator power) per deg
 C_T thrust coefficient
 C_{N_A} aircraft normal force coefficient obtained by $g \times W/q \times S$
 $F_{e/q}$ elevator control force normalized by dynamic pressure
FSSP forward scattering spectrometer probe
 g normal acceleration due to gravity
KCAS calibrated airspeed, knots
LWC liquid water content in cloud, gm/m^3
 M Mach number
MAC mean aerodynamic chord of the wing, ft
MMLE modified maximum likelihood estimation technique
MVD median volume diameter of droplets, μm
 S wing area, ft^2
SHP shaft horsepower
 W aircraft weight, lbs
 α aircraft angle of attack, deg
 β aircraft yaw angle, deg
 δ ambient static pressure divided by static pressure at standard day, sea level conditions

E-2962

δ_a	aileron deflection, deg
δ_e	elevator deflection, deg
δ_f	flap deflection, deg
δ_r	rudder deflection, deg
Δ	denotes change in a parameter

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to present quantitative data showing the effects of icing on the performance and stability and control of a twin-engine, commuter-class aircraft. These data, which were acquired solely through flight testing, provide a unique association between measured icing cloud properties and the effect these properties have on aerodynamic coefficients and stability derivatives. This paper also presents the methods by which flight data were acquired and discusses the application of transient response flight test techniques for aircraft whose basic aerodynamics are altered by ice formations.

All aircraft are susceptible to icing when flying through clouds that contain super-cooled water droplets. The amount and type of ice forming on forward-facing aircraft surfaces is a function of several variables that include aircraft speed, cloud liquid water content, temperature, water droplet size distribution, airfoil or body geometry, angle of attack, and duration of the icing encounter.¹ The effects of icing on aircraft performance were measured by the NASA Lewis over a range of natural icing conditions as reported in Refs. 2 and 3. These measurements were made by employing stabilized level flight performance methods due to the limitations imposed by the type of flight instrumentation and data acquisition systems installed in the aircraft at that time. The data from these tests are currently being applied to the development of computer codes that predict aircraft performance losses due to icing.⁴

Experience gained during these earlier flights indicated a need for more expedient performance flight testing techniques to reduce the effects of ice shape deterioration on the data. Accreted ice shapes, for example, were found to deteriorate through sublimation, melting, or erosion; and the test time available before these effects became significant depended largely on temperature, sunlight conditions, and flight speed. In a parallel development, NASA Lewis expanded its icing research program to include an investigation of the effects of icing on aircraft stability and control. This new initiative, along with the requirement to improve aircraft performance data acquisition techniques, resulted in the formulation of a flight program consisting of three major elements: static longitudinal stability and control flight tests in clear air with artificial ice shapes to gain experience with aircraft characteristics and help provide definition for natural icing tests; performance flight tests in natural icing conditions employing level acceleration and deceleration techniques; and, stability and control flight tests in natural icing conditions employing transient response flight test techniques.

Aircraft modifications for the static longitudinal tests with artificial ice shapes were accomplished in house. Data from these flights were also reduced and analyzed in-house. Modifications to the aircraft for the transient response flight tests and the methodology for data reduction and analysis were provided under contract to NASA Lewis by Kohlman Systems Research, Inc. (KSR), Lawrence, Kansas. The KSR system⁵ is capable of rapidly acquiring aircraft performance and stability and control data with a minimal number of flight test maneuvers. This system, described later in this report, uses performance modeling methods and modified maximum likelihood estimation (MMLE) techniques to perform an analysis of dynamic aircraft maneuvers and calculate aerodynamic coefficients and stability derivatives. This system, however, had never been used on an aircraft whose aerodynamic characteristics were altered by icing. Thus, one of the peripheral objectives of this program was to determine the utility of performance modeling and MMLE techniques for natural icing flight tests.

Only a portion of the data acquired with the KSR system was analyzed for this paper. Priority was given to an analysis of aircraft performance, longitudinal stability and control. Lateral-directional data will be analyzed and presented in a follow-on report.

The Research Aircraft

The icing research aircraft is a modified DeHavilland DH-6 Twin Otter. This aircraft, as shown in Fig. 1, is powered by two Pratt Whitney PT6A-20A gas turbine engines that deliver 550SHP each at standard day, sea level conditions. Aircraft weights, inertias, and dimensions are provided in Table I.

Research Instrumentation Systems

Icing Instrumentation and the Wing Stereo Camera System

The icing research aircraft measures cloud properties with several instruments as shown in Fig. 2, and the operation of these instruments is described in Ref. 6. To eliminate redundancy, data only from three icing instruments were used to document icing cloud properties: liquid water content (LWC) values were derived from the Rosemount Ice Detector; median volume droplet diameters (MVD) from the Forward Scattering Spectrometer Probe (FSSP) produced by Particle Measuring Systems; and free air temperature from the Rosemount total air temperature probe. Stereo analyses of wing ice shapes⁷ were provided by the Arnold Engineering and Development Center (AEDC) from in-flight photographs (stereo pairs) taken with the stereo camera system (Fig. 3).

Instrumentation for Performance and Stability and Control Measurements

The icing research aircraft is equipped with control position transducers, a dynamic force wheel, and rudder pedal load cells as shown in Fig. 4. Airspeed, altitude, angle of attack (as referenced to the fuselage floor line), and angle of sideslip were measured by a heated Rosemount 858 probe as shown in Fig. 5. This probe was

flight calibrated for static source error by the trailing static cone method.⁸ Angle of attack was calibrated in flight with a floor-mounted inclinometer, and angle of sideslip was likewise flight calibrated against an inertially derived sideslip from the KSR gyro package. Control positions and forces were calibrated by comparing known inputs with recorded sensor outputs. Control position extremes and zero reference forces were recorded before and after each test flight. During static longitudinal flight testing with artificial ice shapes all flight parameters were recorded on a digital tape recorder and later reduced to engineering units for analysis.

KSR Data Acquisition System

Aircraft performance and stability and control for icing flights were measured by a modular data acquisition system (DAS) provided by KSR. The KSR DAS is a 12-bit system that records approximately 8.6 samples per second with all channels sampled within a 1 msec time interval and then recorded on tape. This effectively eliminates time skews due to sequential sampling. The DAS includes the computer, computer controls and display, tape recorder, and signal conditioning. The parameters recorded by this system for performance and stability and control measurements are listed in Table II.

Flight Testing

Static longitudinal flight test methods were employed to examine the effect of artificial ice shapes on stability margins. Transient response methods were employed to examine aircraft performance and stability and control degradation after flight through natural icing conditions. Clear testing was required for both the static longitudinal and transient response methods to define baseline coefficients and derivatives for the clean aircraft.

Clear Air Flight Testing

Static longitudinal flight testing with artificial ice shapes attached to the horizontal tail. - An abbreviated flight test program with artificial ice shapes attached to the horizontal tail was conducted prior to the installation of the KSR system to help identify how aircraft handling qualities and stability derivatives might be expected to change with natural ice accretions. This test program consisted of five research flights. One flight established a "no-ice" baseline data set while the remaining flights were flown with four characteristic ice types that simulated: surface roughness (initial stage of an icing encounter); rime ice (Fig. 6(a)); light glaze ice (Fig. 6(b)); and moderate glaze ice (Fig. 6(c)). The surface roughness condition (not shown here) was simulated by wrapping the leading edge of the horizontal tail with 50 grit sandpaper over an assumed impingement area. The simulated ice shapes in Figs. 6(a) to (c) were based upon photographs taken of the Twin Otter tail on previous natural icing research flights. Environmental data from these flights were used in combination with the ice shape calculation procedures and the respective two-dimensional photograph to establish a cross sectional shape for testing.

Once the shape was determined, aluminum templates were fabricated and artificial "ice" was cut from styrofoam blocks with a hot wire. The artificial ice shapes were then glued to a thin, full-span, aluminum leading edge cap that conformed to the leading edge radius of the horizontal tail plane. The aluminum cap was secured by chordwise straps and clamped to the stabilizer hinge line. A typical installation for the moderate glaze ice shape is shown in Fig. 6(d).

Prior to flight testing, a basic operating weight and center of gravity (c.g.) was obtained by weighing the aircraft with all flight test instrumentation installed less fuel and crew. Individual crew members were then weighed, and their weights and seating locations were used to calculate a zero fuel weight and balance. It was found that by varying the seating locations of the cabin crew members, three evenly spaced c.g.'s could be obtained between 26 and 34 percent of the MAC. This rather expeditious procedure of varying c.g. in flight was then used to provide the necessary range of c.g.'s necessary for static longitudinal flight test maneuvers. Fuel weights recorded at the beginning and end of each maneuver were applied to the zero fuel weight calculation to obtain the average test weight and c.g. for the maneuver.

Classical longitudinal flight test maneuvers consisting of sawtooth climbs and descents and wind-up turns were employed to determine stick-fixed and stick-free neutral and maneuver points. All sawtooth maneuvers were flown at a nominal cruise power of 275 SHP/engine. Wind-up turns were accomplished at 120 KCAS and 103 KCAS. The test methods used to acquire these flight data are found in Ref. 9. With artificial ice shapes attached to the tail, special attention was given to the takeoff condition. Since no crew escape systems were available and the artificial ice shapes were not jettisonable, testing was approached very conservatively. All flights were thus restricted to the flaps-up configuration. During takeoff with each ice shape, nose-wheel unstick speeds were noted relative to the baseline configuration; and positive stable response was verified through rotation and liftoff.

KSR performance and stability and control tests. - A complete performance and stability and control (MMLE) baseline (noniced) was derived for the Twin Otter aircraft prior to the conduct of icing research flights. This baseline was acquired by conducting clear air tests with the aircraft configured as it would be for icing flight, i.e., with all externally mounted probes and sensors in place.

Transient response flight testing did not require maneuver repetition at different center of gravity locations, but a very accurate aircraft weight and center of gravity had to be known for each test maneuver. Therefore, weight and balance was obtained for each baseline flight by weighing the aircraft with all research equipment on board before and after fueling. Actual crew member weights and seating locations along with measured fuel burn off were then applied to determine aircraft weight and balance for each test point flown. The procedure of weighing the

aircraft before and after fueling was not used for icing research flights since fuel weight calculations were adequately validated on the baseline flights.

Baseline performance flight test maneuvers consisted of level, full and partial power accelerations and decelerations, with a few stabilized points flown at selected airspeeds. The performance baseline was obtained in the cruise and non-cruise (wing flaps extended) configurations. Throughout all performance maneuvers a constant weight to pressure (W/δ) ratio was maintained; that is, as fuel was burned off, each test maneuver would be flown at successively higher altitude increments. Thus, a constant W/δ would be maintained from the arbitrary starting altitude.

Baseline MMLE flight test maneuvers consisted of longitudinal doublets, lateral directional doublets, and asymmetric power sideslips. Longitudinal doublets were performed in each of four wing flap configurations, i.e., 0°, 10°, 20°, and 37.5°. A range of four speeds were selected for each configuration to provide a reasonable spread of angles of attack without encountering buffet during the 1.5 g positive acceleration portion of the doublet. Each maneuver began with power set for level flight and the aircraft in trim. Longitudinal doublets were initially attempted at speeds as low as 110 percent of stall speed for a given weight and configuration. It was found through analysis that moderate stall buffet associated with the positive (1.3 to 1.5 g) acceleration portion of the doublet would not allow MMLE to converge. Thus, the low-speed, longitudinal doublet maneuvers were restricted to speeds that would provide only very light buffet at approximately 1.5 g acceleration. This restriction generally required some experimentation on the part of the pilot to determine the slowest speed attainable as a function of test weight on baseline flights. For icing flights, this speed was found to be around 10 to 15 knots higher based upon test weight and the type and amount of ice on the wing.

All baseline longitudinal maneuvers were also flown at three discrete power settings, i.e., maximum continuous power, power for level flight, and an approximate zero thrust condition. These data enabled the isolation of power effects over the range of speeds tested when the aircraft was iced up. Baseline MMLE maneuvers were also repeated at two altitudes (approximately 7000' and 13 000' MSL).

Icing Research Flight Testing

The basic approach used in the icing flight research experiment was to fly the aircraft through icing clouds with all ice protection systems (except engine inlet and propeller heaters) turned off. Icing cloud properties were continuously measured and recorded while the aircraft was maintained at a nominal cruise airspeed. Once a sufficient amount of ice had formed, the aircraft would be flown clear of the clouds and stereo photographs taken of the ice shapes, which had accreted on the right outboard wing panel. Dynamic flight maneuvers appropriate to performance or stability and control testing were then flown in a predetermined sequence. The sequence was established by: the mission objectives for

that day; the required iced configurations obtainable through selective deicing; and the desired flap settings defined for a given set of data points.

Winter weather conditions in the Great Lakes region provide NASA Lewis with an excellent geographical location for natural icing research. "Lake effect" clouds formed by rising moist air over northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania provide an environmental situation where a high probability of icing exists even when it is not forecast. Lake effect clouds are generally stratoform-type clouds with tops below 10 000' MSL. This condition is ideal for the Twin Otter since it is not pressurized and use of crew oxygen is seldom required. It is also advantageous since the higher engine power available below 10 000' allows greater power margins for intentional airframe ice buildup.

Flight planning for icing research flights began with a systematic check on area forecasts, hourly weather observations, synopses, upper air soundings, terminal forecasts, and most importantly, current pilot reports. In many cases, the FAA air traffic control facility in charge of airspace where icing was reported or forecast would be contacted by telephone and asked to further query aircraft in their sector for temperature, sky condition, and icing. In many cases, this procedure resulted in a successful icing encounter whereas reliance on only weather and/or available pilot reports would have resulted in a mission cancellation.

Enroute to the known icing area, an attempt would be made to fly in the clear or at an altitude where no ice accretions could inadvertently form on the aircraft. The purpose for this was to eliminate extraneous ice accretions on the airframe, which would not be considered representative of the measured icing encounter.

Testing with naturally accreted ice shapes required some special considerations. Upon exiting icing conditions, the aircraft would be flown so as to climb above or descend below the icing cloud. If testing was to be performed without cloud cover obscuring the sun, an attempt would be made to stay out of direct sunlight by placing the sun at the "six o'clock" position while flight test maneuvers were being performed. Also, the test matrix would be flown such that most slow speed data points would be accomplished first to further reduce the amount of ice erosion. Expedient accomplishment of flight test maneuvers was another very critical factor in completing the test matrix before ice shape deterioration became significant. This required a very well-coordinated, organized, and concentrated effort on the part of the pilot and flight test engineer. While flight test maneuvers were being flown, other crew members recorded wing stereo photography, photo documentation of ice shapes on nonlifting surfaces, pilot comments, and flight clearances. Generally speaking, a complete aircraft performance test including level accelerations and decelerations to break out drag and lift decrements due to ice on the wings, horizontal tail, vertical tail, wing and landing gear struts, and the combined remainder of nonprotected components (radome, antennae, flap hinge brackets, etc.) was accomplished within 20 to 25 min after the icing

encounter. For this period of time, ice accretions would usually retain their original shapes fairly well.

