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# WIND TUNNEL SIMULATION AND PROTOTYPE STUDIES OF BARRIER FLOW PHENOMENA

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studied on microfiche

By

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Capt., USAF, Holloman Air Force Base

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University of Texas at El Paso

December 1971

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OF BARRIER FLOW PHENOMENA

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## INTRODUCTION

The Rocket Sled Test Track located at Holloman Air Force Base, a supplemental area of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), New Mexico, is a facility for the testing of rain erosion on supersonic projectiles moving along a 1.8 km erosion test section. The artificially produced rain field, however, can be excessively distorted by winds with transverse components in excess of one meter per second. This condition prevails about 35% of the time. However, the transverse component of wind speed is less than three meters per second only about 85% of the time. Therefore, a wind barrier reducing the transverse component of wind from three meters per second to a value of one meter per second will more than double the number of days per year in which the test facility may be used. Because of the high cost of manning the test facility, the monetary loss due to "scrubbed" tests is many thousands of dollars per month. Therefore, a properly designed barrier will result in very great savings to the government.

This study considers the design features necessary to construct a wind barrier. Models were constructed and tested in the Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory wind tunnel at WSMR. Prototype models were then constructed and field tested. Finally, recommendations are given concerning the design and construction of the needed wind barrier at the rocket sled test facility.

## BACKGROUND

The utility of wind barriers has been recognized for many years. Agricultural scientists have used the shelter effect of semidense rows of trees planted upwind (to the prevailing wind) of a cultivated area to reduce wind damage to crops substantially. Snow fences have been used along roads (depositing snow before it reaches the road) and in mountain areas (settling vastly greater amounts of snow to increase summertime water run-off).

The adaptation of natural barriers is mentioned by Geiger [1] and Sutton [2]. Early quantitative work was undertaken by Jensen [3], who performed the task of obtaining accurate wind defect data.

Geiger refers to Nägeli's work [4] on the pattern of wind defect behind a 2.2 m screen of 45-55% hole area (Figure 1). The zone of maximum protection for this configuration lies at a horizontal distance equal to 4 to 5 barrier heights (bh) downstream, while a 50% wind reduction is observed for as far as 12 bh at approximately 1/2 bh above the ground. Figure 2 shows the relative effect of shelter belt density from which it is apparent that the most dense barrier provides maximum protection

