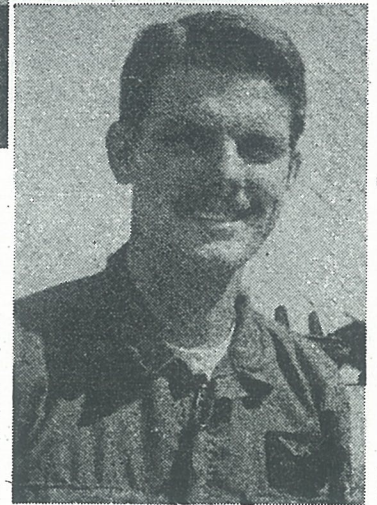




## 'Close encounter'

Sgt. Donald Haas, Capt. Don Callicott and Staff Sgt. Pete Honaker view a map tracing their route through the Bermuda Triangle. Spec. 5 Mark Rasco (insert) said, "Flying through the Bermuda Triangle gave me a very uneasy feeling. After all the stories about that area, I felt as though our lives were in jeopardy. During the flights, especially the night flight, there was a building tension, as though at any moment we would have some sort of a 'Close Encounter' of the unbelievable kind. It was quite an experience."



# EPG flies into Bermuda Triangle

Story and photos  
by Terry Callahan

From Aug. 6 through Aug. 31, the U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground's (AEPG) Aviation Branch was flying radar mapping missions for NASA and the Corps of Engineers Research Center in North Carolina.

The missions, headed by Capt. Don Callicott — pilot, were to observe and gather technical information concerning ocean wave patterns and turbulence. Staff Sgt. Pete Honaker — crew chief, and Spec. 5 Mark Rasco alternated the missions as Technical Observers (TOs).

On Sept. 1 the AEPG aviators were alerted to the approach of hurricane Ella off the coast of Virginia — they were asked to conduct more surveillance, and to

assist in the validation of satellite information about the weather update.

At 9 a.m. the team, in their Hawk 99 (Mohawk) aircraft took off from Cape Hatteras, N.C., to track Ella. Flying parallel to the hurricane, the crew found themselves flying into the mysterious area of the Bermuda Triangle.

The crew flew four more times over the next three days: three missions during the day — and once at night. "The night mission was the scariest! There you are following a hurricane, and all the weird stories about the Bermuda Triangle start creeping into your head," shuddered Callicott, "all the wind, thunder and lightning out there didn't do a single thing toward helping a person relax."