Stability and control testing was more involved. Here both longitudinal and lateral directional maneuvers had to be accomplished in several preplanned "iced" configurations. For reasons of flight safety, longitudinal maneuvers were performed only in the zero and ten degree flap condition. Longitudinal and lateral directional doublets would also be repeated for each test point. Typically, 30 to 35 data points would be accomplished on a stability and control icing research flight, and the time required to complete these points would be approximately 30 to 40 min. On some initial icing research flights, both performance and stability and control tests were accomplished; however, this procedure was discontinued in favor of flights dedicated to performance only or stability and control only. Combining performance and stability and control resulted in a less rigorous investigation of each phenomenon due to the limitation of time brought about by ice shape deterioration.

Data Analysis

A brief summary of data handling and analysis methods are given in this section of the report. The discussion is broken down into static and dynamic methods. No special modifications were made to the basic procedures in either method for the artificial or natural icing flight tests.

Static Longitudinal Flight Tests with Artificial Ice Shapes

Aircraft test weights and c.g. locations were determined for each flight maneuver by applying fuel weights and moments to the zero fuel condition of the aircraft. Recorded flight parameters that included true airspeed, angle of attack, pressure altitude, static air temperature, elevator position, pilot elevator force, and vertical acceleration were calibrated, scaled, then tabulated for each stabilized test point. Aircraft lift coefficient C_L and normal force coefficient C_{N_A} corresponding to each of these stable points

were then calculated. For sawtooth climbs and descents, δ_e versus C_L and F_e/q versus C_L were plotted for each c.g. tested. For wind-up turns, δ_e versus C_{N_A} and F_e/q versus C_{N_A}

were likewise plotted for each c.g. tested. Curves for each of these parameters were hand faired and, by the methods in Ref. 9, the location of the stick-fixed and stick-free neutral and maneuver points were determined.

Transient Flight Tests for Performance and Stability and Control

Flight data from appropriate dynamic maneuvers were reduced and analyzed on a Gould SEL 32/77 computer with a dual processor located at KSR in Lawrence, Kansas. A block diagram of the data management system is shown in Fig. 7. This data management system was designed to function with the KSR Data Acquisition System.

The initial phase of the processing involved encoding the flight tape to a SEL format, converting

it to engineering units, and storing it on a disk and tape. The data then entered a preprocessor program in which corrections were made regarding position error of the airspeed system and location of the accelerometers away from the center of gravity. Also computed were the weight, center of gravity, moments and products of inertia, engine parameters (thrust, fuel flow, RPM, etc.) and other derived parameters that were needed for two or more of the succeeding analysis programs. Both the corrected and derived parameters were stored as a flight test data base (FTDB) along with the raw engineering units from which it was derived.

Aircraft performance was determined by an analysis program that took the thrust model of propulsion system, then accessed the FTDB, and calculated lift and drag coefficients by means of a basic set of equilibrium equations.

The MMLE analysis for the determination of aircraft stability derivatives was somewhat more complex. The MMLE method is based on an assumed mathematical model of the airplane where the stability and control derivatives represent the unknown parameters. Initial conditions and dynamic control inputs measured in flight were applied to the model with starting values of the unknown parameters, and the complete response of the model was then compared to that of the airplane. The difference was a response error. The MMLE program then changed the aerodynamic derivatives by a computational algorithm to reduce the response error. The new derivatives were then used in the math model to compute a new response error. This iteration procedure continued until a specified convergence criterion was met. The final derivatives represent airplane aerodynamic characteristics that minimize the error between airplane and mathematical model responses in the least squares sense.

Power effects on the stability derivatives were handled by establishing baseline derivatives as a function of flap setting and thrust coefficient. Thus when a stability and control maneuver was performed with ice on the aircraft, the degradation in a particular derivative would be determined relative to the baseline derivative calculated at the same power setting. All stability and control analyses from MMLE contained in this report are referenced to thrust coefficient.

Results and Discussion

Longitudinal Characteristics with Artificial Ice Shapes Applied to the Horizontal Tail

Control position and control force gradients from sawtooth climbs/descents and wind-up turns were examined for all five research flights. Each flight employing an artificial ice shape was compared to the baseline flight. Inspection of the plots indicated that only subtle differences existed between the baseline gradient data and gradient data from flights with surface roughness and the artificial rime shape. However, control force and control position gradients from the light and moderate glaze shapes displayed more recognizable trends away from the baseline. As would be expected, the moderate glaze ice shape provided the greater deviation of the two.

Qualitatively, the aircraft was always strong positive stable during longitudinal maneuvers with each artificial ice shape. However, the moderate glaze ice shape did cause noticeably lighter pitch forces especially at lower speed. This observation was supported by the data; and thus, it was decided to calculate neutral and maneuver point locations for the moderate glaze ice shape and compare them to baseline data. These calculations were not made for the other artificial shapes.

Figures 8, 9, 10, and 11, which summarize the variations in neutral and maneuver point locations with C_L , provide comparisons between the baseline and moderate glaze ice shape. Figure 8 shows that on the average, approximately a 7 to 8 percent reduction in static margin occurs for the stick-fixed case. For the stick-free case, this reduction averages 3 to 5 percent as shown in Fig. 9.

Data from wind-up turns also showed a reduction in maneuver margin. Figure 10, for example, shows that the stick-fixed maneuver point moves forward approximately 3 percent at the lower C_L 's and as much as 12 to 15 percent at C_L 's near stall. For the stick-free case shown in Fig. 11, the maneuver point moves forward approximately 15 percent at C_L 's around 0.9, and 7 percent or less near stall.

Generally, the data showed fairly consistent trends. Static and maneuvering margins were affected over the entire range of C_L 's tested with the moderate glaze ice shape attached to the tail. These results are consistent with those reported in Ref. 10.

It should be pointed out that the static methods just described have many potential sources for error. Small variations in the measured parameters can be easily masked by instrument error, manual curve fitting, slope estimates, and extrapolation techniques. Because of this situation, it was possible to report with confidence only those results where the effects of icing were very pronounced. For example, Fig. 12 shows the relative differences between normalized force gradient curves measured on the baseline tail and the tail with the moderate glaze ice shape. These differences were of sufficient magnitude to report static margin degradation with confidence. On flights with surface roughness, rime, and light glaze shapes, the differences were more subtle and relative changes were hard to break out. It should be noted again that these tests were conducted with flaps up. Had the flaps been extended, the relative reduction in static margin would probably have been greater as described in Ref. 10, and the effects of the lesser ice shapes more pronounced.

Aircraft Performance and Stability and Control After Flight Through Natural Icing Conditions

General. - Ten icing research flights were flown in areas of northeastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and northwestern New York during the month of December 1985. Eight of these flights yielded research-quality data; and of these eight, four research flights were analyzed for this report. Discussions of results are referenced to assigned flight numbers. Flights 86-20 and 86-21 were selected for a full performance analysis.

Flight 86-20 represented a moderate to heavy mixed icing condition and 86-21 represented a moderate glaze icing condition. Flights 86-16 and 86-17 represented mixed icing conditions and were selected for longitudinal stability analysis. Flight 86-16 provided a comparison between the baseline, all iced, then wing only iced condition, while flight 86-17 compared the baseline, all iced, then tail only iced condition. When looking at any flight data that shows "wings deiced," it must be remembered that the portions of the wing between the engine nacelles and fuselage are not protected; and, hence, approximately 17 percent of the wing span cannot be deiced. The full effects of this on performance and stability and control measurements cannot be assessed at this time. It is anticipated that the lateral-directional data will be presented in a follow-on report.

Icing cloud data. - Icing cloud data recorded during natural icing flight tests are shown in Figs. 13 to 17. The measurement of LWC, MVD, and temperature are subject to the following considerations:

a. LWC and MVD are not corrected for local droplet concentrations due to the presence of the aircraft in the icing cloud. A program is currently underway to calculate local droplet trajectories.

b. The Rosemount Ice Detector is an accretion-type device and, therefore, calculates an average LWC after a small amount of ice accumulates on the sensing portion of the probe. Rosemount Ice Detector plots of LWC tend to be somewhat jagged due to the coarse cycle time of the instrument.

c. Discontinuities in FSSP data generally occur for one of two reasons. Either the aircraft flies out of the cloud, or some component of the probe ices over and the instrument no longer functions. Portions of some FSSP plots show areas of missing data, which can be explained by knowledge of the flight profile through the icing conditions.

d. Sharp spikes in temperature profiles are "noise," such as those shown in Fig. 14. The jagged "sawtooth" dew point temperature profile as seen in Fig. 16 is an instrument problem.

A summary of these data, which are time averaged, appear in Table III. This summary provides a quick look at the overall icing conditions encountered and can be referenced to the icing certification requirements as contained in Federal Air Regulation (FAR) Part 25, Appendix C.¹¹

Ice shape documentation. - In-flight photographs and stereo analyses of wing ice shapes are provided in Figs. 18 to 22. As in the icing cloud data, each figure is self-explanatory. The shape of the ice is critically important with respect to the performance degradation and stability and control effects on an aircraft. The "double-horned" ice shapes characteristic of glaze icing generally cause the greatest penalties in lift and drag. Temperature is one of the primary factors that influence the type of ice forming on a given aircraft surface. Generally, glaze ice forms at the warmer temperatures as shown by the icing and photographic data for flight 86-21 (Fig. 19), while colder temperatures cause mixed accretions

(Flights 86-20, 86-16, and 86-17 shown in Figs. 18, 20, and 21 respectively), and rime accretions (Flight 86-23 shown in Fig. 22). Notice that mixed ice accretion shapes tend to be somewhat rectangular in cross section with small, longitudinally oriented, finger-like protrusions at the upper and lower edges, while rime ice takes on a more wedge-shaped appearance. Photographs taken on Flight 86-23 were included only to provide an example of rime ice. Stability and control analyses for this flight are forthcoming in a future report.

Aircraft performance. - Aircraft performance measurements were obtained for the baseline (non-iced) condition with flaps set at 0°, 10°, 20°, and 37.5°; however, only the 0° flap data was actually carried beyond the flight test data base level and plotted in coefficient form. It was decided that only iced aircraft performance in the 0° flap cruise configuration would be analyzed for this report.

Aircraft performance is presented in terms of lift slopes and drag polars and may be found in Figs. 23 to 26. A pitching moment curve, which is also derived from level accelerations and decelerations and an MMLE analysis, is provided in Fig. 27. Because of the rather substantial effect power has on these data, all icing flight tests were conducted at two basic power settings and referenced to the respective baseline plot. Level accelerations were performed at 40 psi engine torque and 96 percent propeller RPM; and level decelerations at 15 psi engine torque at the same RPM. These power settings approximate maximum and minimum thrust conditions, and, thereby, provide the full range of power effects on aerodynamic performance coefficients. Baseline and icing flight data are then compared at these power settings, and the absolute magnitudes of aircraft performance degradation due to the aerodynamic effects of icing are readily determined. In this regard, the method of level accelerations and decelerations has an advantage over the steady power for level flight technique since the latter technique incorporates a power effect in each discrete measurement, which is more difficult to account for.

Transients during the initial phase of each acceleration or deceleration maneuver are generally disregarded in the analysis. Normally, this is not too much of a problem; however, when the aircraft is iced up, the speed envelope is smaller due to a higher stall speed and a lower maximum speed. As a result, a relatively smaller range of coefficient values are calculated. This effect is seen throughout the performance analysis and identified by the boundary labeled "ice data range." This boundary reflects the average level flight speed envelope attainable for the type of icing encountered on a particular flight less that which was "clipped" during the initial transient. Note that the drag polar data is extrapolated to a $C_L = 0$.

All the performance plots show that lift curves and drag polars are steeper and of higher absolute value at 40 psi torque than at 15 psi torque. This is an expected occurrence as the propeller wake energizes the wing boundary layer to increase lift and also increases drag due to the wash of the slipstream over the engine nacelle,

wing, and horizontal tail. The differences in lift and drag coefficients at the two power settings are essentially a maximum power effect. What is also interesting is that lift and drag decrements, which were broken out by selectively deicing the aircraft, remain relatively the same percentage wise at both high and low power settings. For example, referring to Fig. 23 and the summary performance data in Table IV for flight 86-20, the total degradation in lift coefficient at an arbitrary angle of attack of 6° is approximately 7 percent with 40 psi torque, and 8 percent with 15 psi torque; and the individual contributions of each iced component are nearly the same at both power settings. The drag polars in Fig. 24 along with summary data in Table IV for the same flight show similar results. Percentage wise, the drag decrements were about the same at the high and low power settings. These observations also hold for performance data seen in Figs. 25 and 26. This is significant because the relative magnitude of lift and drag decrements due to ice appear independent of power within the linear portion of the flight envelope. On the other hand, the absolute magnitude of these decrements are dependent on power effects; and it would seem that these observations would hold for any conventionally configured, multi-engine, propeller aircraft. This will become an important consideration in the development and validation of aircraft performance prediction codes, which must take into account power effects.

The flight data point out that the shape of aircraft ice accretions on both lifting and non-lifting surfaces is the most important factor influencing performance. For example, the icing encounter on flight 86-20 lasted 54 min at an average LWC of 0.46 gm/m³, while the encounter on flight 86-21 lasted 45 min at an approximate average LWC of 0.2 gm/m³. Though the average MVD on each flight was approximately 14 to 15 μm, the temperature differed by 4.5 °C. The difference in temperature resulted in a glaze-type ice formation on flight 86-21. The encounter on this flight was 9 min shorter than on the previous flight 86-20 and the LWC less by a factor slightly greater than two; yet the overall drag increase was about 15 to 20 percent higher. The lift curves don't show as large a variation from one flight to the other; however, it must be remembered that C_L measurements made at a 6° angle of attack are still below stall buffet speeds. Previous experience and data appearing in Refs. 2 and 3 show that the lift curve for the glaze ice condition flattens more rapidly than those for other ice shapes at higher angles of attack.

Longitudinal Stability and control characteristics with ice. - Referring now to the pitching moment curves in Fig. 27, it becomes immediately apparent that power effects literally overwhelm any changes in the static pitching moment parameter due to icing. Note the difference in baseline slopes at 15 psi torque as opposed to the 40 psi torque curve. The high thrust line of the engines in combination with propeller slipstream effects over the wing and tail greatly increase the static longitudinal stability parameter C_{m_α} as shown in Fig. 27(a).

At the 15 psi torque setting, the effect of icing on this parameter was not seen in the data from either flight 86-20 or 86-21. At the 40 psi torque pressure setting, small reductions were measured

in C_{m_α} on both icing flights. However, the data from both flights was indistinguishable; that is, for the same iced configuration, the "mixed" type ice shape and the "glaze" type ice shape gave the same result. It was for this reason that the data from both flights 86-20 and 86-21 were lumped onto the single plot.

Comparing baseline and iced slopes of C_m versus α , the static pitching moment of the aircraft is reduced approximately 13 percent in the all-iced, power-on case and approximately 9.9 percent after the wings are deiced. (Remember that the inboard portions between the engine nacelles and fuselage are not protected.) This seems to be about the right order of magnitude since static longitudinal tests with artificial ice showed an average 5 percent reduction in stick-fixed static margin at a lower power setting. Since the static pitching moment parameter is proportional to the static margin, these results appear reasonable.

Icing effects on longitudinal stability derivatives for the baseline aircraft were compared with those obtained after a natural icing encounter.

