

Pre-Ave Mission Update

January 24, 2004

The WB-57F and the C-5A successfully arrived in Costa Rica on Saturday, 24 January 2004. The WB-57F took off at 7:13AM CST, with Scott Reagan as the pilot, and Shelley Baccus in the backseat. The flight path of the WB-57F went from Houston to the Yucatán Channel between Cuba and the Yucatán Peninsula. The plane then turned southeastward towards Costa Rica and landed in San Jose at 11:39 AM CST (17:39 UT).

The WB-57F flew six straight-and-level 20-minute flight legs that alternated between 48,000 feet and maximum altitude (57,000 feet). The coldest temperature of about 186 K was observed near San Jose at maximum altitude. All of the instruments successfully took data during the flight, and we are currently preparing for the first equatorial flight on Tuesday, January 27, 2004.

The C-5A arrived with the scientists and ground crew, along with the laboratory, aircraft and ground support equipment required to conduct the mission.



WB-57F Arriving at Juan Santamaria Airport, San Jose, Costa Rica



C-5A Arrival