

HIRAD MEASURES HISTORIC HURRICANE PATRICIA IN EASTERN

PACIFIC(email to: daniel.j.cecil@nasa.gov/256-961-7549): A NASA WB-57 aircraft carrying NASA MSFC's Hurricane Imaging Radiometer (HIRAD) and Yankee Environmental Systems' High Density Dropsonde System (HDSS) conducted three science flights over Hurricane Patricia from October 21-23. The flights were conducted for the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Tropical Cyclone Intensification program (TCI). Separate aircraft measurements by both the U.S. Air Force Reserve and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration early on October 23 set records for the strongest and most rapidly intensifying hurricane measured by reconnaissance aircraft in the Western Hemisphere. The WB-57 flights observed a rapidly intensifying Category 4 hurricane on October 22 and a rapidly weakening Category-4 or -5 hurricane on October 23.