Flights 86-16 and 86-17 were flown in mixed conditions, and the ice shapes which formed on the aircraft during each flight were similar. This was an extremely fortunate circumstance as these similarities allowed a comparative analysis of the two flights. On flight 86-16 the effect of ice was studied for the all-iced and tail-only-iced configurations at both zero and ten degree flap settings. On flight 86-17 the effect of ice was also studied on the all-iced aircraft; however, this time the tail was deiced and the effects of wing ice alone were evaluated at the zero and ten degree flap settings. Looking first at the zero degree flap results for flights 86-16 and 86-17 in Figs. 28 and 30, the all-iced aircraft showed an average 10 percent degradation in elevator power $C_{m_{\delta_e}}$, and elevator effectiveness, $C_{L_{\delta_e}}$.

When the tail only was iced (Fig. 28), this degradation averaged around 8.5 percent; and when the wing only was iced (Fig. 30), a rather small 2 percent degradation was calculated. When flaps were lowered ten degrees, the all-iced degradation in these coefficients increased to a more significant 15 to 16 percent as shown in Figs. 29 and 31. It was interesting that wing ice, which had little effect on the derivatives with flaps up, now caused a degradation in elevator power and elevator effectiveness of approximately 9 percent.

Figure 32 shows the effects of ice on a combined pitch damping state coefficient whose individual components were not identified by MMLE. It was found in the flaps-up case, icing had no effect on this coefficient; however, when flaps were lowered 10° and ice was on the wings, tail, or both, this coefficient was degraded approximately 23 percent. Data from flights 86-16 and 86-17 provided identical results and were, therefore, plotted on the one figure. A similar result was seen in Fig. 33 for the combined state coefficient $(C_{L_q} + C_{L_\alpha})$. With flaps up, no degradation was seen in this coefficient for either flight 86-16

or 86-17. However, when flaps were lowered 10°, a 25 percent degradation was seen for both flights in any iced configuration. The data from both flights are shown on Fig. 33.

Conclusions

The performance of an aircraft after flight through measured natural icing conditions is primarily affected by the shape of ice forming on forward-facing airframe components. Performance modeling methods, combined with dynamic maneuvers, was found to be a very practical and expeditious way of measuring lift, drag, and pitching moment decrements in natural icing conditions. The acceleration and deceleration maneuvers enabled the breakout of power effects, which in an absolute sense, were determined to be very substantial for a propeller-driven aircraft. A corollary to this fact was the observation that performance decrements were, percentage-wise, the same, in a relative sense, over a wide range of power settings. This was a very important finding with respect to its impact on the validation of performance degradation codes and to other applications such as the development of flight simulator software for icing scenarios.

Ice accretions (real and artificial) degraded static and maneuver margins, elevator control derivatives, and pitching moment slopes throughout the flight envelope. Elevator control derivatives were more affected at higher tail downwash angles resulting from wing flap extension.

The use of the KSR system to acquire performance and stability and control data was found to be extremely useful for natural icing flight tests. The rapidity with which data can be acquired by transient response techniques makes this system a viable method in a time-critical test environment.

One of the long range objectives of the NASA Lewis icing research program is to provide methodologies that can predict aircraft performance losses and stability and control effects on an aircraft. This technology would have direct application in: aircraft design; conducting sensitivity studies for advanced flight control systems on relaxed stability aircraft; performing failure effects modes analyses for ice protection systems; generating simulator software for pilot training; and in improving aircraft icing certification criteria for better operational safety. The test results reported herein are an initial step in that direction. Advancements in this technology will require a more rigorous approach to the problem.

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TABLE I. - AIRCRAFT CHARACTERISTICS

Wing area, ft ²	420
Wing span, ft	65
Aspect ratio	10
MAC, ft	6.5
Aileron area, ft ²	14.68
Elevator area, ft ²	21.61
Rudder area, ft ²	35.55
Standard weight, lb	11 000

Moments of inertia at standard weight
during icing flight test period:

I _{xx} , slug ft ²	16 237
I _{yy} , slug ft ²	23 433
I _{zz} , slug ft ²	36 312
I _{xz} , slug ft ²	1 141

TABLE II. - KSR DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM

[Recorded Data, NASA Twin Otter DHC-6-004.]

Variable number	Variable	Variable name	Units
1	FILCNT	File counter	-----
2	BLKCNT	Block counter	-----
3	ESB	Engineer's status BYTE	-----
4	ASB	Aircraft status BYTE Pause event Rosemount heat Gear position Gyro erection marker Pilot event	
5	Time	Time	sec
6	AX	Longitudinal acceleration	G
7	AY	Lateral acceleration	G
8	AZ	Z-direction acceleration	G
9	Pitch-rate	Pitch rate	deg/sec
10	Roll-rate	Pitch rate	deg/sec
11	Yaw-rate	Yaw rate	deg/sec
12	Pitch-att	Pitch attitude	deg
13	Roll-att	Roll attitude	deg
14	Delp-alpha	Pressure alpha	psf
15	Delp-beta	Pressure beta	psf
16	Delp-ref	Pressure reference	psf
17	Delta-A-L	Aileron deflection	deg
18	-----	-----	empty
19	Delta-E	Elevator deflection	deg
20	Delta-R	Rudder deflection	deg
21	Flap	Flap position	deg
32	Diff-press	Differential pressure	psf
33	Air-temp	Indicated total temperature	deg/K
34	Inert-vref	Vertical gyro reference voltage	volt
35	Stat-press	Static pressure	psf
36	Cpt-vref	Reference voltage	volt
37	Battery-A	Reference battery board 1	volt
39	Fuel-used	Fuel used	lb
40	PAF	Pilot aileron force	lb
41	PEF	Pilot elevator force	lb
42	PRF-L	Pilot rudder force, left	lb
43	PRF-R	Pilot rudder force, right	lb
49	NI-L	Gas generator RPM-N1, left	percent
50	NI-R	Gas generator RPM-N1, right	percent
51	PROP-RPM-L	Propeller RPM, left	percent
52	PROP-RPM-R	Propeller RPM, right	percent
53	Torque-L	Engine torque pressure, left	psi
54	Torque-R	Engine torque pressure, right	psi
55	Fuel-Flo-L	Indicated fuel flow left engine	lb/hr
56	Fuel-Flo-R	Indicated fuel flow right engine	lb/hr
57	Fueltemp-L	Fuel temperature left engine	deg/K
58	Fueltemp-R	Fuel temperature right engine	deg/K
64	Johns-will	Liquid water content indicator	volt
65	Leigh	Ice detector unit	volt
66	Rosemont	Ice detector unit	volt
67	Gen-East	Dew point hygrometer	volt
71	Battery-B	Reference battery board 2	volt

TABLE III. - SUMMARY OF AVERAGED ICING CLOUD DATA FOR PERFORMANCE AND STABILITY AND CONTROL

Flight number	Start time	End time	Alt., PA, ft	TAS, Kts	AOA, deg	Static temperature, °C	Dew point, °C	Average LWC, g·m ⁻³	Average MVD, μm
16	14:32:58	15:12:18	8060	138.6	1.4	-8.0	-----	0.25	19
17	10:08:28	10:27:18	7309	135.0	1.6	-7.2	- 8.1	.33	21
20	12:42:48	13:36:58	6163	127.3	1.8	-9.5	-10.0	.46	14
21	09:55:38	10:40:38	4315	130.8	1.6	-5.0	- 4.8	-.20	15
23	10:13:38	11:11:48	4330	136.4	0.5	-0.5	-10.7	.30	10

TABLE IV. - SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED PERFORMANCE LOSSES DUE TO ICING

Flight number	Ice type	Airframe component(s) isolated by selective deicing	Parameter	Total effect on parameter, %		Component contribution to total effect, %	
				Engine torque			
				40 psi	15 psi	40 psi	15 psi
86-20	Mixed	All components Wings Tail, wing strut, and main gear strut Miscellaneous components (flap hinges, antenna, etc.)	C_L at $(\alpha = 6^\circ)$	-7	-8	--	--
86-21	glaze	All components Wing Tail, wing strut, and main gear strut Miscellaneous components		-8	-7	36 36 28	40 27 33
86-20	Mixed	All components Wing Horizontal stabilizer Vertical stabilizer wing strut and main gear strut Miscellaneous components	C_D at $(C_L = 0.5)$	+36	+30	36 26 23	40 27 20
86-21	Glaze	All components Wing Vertical stabilizer Horizontal stabilizer Wing strut and main gear strut Miscellaneous components		+50	+47	15 30 16 9 16 29	13 28 17 13 17 26

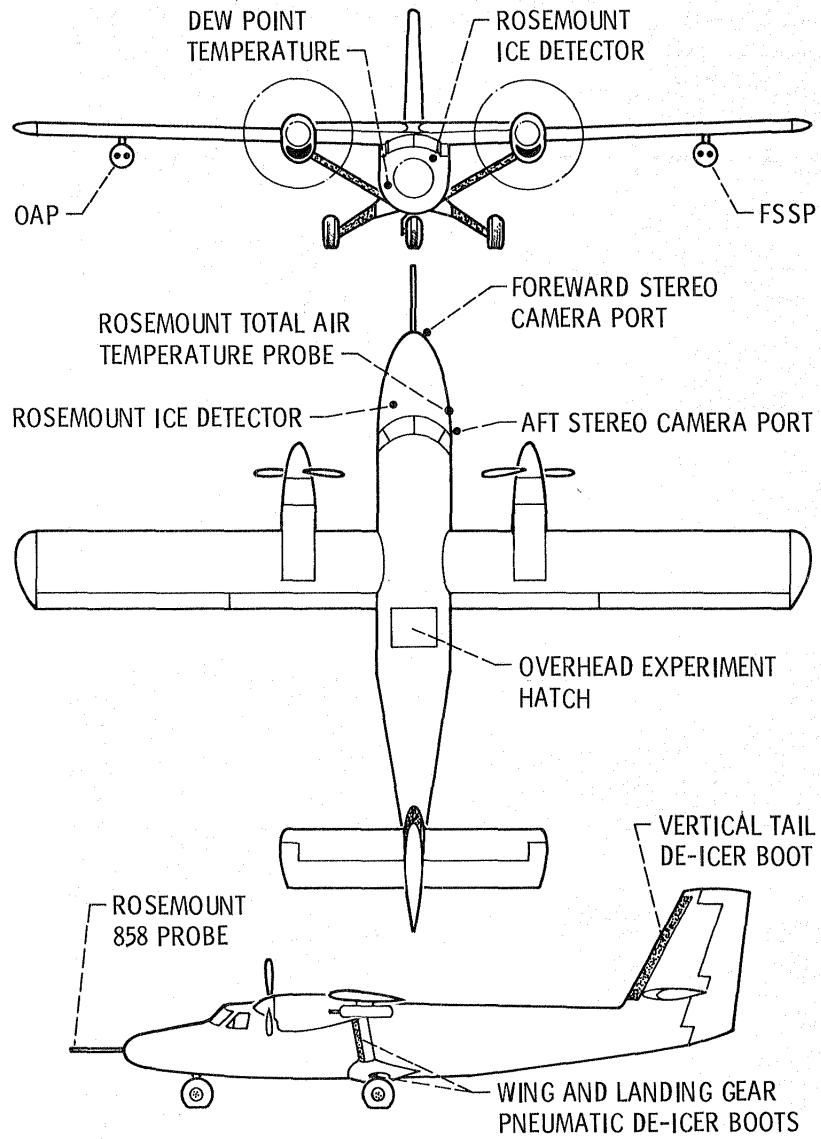
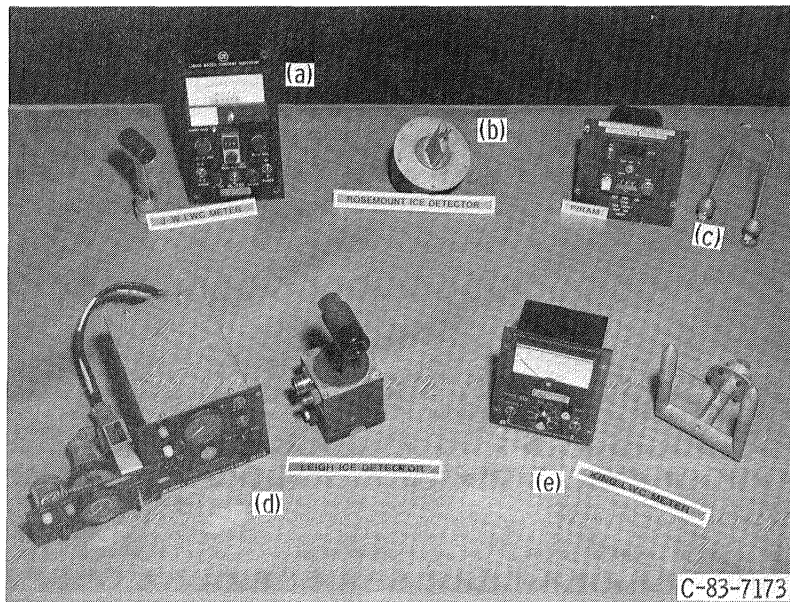
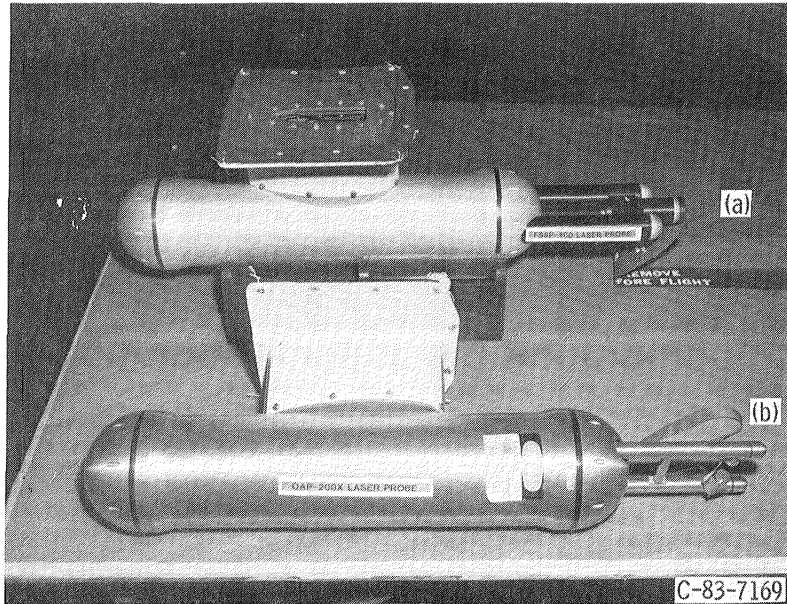


Figure 1. - NASA Lewis Research Center icing research aircraft and locations of icing instruments.



(a) Liquid water content instruments (a) Johnson Williams, (b) Rosemount ice detector, (c) pressure ice rate and accretion meter, (d) Leigh ice detector, (e) CSIRO-KING.



(b) Droplet sizing instruments (a) forward scattering spectrometer probe, (b) optical array probe.

Figure 2. - Icing instrumentation.