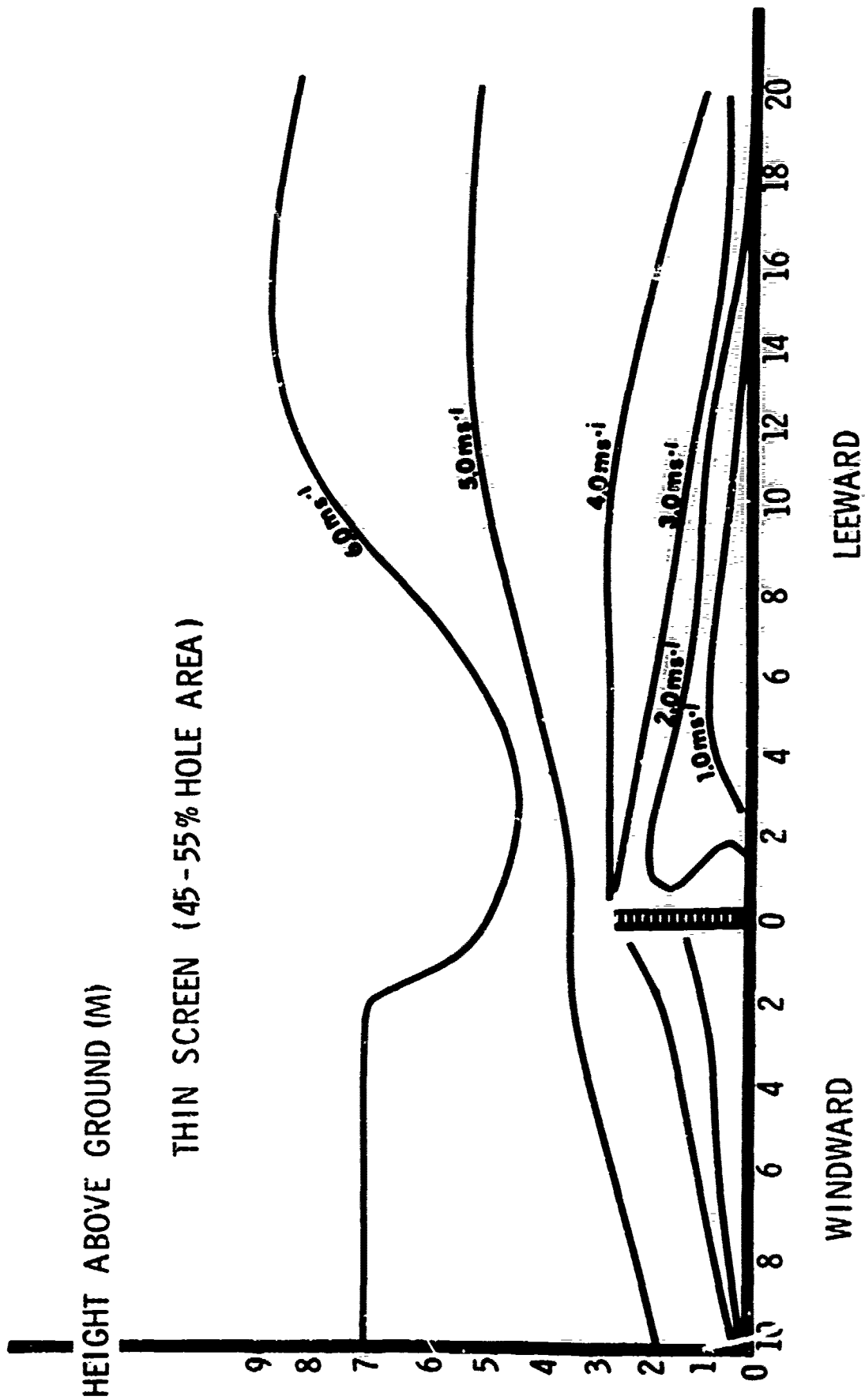


Figure 1. Wind field around reed screen (from measurements made by Nägeli [4]).

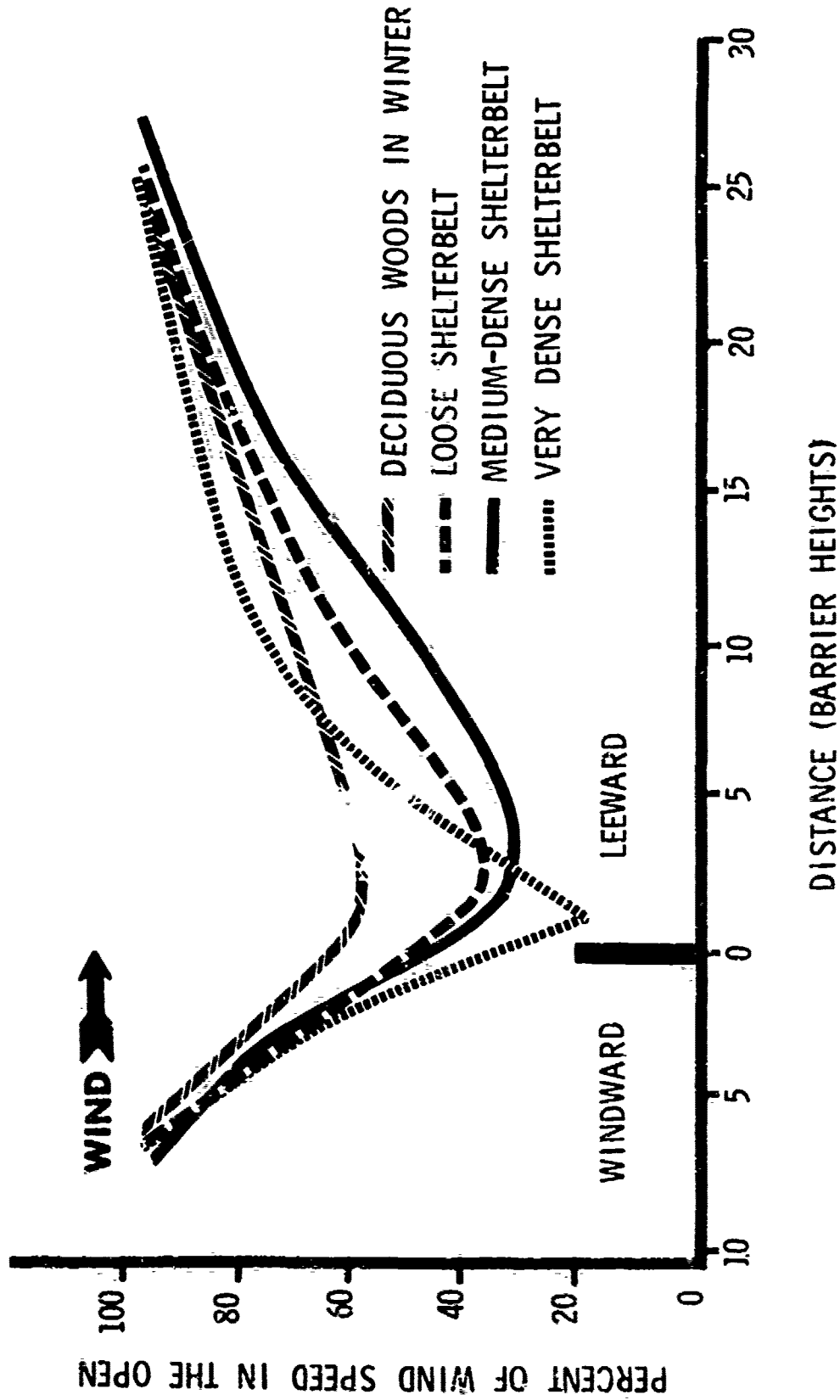


Figure 2. Shelter effect as a function of permeability (based on measurements made by Nägeli [5]).