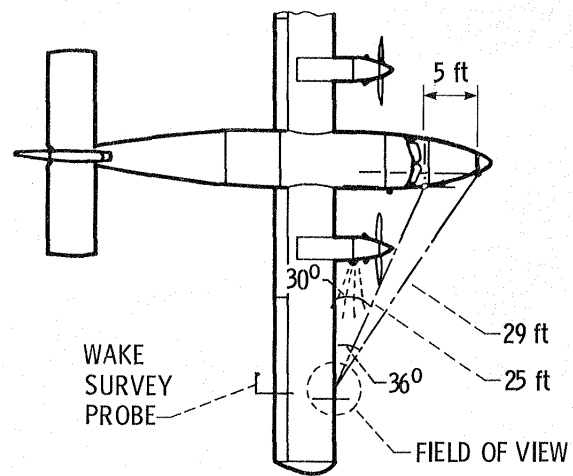
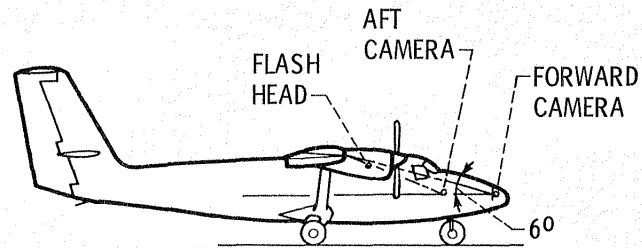
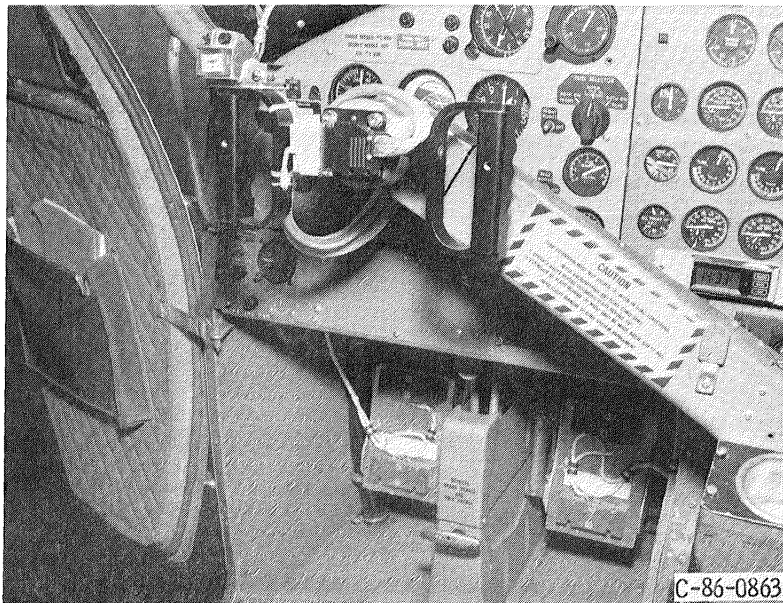
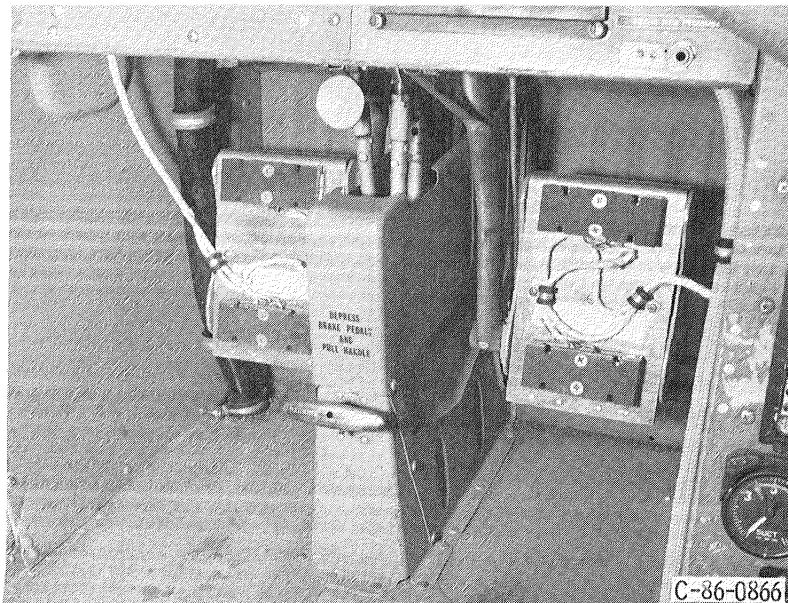


Figure 3. - Wing stereo camera system layout.



(a) Pilot's dynamic force wheel.



(b) Rudder pedal load cells.

Figure 4. - Dynamic force wheel and rudder pedal load cells for performance and stability and control measurements.

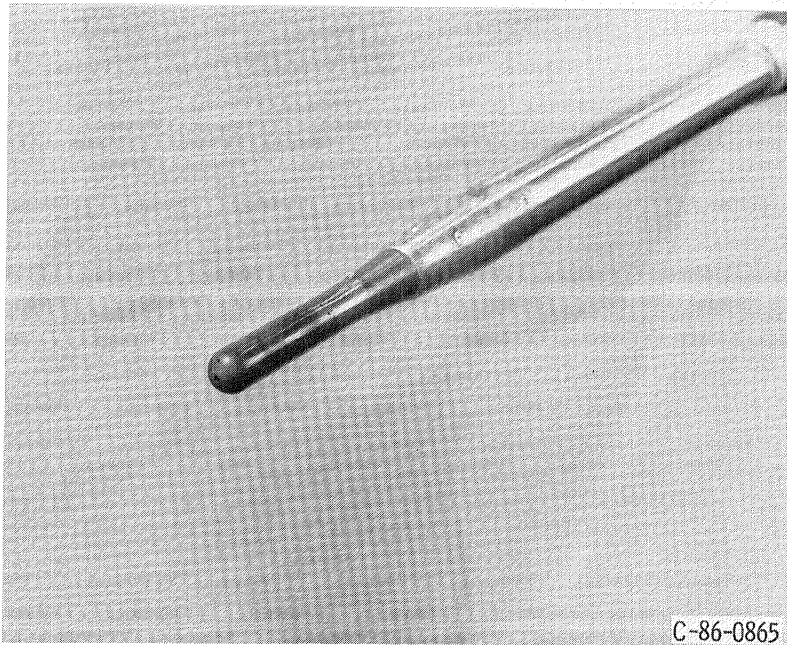
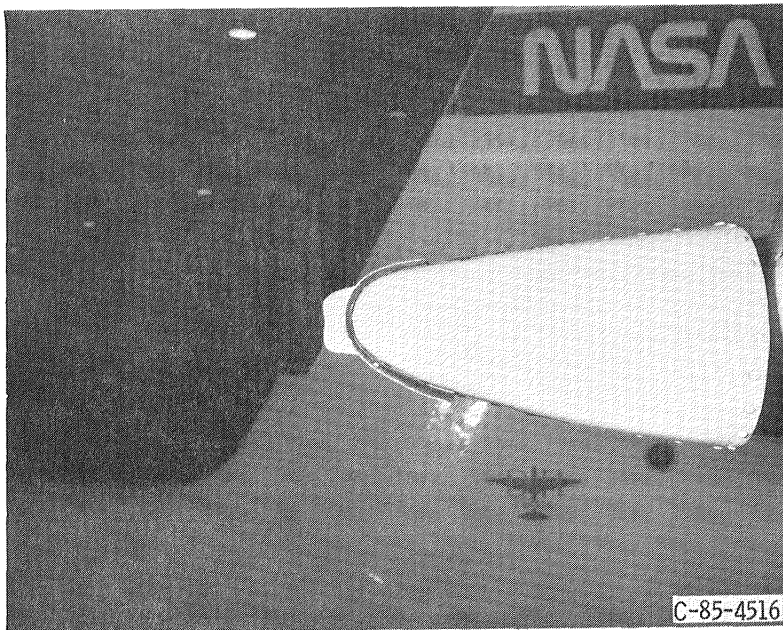


Figure 5. - Heated Rosemount 858 flow angle sensor to measure airspeed, altitude, angle of attack, and sideslip.

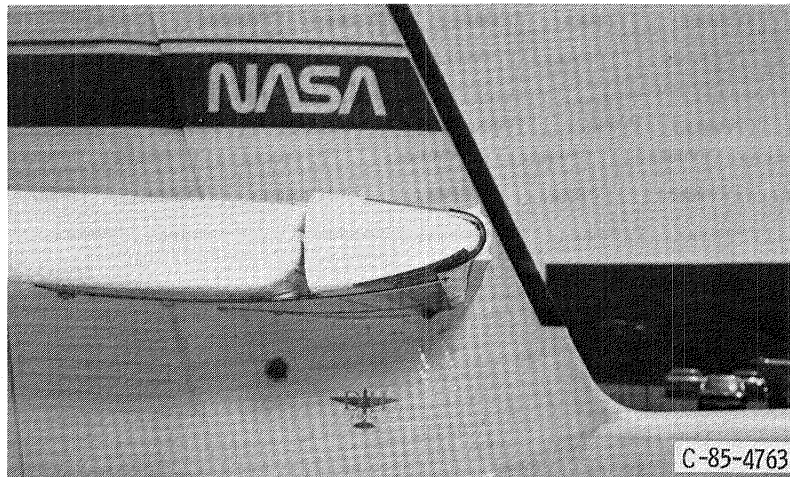


(a) Artificial "Rime" ice shape.

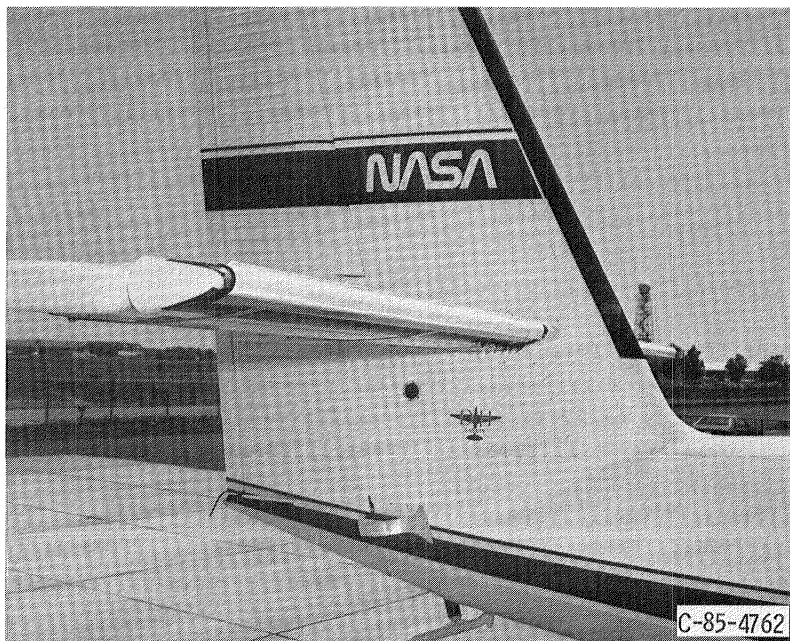


(b) Artificial "Light Glaze" ice shape.

Figure 6. - Artificial ice shapes attached to the horizontal tail plane.



(c) Artificial "Moderate Glaze" ice shape.



(d) Full span view of the moderate glaze ice shape.

Figure 6. - Concluded.

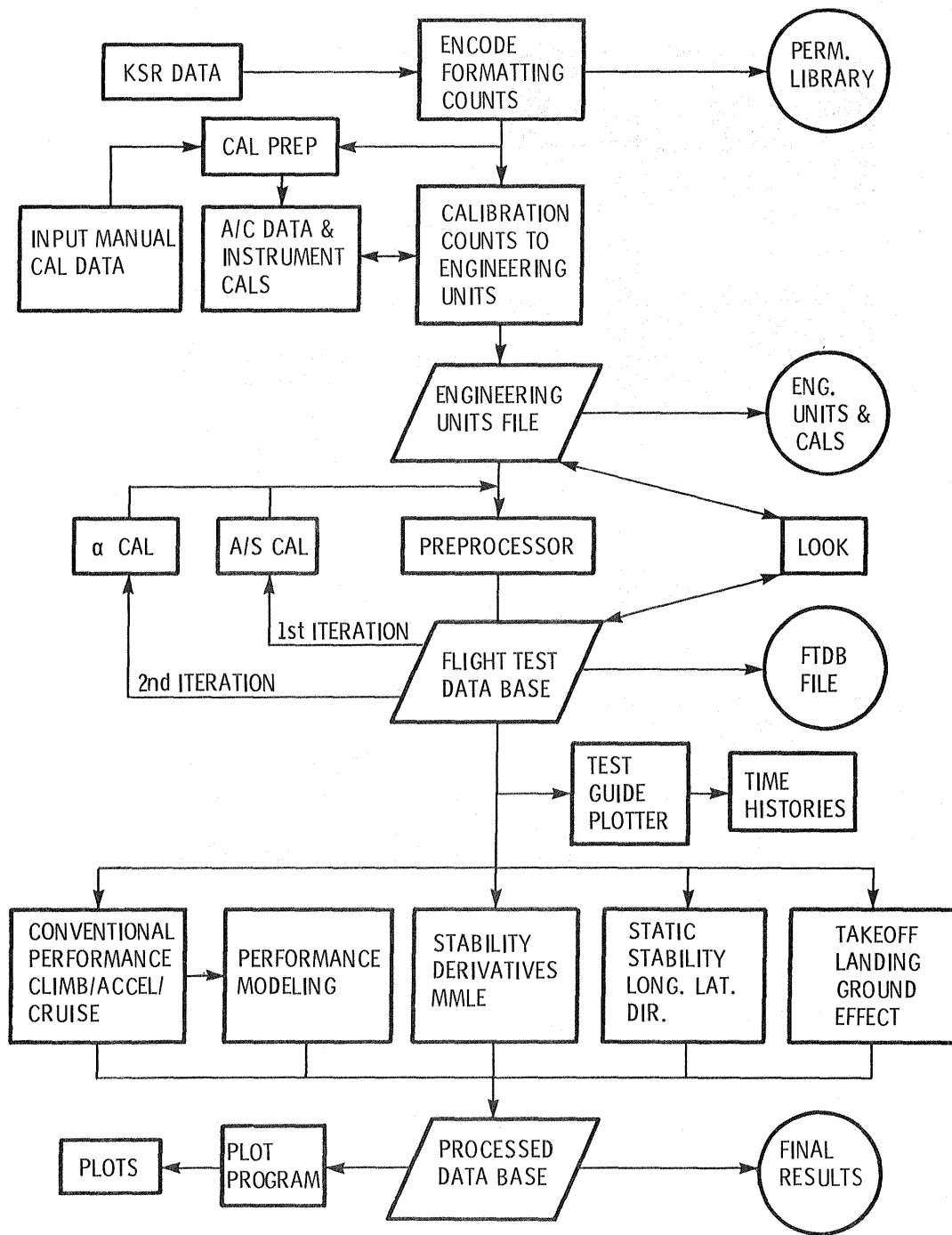


Figure 7. - KSR data management system.

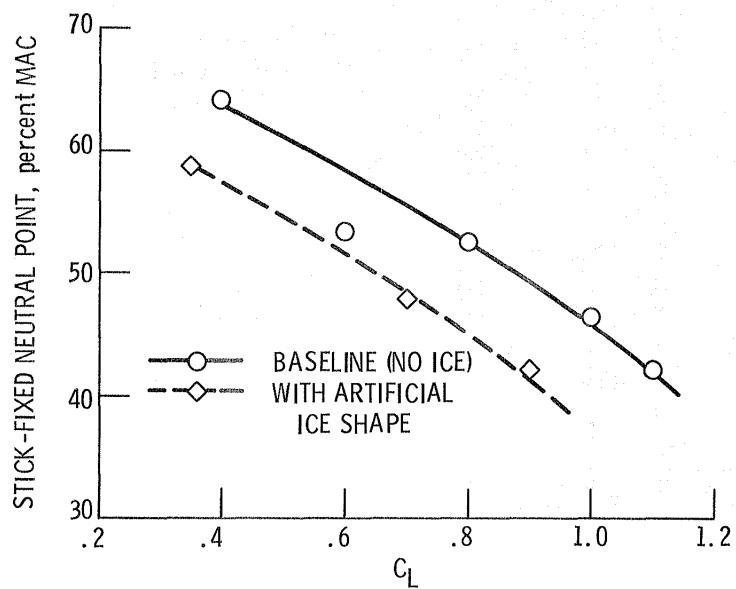


Figure 8. - Change in stick-fixed neutral points with artificial ice on horizontal tail. Nominal cruise power, 275 SHP per engine.

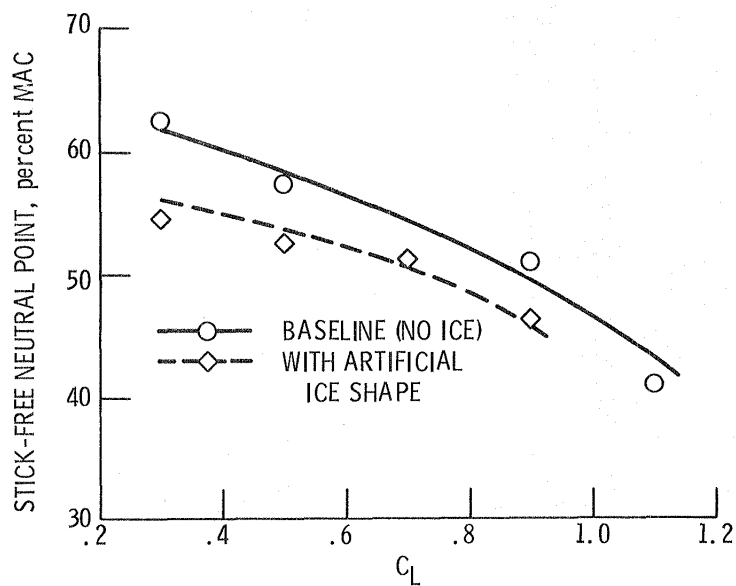


Figure 9. - Change in stick-free neutral points with artificial ice on horizontal tail. Nominal cruise power, 275 SHP per engine.

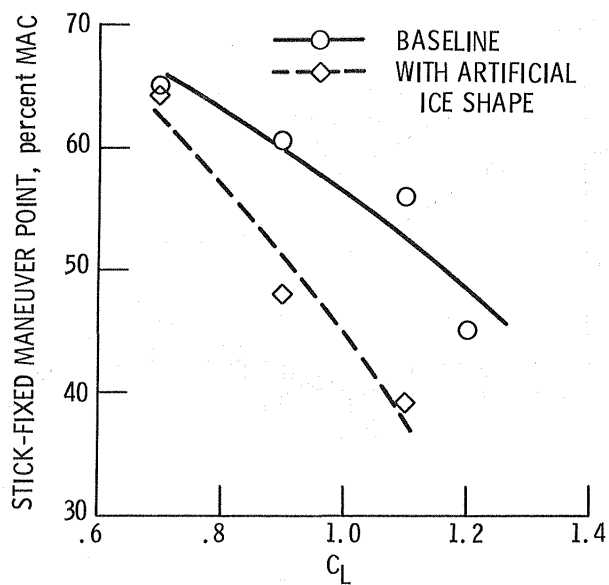


Figure 10. - Change in stick-fixed maneuver points with artificial ice on horizontal tail. Nominal cruise power, 275 SHP per engine. $V_{CAL} = 103$ knots.

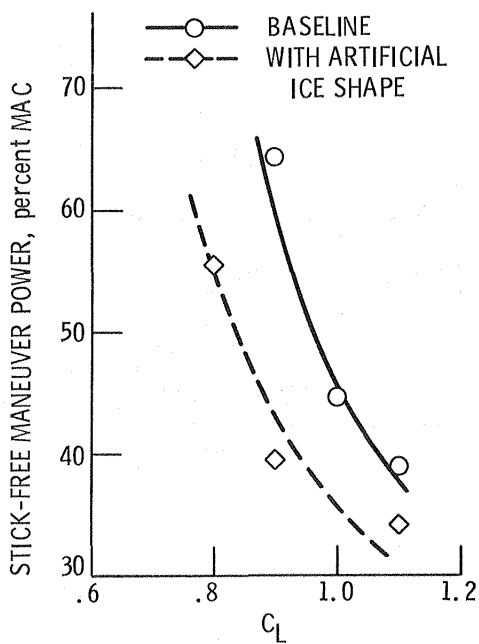


Figure 11. - Change in stick-free maneuver points with artificial ice on horizontal tail. Nominal cruise power, 275 SHP per engine. $V_{CAL} = 103$ knots.

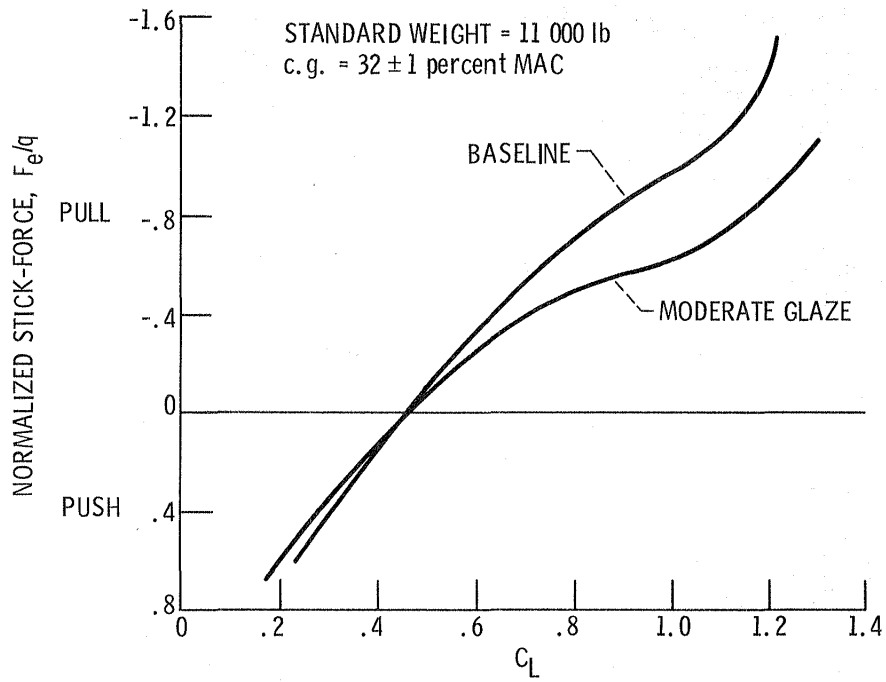


Figure 12. - Normalized longitudinal control force variation with lift coefficient for the clean horizontal tail versus the moderate glaze ice shape attached to the horizontal tail ($\delta_F = 0^\circ$).

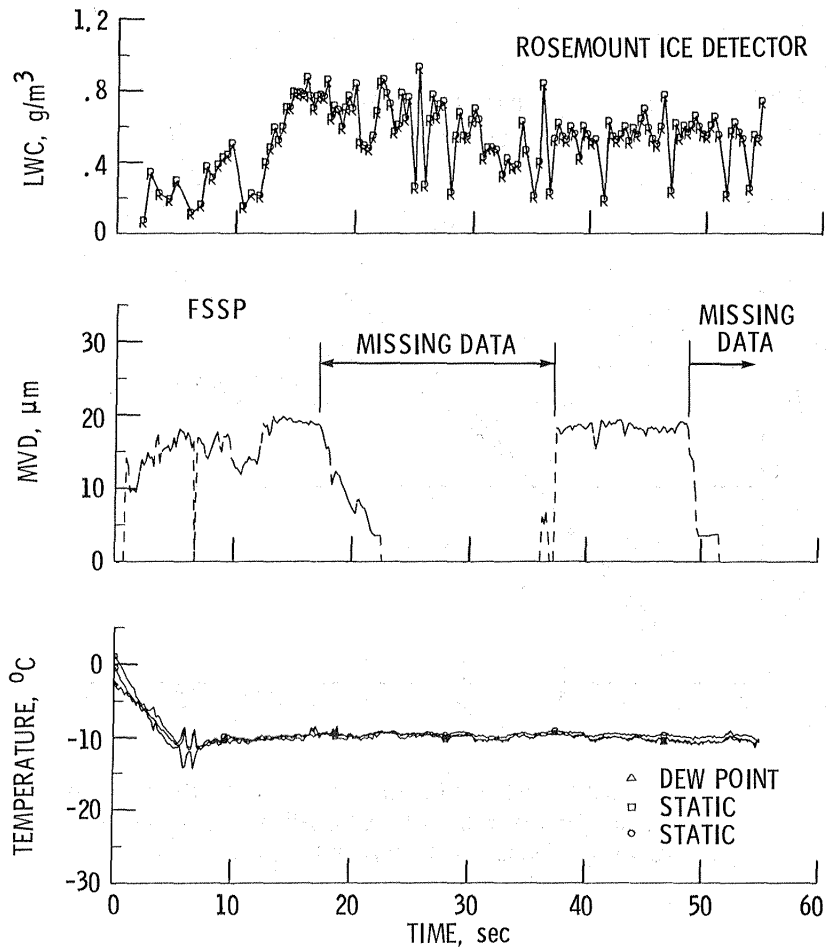


Figure 13. - Icing data for performance flight 86-20.

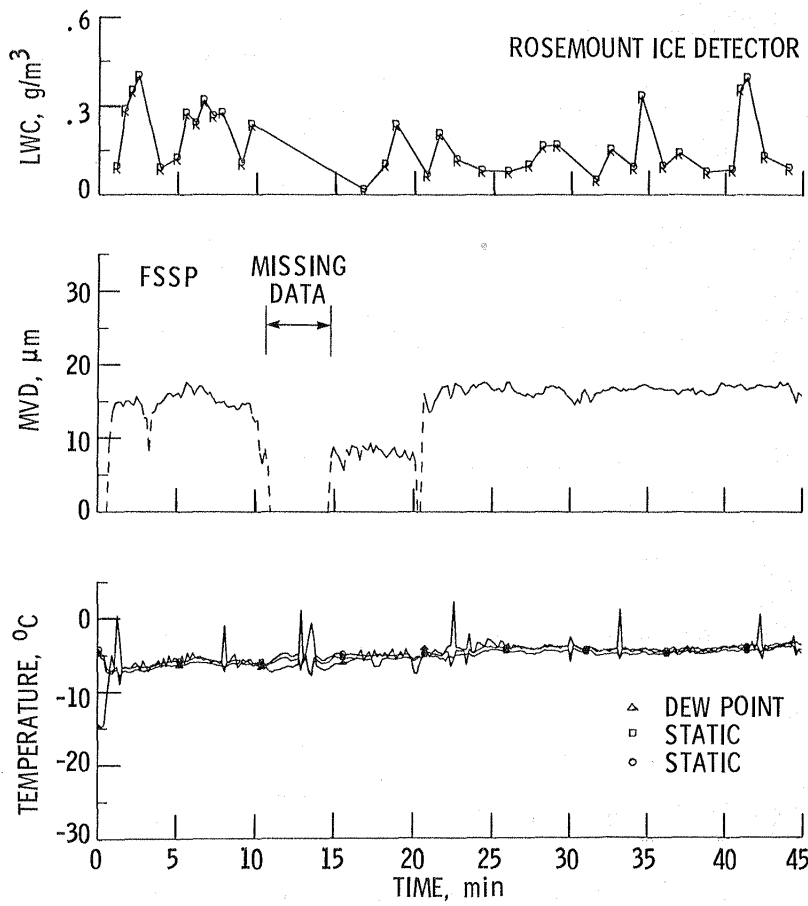


Figure 14. - Icing data for performance flight 86-21.

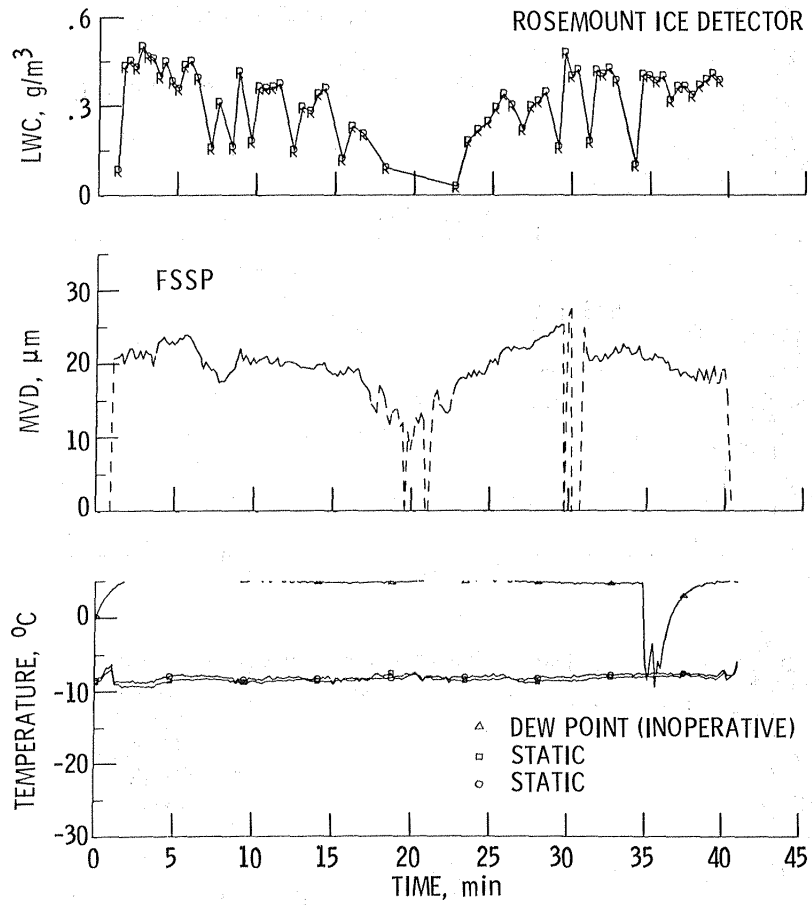


Figure 15. - Icing data for stability and control flight 86-16.

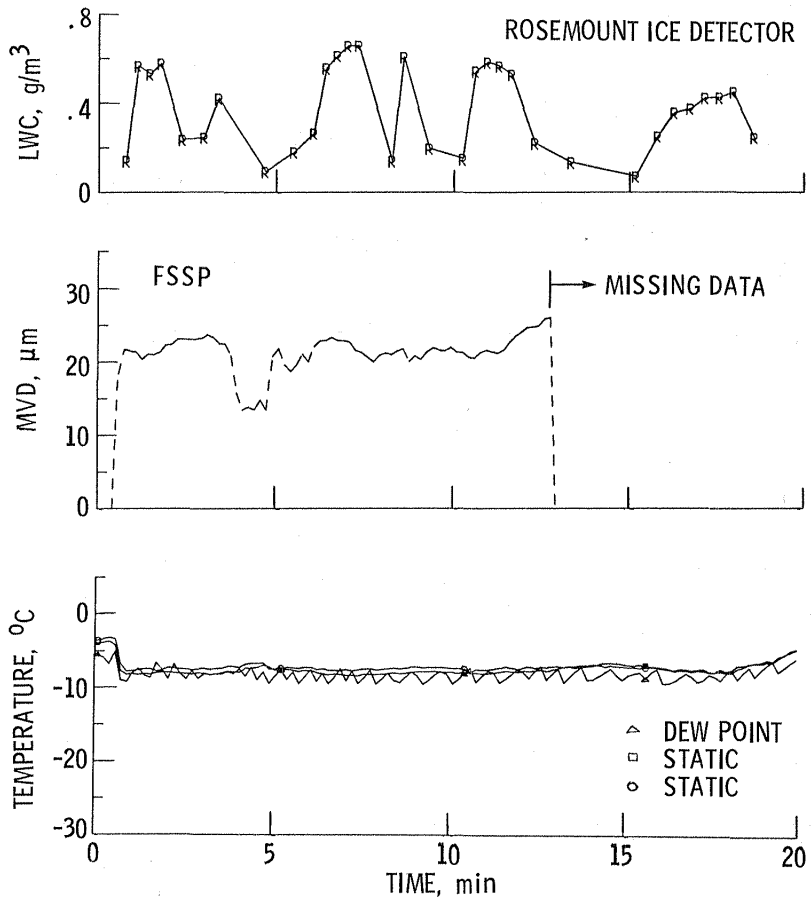


Figure 16. - Icing data for stability and control flight 86-17.

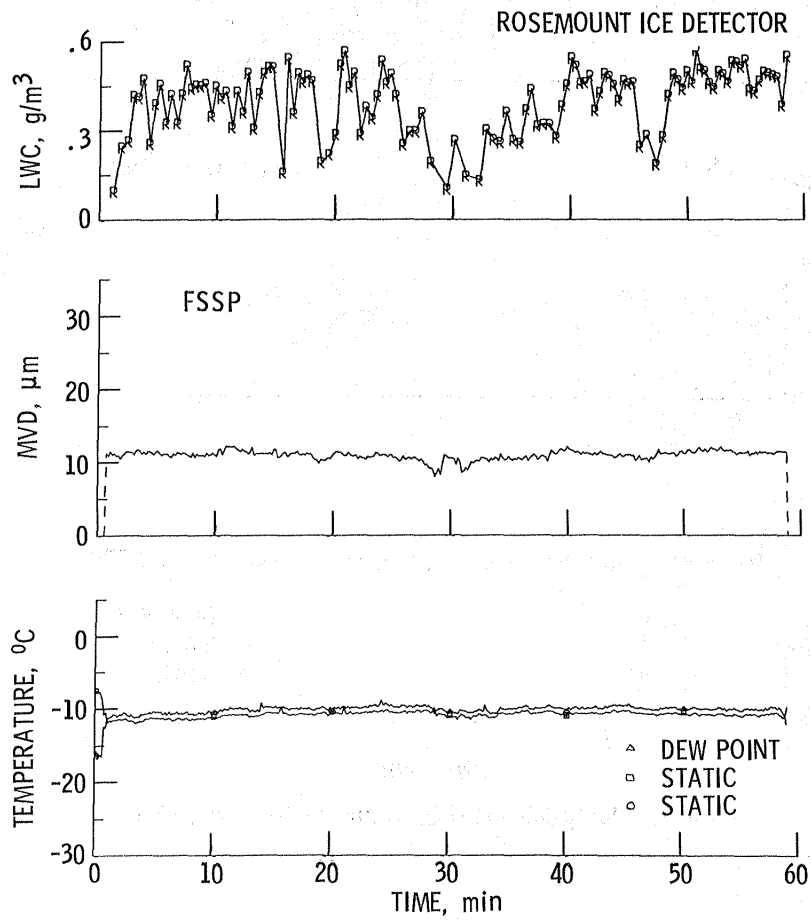


Figure 17. - Icing data for stability and control flight 86-23.

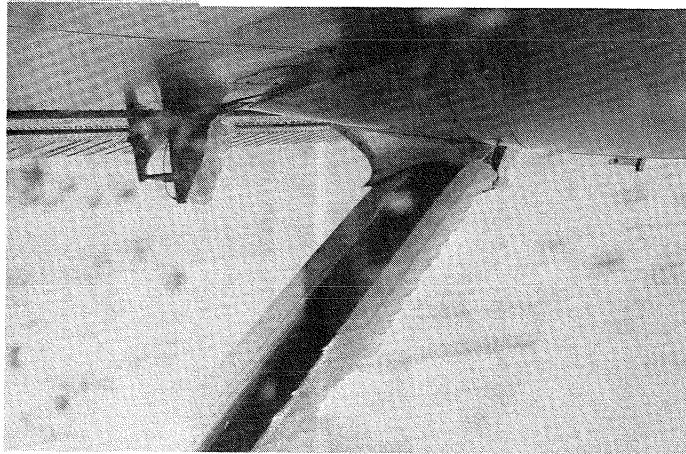
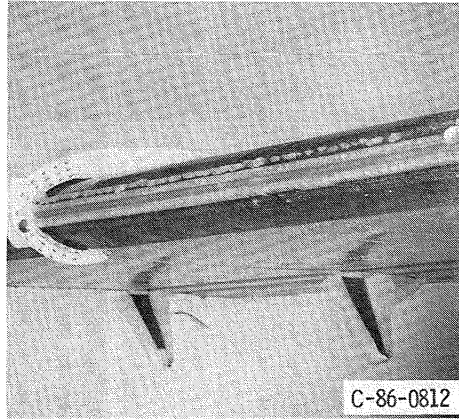
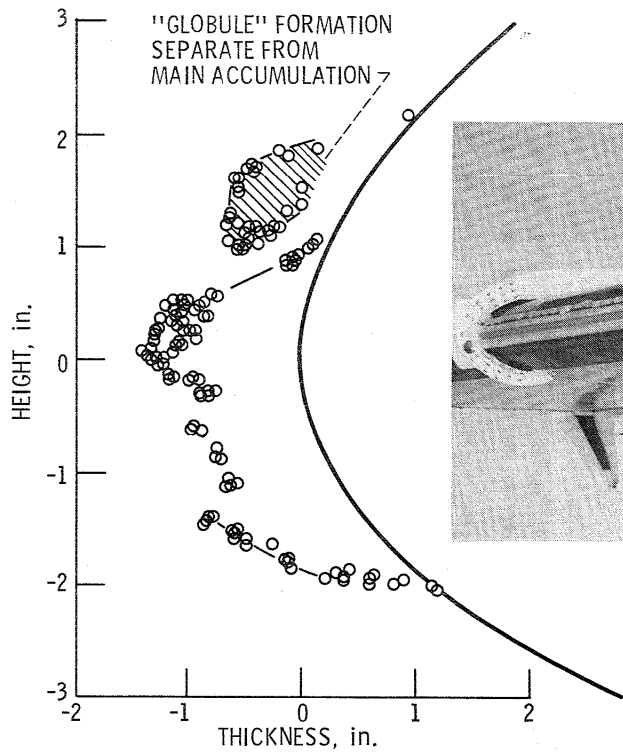


Figure 18. - Wing stereo analysis and photograph of wing strut for performance flight 86-20 for moderate to heavy mixed icing conditions.

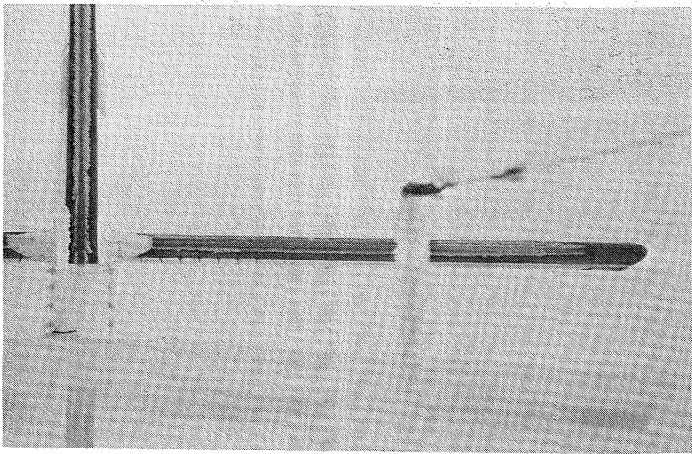
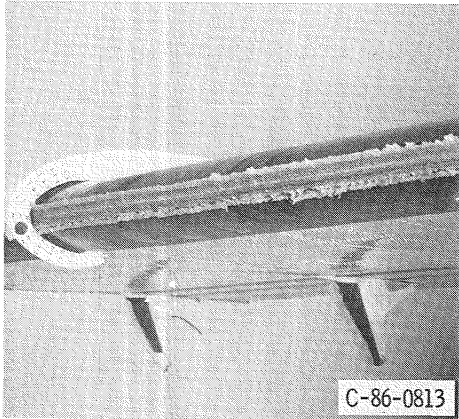
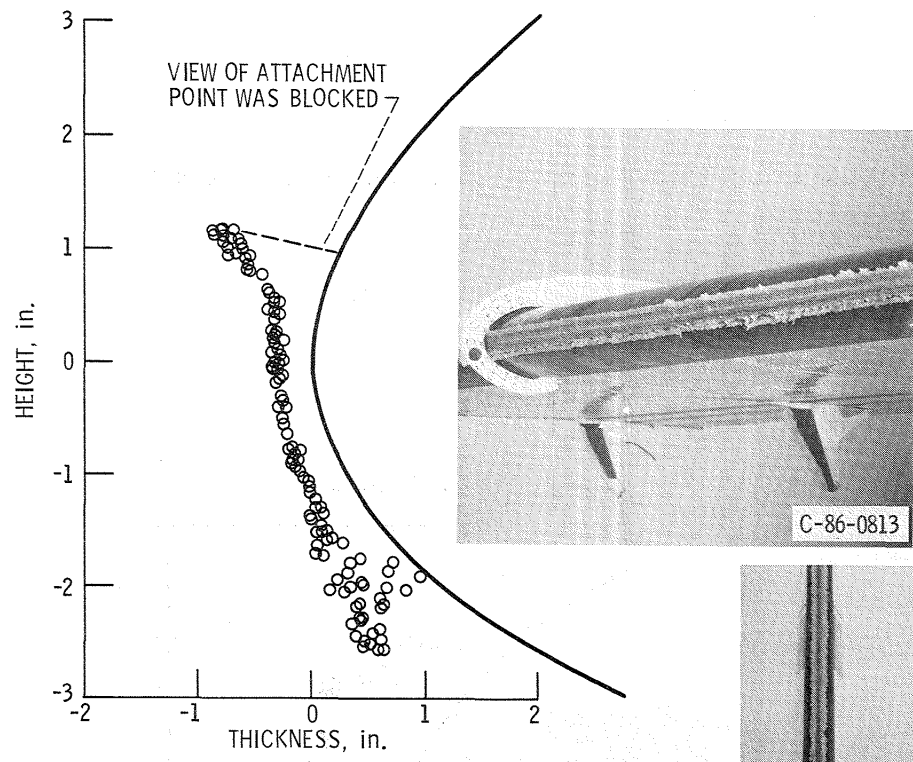


Figure 19. - Wing stereo analysis and photograph of empennage for performance flight 86-21 for moderate glaze icing conditions.

STEREO
ANALYSIS
NOT
AVAILABLE

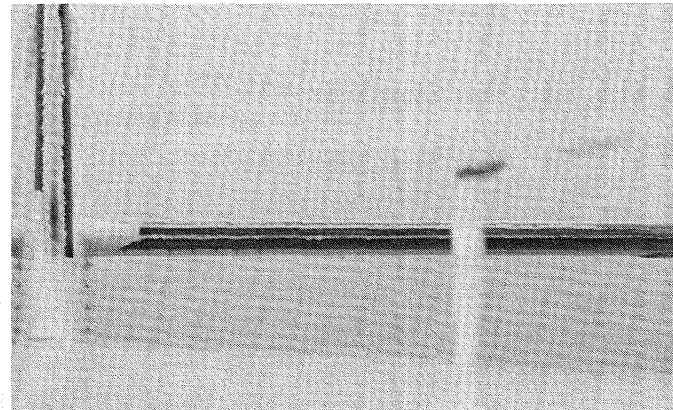
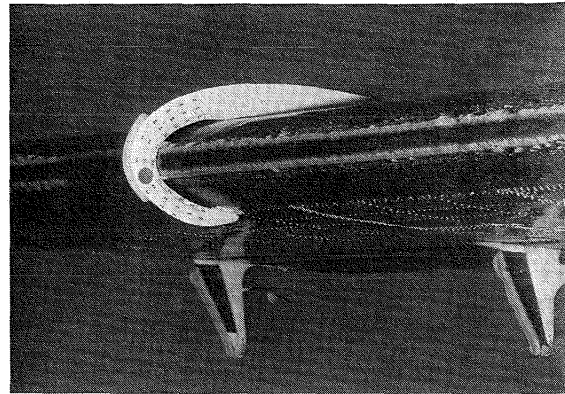


Figure 20. - Wing ice shape and empennage photographs for stability and control flight 86-16 for mixed icing conditions.

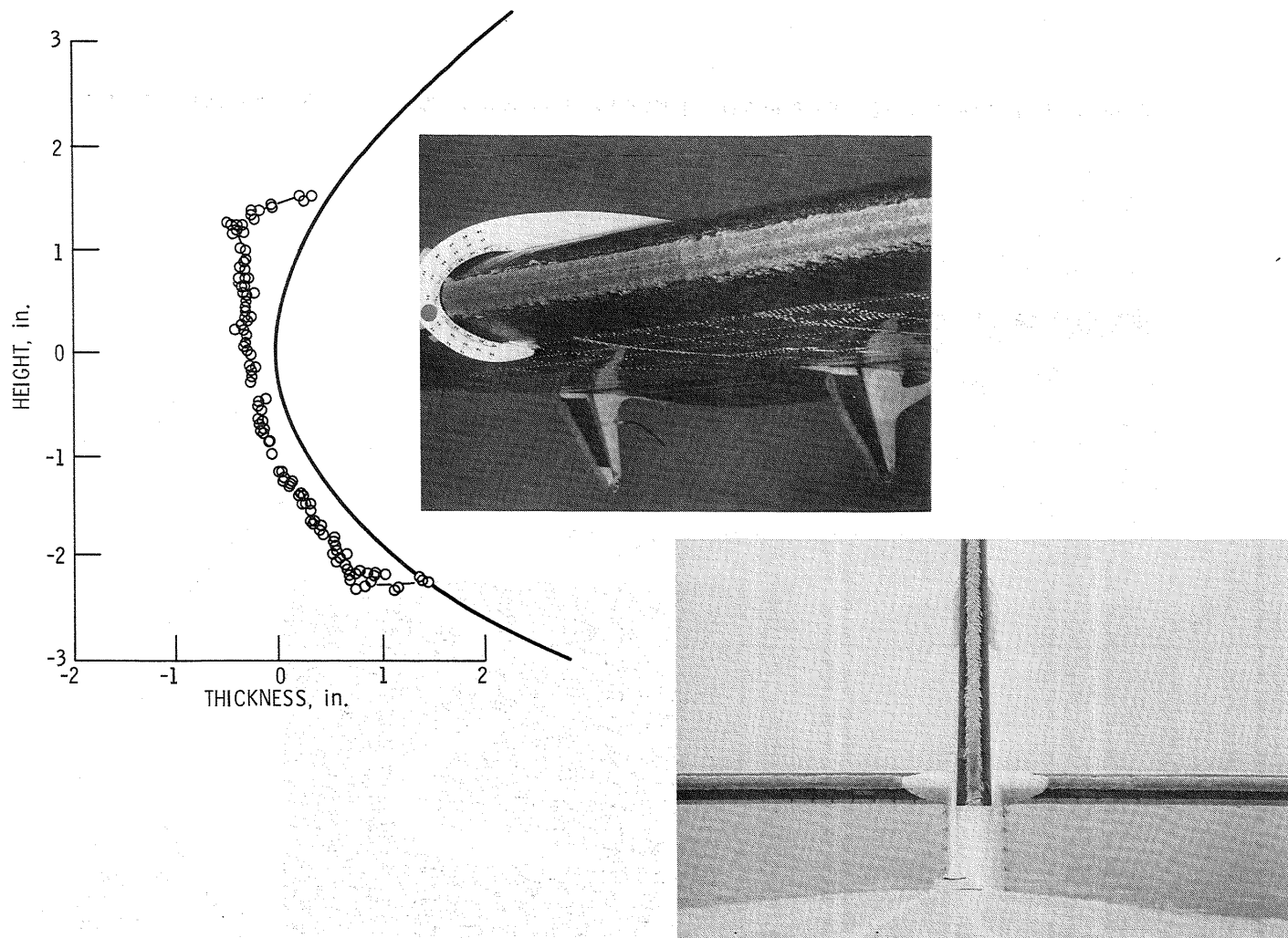


Figure 21. - Wing stereo analysis and photograph of empennage for stability and control flight 86-17 for mixed icing conditions.

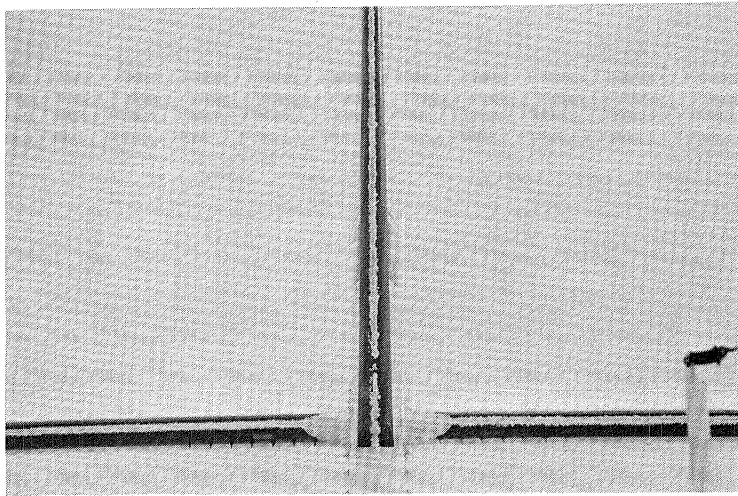


Figure 22. - Rime ice on empennage during flight 86-23.

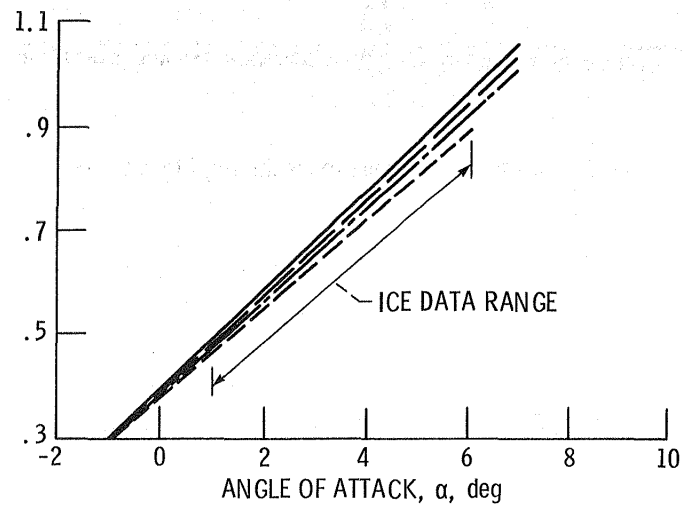
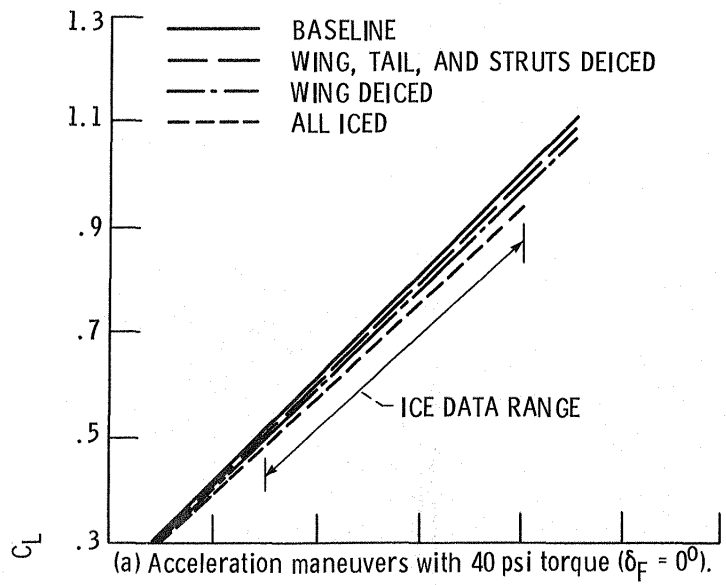


Figure 23. - Effect of mixed ice on lift curve for performance flight 86-20.

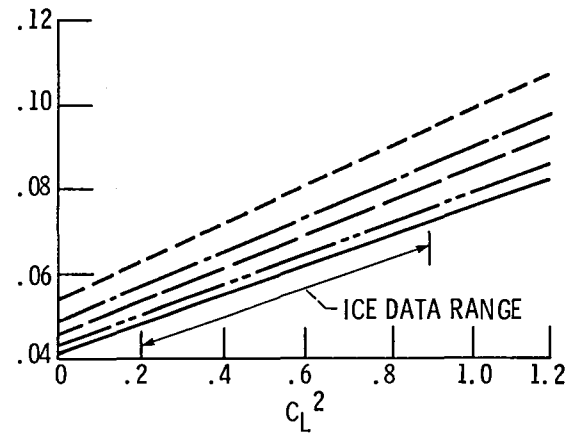
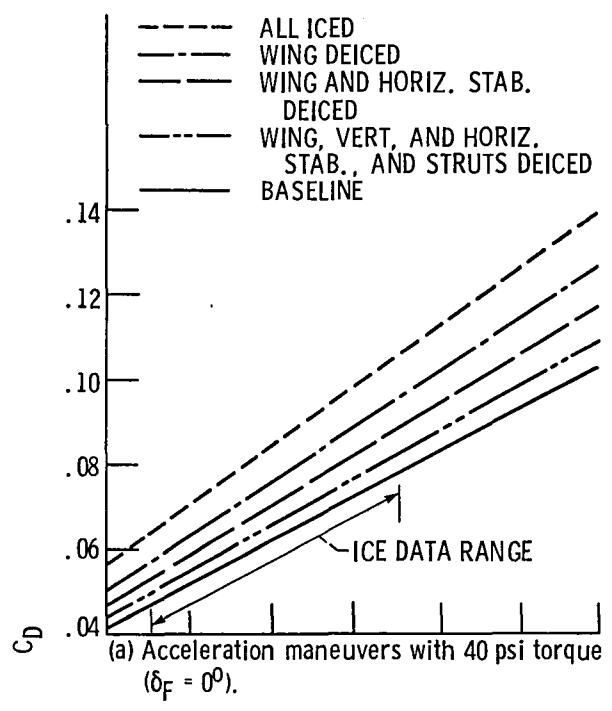
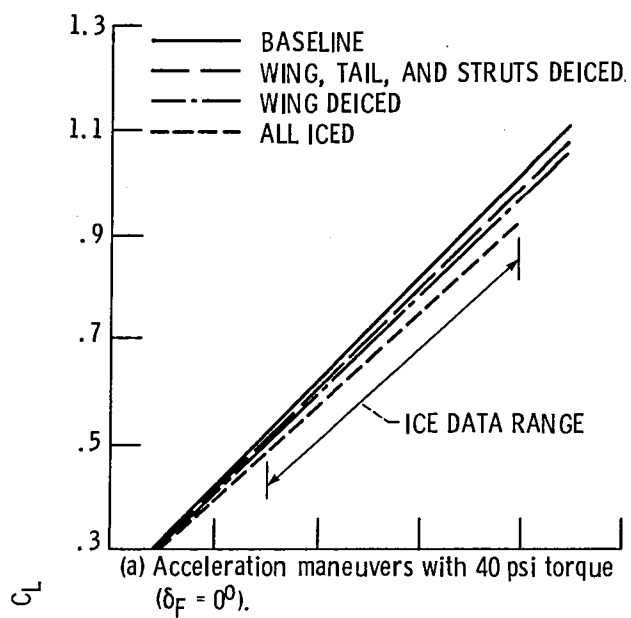
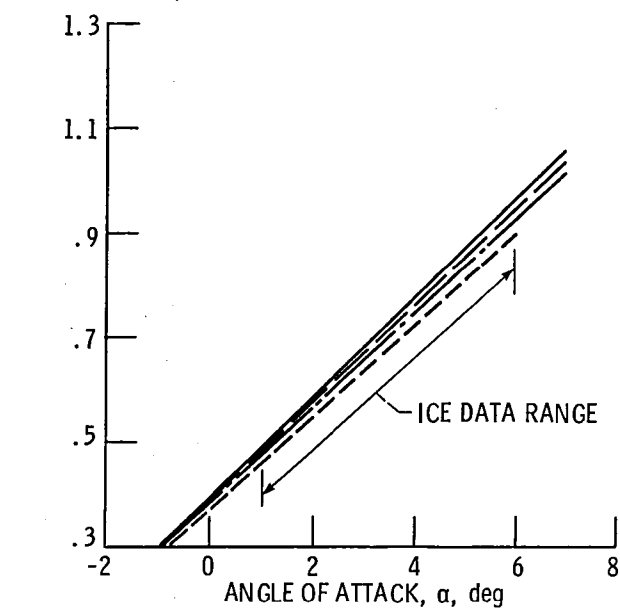


Figure 24. - Effect of mixed ice on aircraft drag for performance flight 86-20.



(a) Acceleration maneuvers with 40 psi torque ($\delta_F = 0^\circ$).



(b) Deceleration maneuvers with 15 psi torque ($\delta_F = 0^\circ$).

Figure 25. - Effect of glaze ice on lift curve for performance flight 86-21.

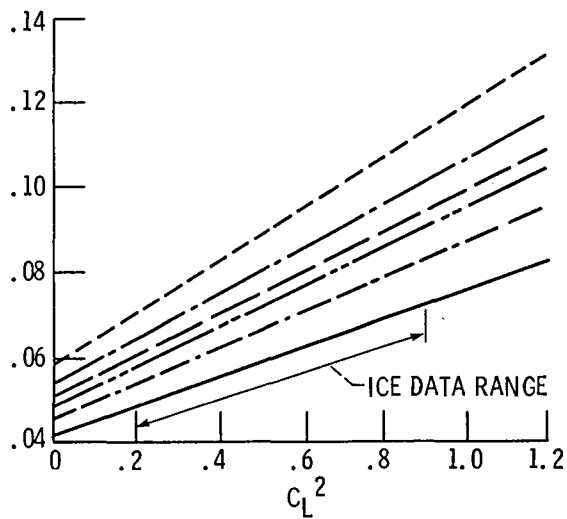
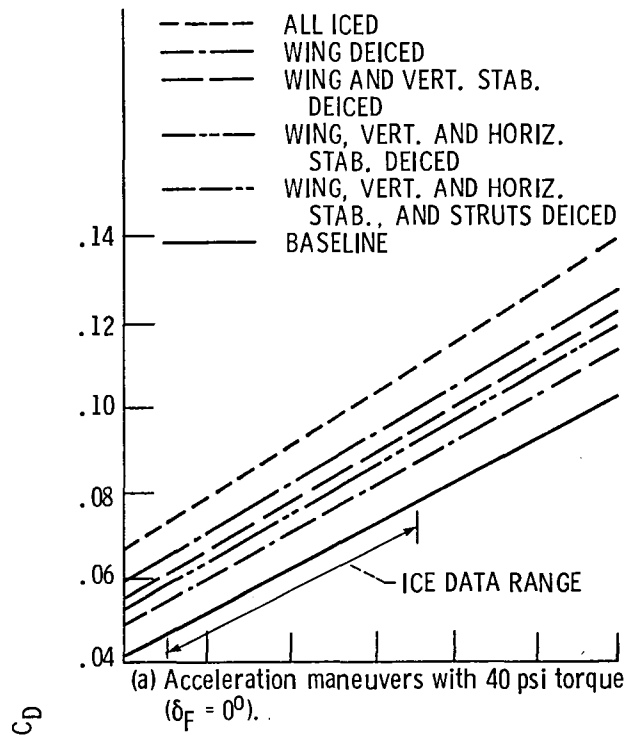
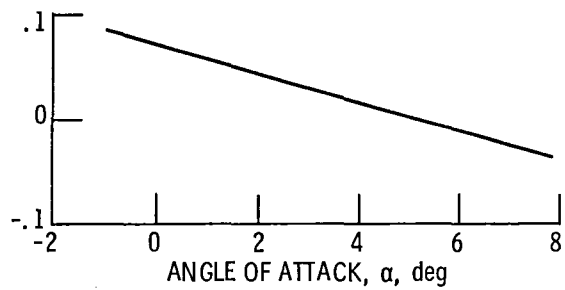
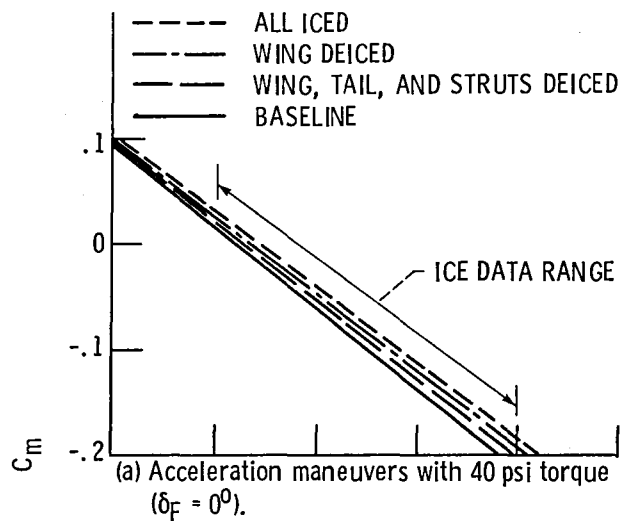


Figure 26. - Effect of glaze ice on aircraft drag for performance flight 86-21.



(b) Deceleration maneuvers with 15 psi torque ($\delta_F = 0^\circ$). Ice had no effect.

Figure 27. - Effect of ice on C_m versus α . Results were the same for performance 86-20 and 21.

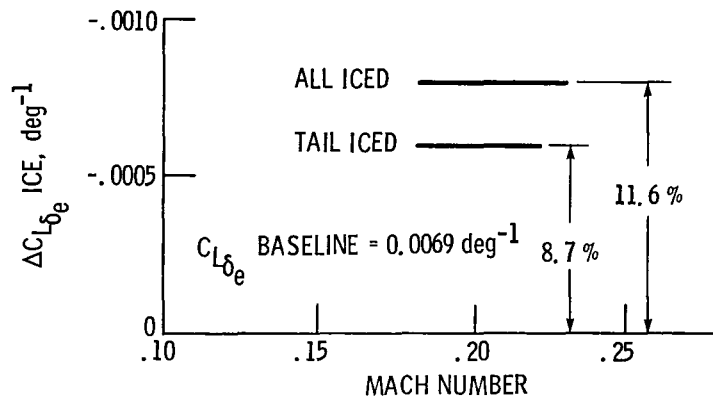
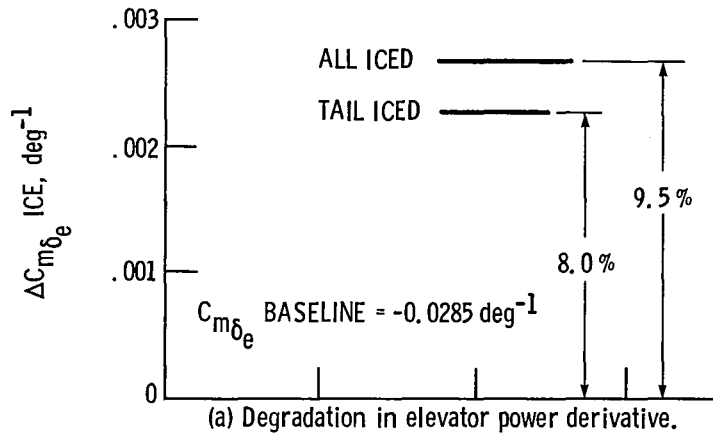


Figure 28. - Effect of mixed icing conditions on the elevator derivatives for stability and control flight 86-16 ($\delta_F = 0^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.06$ to 0.08).

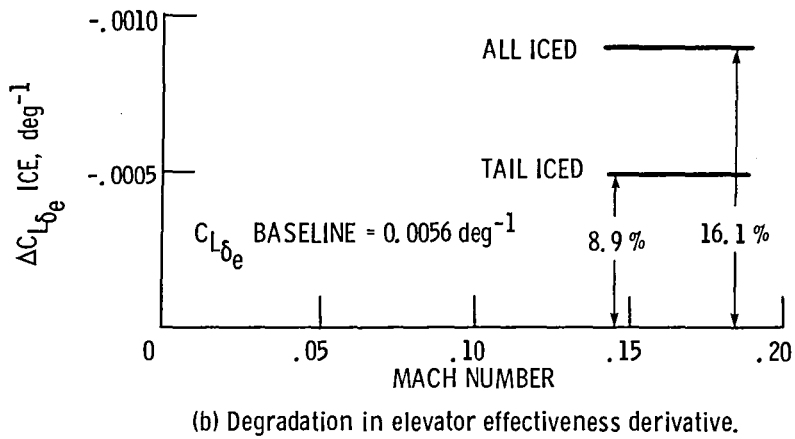
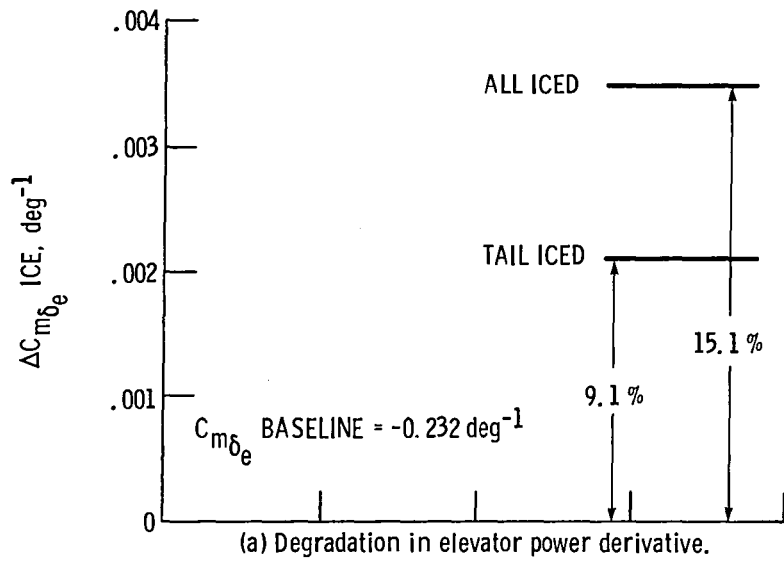


Figure 29. - Effect of mixed icing conditions on the elevator derivatives for stability and control flight 86-16 ($\delta_F = 10^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.05$ to 0.07).

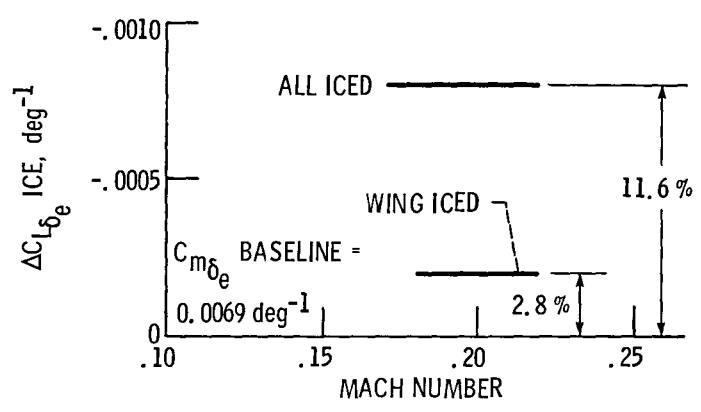
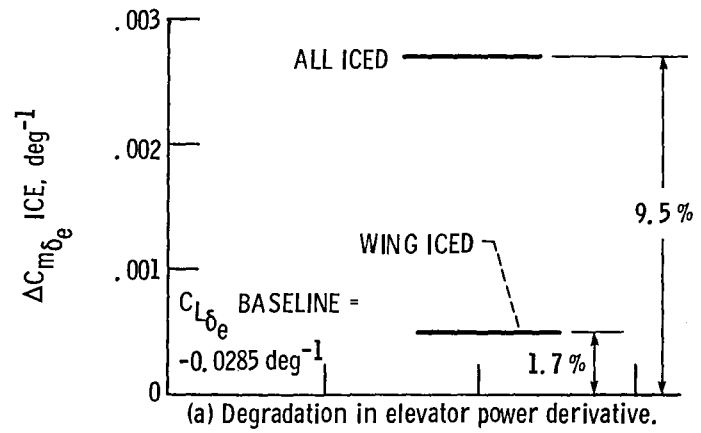


Figure 30. - Effect of mixed icing conditions on the elevator derivatives for stability and control flight 86-17 ($\delta_F = 0^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.06$ to 0.08).

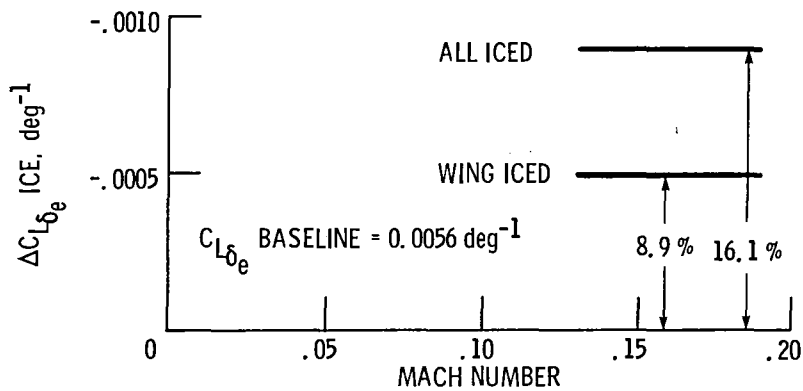
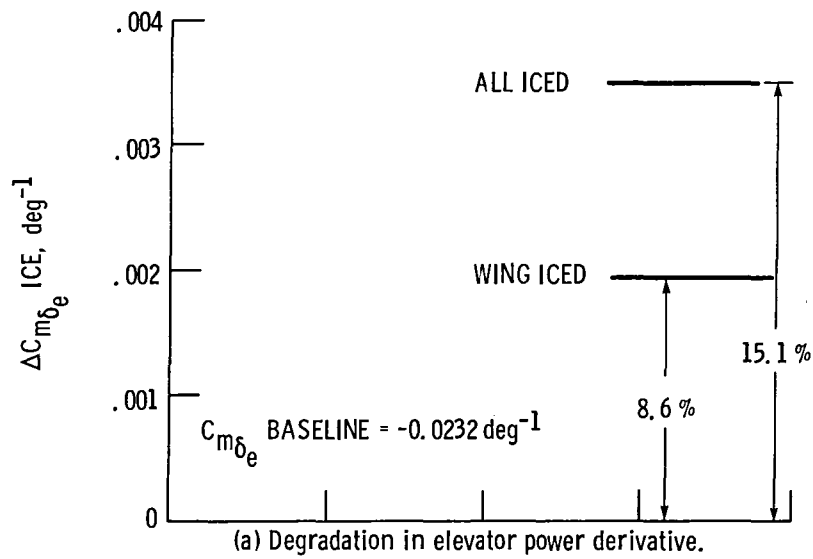
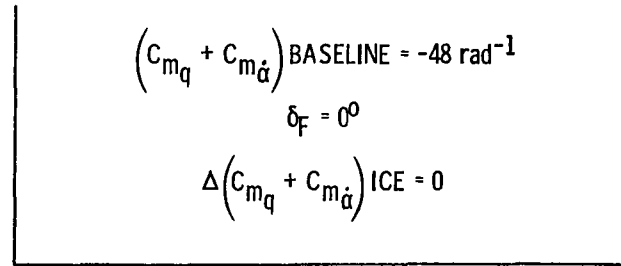
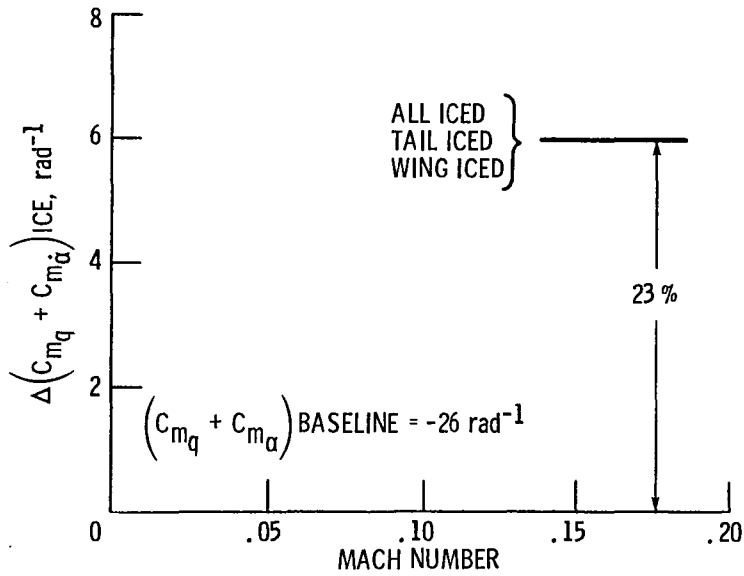


Figure 31. - Effect of mixed icing conditions on the elevator derivatives for stability and control flight 86-17 ($\delta_F = 10^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.05$ to 0.07).

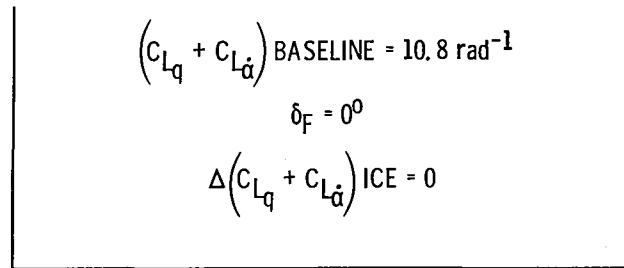


(a) Degradation in pitch damping coefficient was indiscernable at $\delta_F = 0^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.06$ to 0.08 .

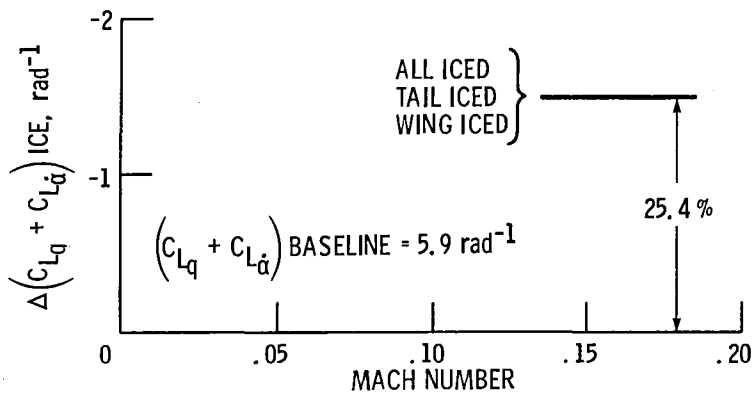


(b) Degradation in pitch damping state coefficient at $\delta_F = 10^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.05$ to 0.07 .

Figure 32. - Effect of mixed icing conditions on pitch damping state coefficient for flights 86-16 and 86-17. Note, results were the same for both flights.



(a) Degradation in state coefficient was indiscernable at $\delta_F = 0^\circ$ AND $C_T = 0.06$ to 0.08 .



(b) Degradation in state coefficient at $\delta_F = 10^\circ$ and $C_T = 0.05$ to 0.07 .

Figure 33. - Effect of mixed icing conditions on the state coefficient for flights 86-16 and 86-17. Note, results were the same for both flights.

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16. Abstract The effects of airframe icing on the performance and stability and control of a twin-engine commuter-class aircraft were measured by the NASA Lewis Research Center. This work consisted of clear air tests with artificial ice shapes attached to the horizontal tail, and natural icing flight tests in measured icing clouds. The clear air tests employed static longitudinal flight test methods to determine degradation in stability margins for four simulated ice shapes. The natural icing flight tests employed a data acquisition system, which was provided under contract to NASA by Kohlman Systems Research Incorporated. This system used a performance modeling method and modified maximum likelihood estimation (MMLE) technique to determine aircraft performance degradation and stability and control. Flight test results with artificial ice shapes showed that longitudinal, stick-fixed, static margins are reduced on the order of 5 percent with flaps up. Natural icing tests with the KSR system corroborated these results and showed degradation in the elevator control derivatives on the order of 8 to 16 percent depending on wing flap configuration. Performance analyses showed the individual contributions of major airframe components to the overall degradation in lift and drag.					
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