immediately behind the obstacle (with higher turbulence levels in the protection region) at about 1 bh, but that a medium-dense shelter belt affords wind defect amounts up to 65% some 4 bh downstream.

### THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The flow phenomenon may be considered as a steady mean current with superimposed perturbations over a wide range of scales. If we consider the barrier as a wall with a half cylinder at the top, we know that the onset of turbulence downstream from the barrier will occur in a time directly proportional to the radius of the cylinder. Therefore, in the limiting case of zero radius, the onset is practically instantaneous regardless of flow velocity.

Ideally the steady flow should yield to a theoretical treatment by writing down flow equations, representing the differential equations by difference equations and programming their appropriate numerical solutions on an adequately fast and large computer subject to the appropriate boundary and initial conditions. However, the singularity introduced by the projecting edge of the barrier causes standard routine methods of solution to break down and forces introduction into the problem of an approximate boundary condition, e.g., a small-radius cylinder at the top, and changes the very nature of the barrier.

In addition, the treatment of turbulence requires the introduction of empirical functions appropriate to the regime under consideration. Unfortunately, every such empirical function contains certain parameters which can be evaluated only by experimental studies. Such procedures might be worthwhile if one needed a guide for designing barriers for a number of applications with very precise design specifications imposed. However, by the time a prototype barrier is built and experimental studies are made and compared with wind tunnel results, all the necessary information is available for the design of an effective barrier for the Holloman facility. Any inclusion of empirical functions to demonstrate a more precise mathematical analysis would not add materially to the content of the paper. In no practical application of wind barriers has a mathematical analysis been fruitful because of the very nature of the singular boundary conditions and the mathematically intractable form of the problem.

### EXPERIMENTATION

A study was undertaken in which the effectiveness of various wind barrier configurations was evaluated to determine a practical design which would reduce the wind effect in the test area and, at the same time, increase the operating time available for experiments in the simulated rain field.

Since studies by Jensen [3], Nägeli [4] and others [5-12] have shown as much as 70 to 80% reduction in wind speed on the lee side of dense barriers, with correspondingly smaller reductions behind less dense barriers, it was believed that a practical, effective wind barrier could be designed for the sled track rain field. Both wind tunnel and field studies were undertaken to determine the barrier configuration desired and to estimate the probable magnitude of wind speed reduction.

### Wind Tunnel Barrier Experiments

Barriers 15 cm high (scale 1:40) and extending the width of the wind tunnel were placed in the test section, and wind speed measurements were taken at various locations behind the barrier using a hot-film anemometer probe. Tests were run to determine the effects of (a) barrier permeability, (b) ambient wind speed, and (c) a flap affixed to the top of the barrier. Wind tunnel instrumentation and simulation are discussed in Appendix A.

Changing the ambient wind speed between 5 and 15 m/sec appeared to have little effect on the normalized wind values, so all subsequent tests were run at an ambient speed of about 5 m/s.

Three barriers having hole areas of 0, 35, and 60% were used to determine the effect of hole area on barrier effectiveness. Measurements were made at distances equal to 1 to 6 bh behind the barrier at a height of .5 bh for the 0 and 35% barriers, and at .25 bh for the 60% barriers. The results are shown in Figure 3. The 60%-hole-area barrier is quite ineffective at all distances behind the barrier, even at .25 bh above the floor. The solid barrier is best to a distance equal to 1.5 bh downstream but is much less efficient than the 35%-hole-area barrier at greater distances. Since the region of interest is 2 to 4 bh behind the barrier, it appeared that a 35%-hole-area barrier was most promising.

More information about the wind field behind the 35%-hole-area barrier was desired. Wind speed measurements were made at heights of .25, .5, .75, 1, 1.25, and 1.5 bh at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 bh behind the barrier. The normalized wind (measured flow velocity divided by mean tunnel wind velocity) speeds are shown in Table 1. These values were used to plot isotachs as shown in Figure 4. At distances equal to 3 to 4 bh to the lee of the barrier, wind speed reductions of 80% or more are realized to heights of approximately one bh.

A sheet metal flap 5 cm wide and the same length as the barrier was affixed horizontally to the top of the barrier extending leeward in an attempt to reduce turbulence behind the barrier. Little difference

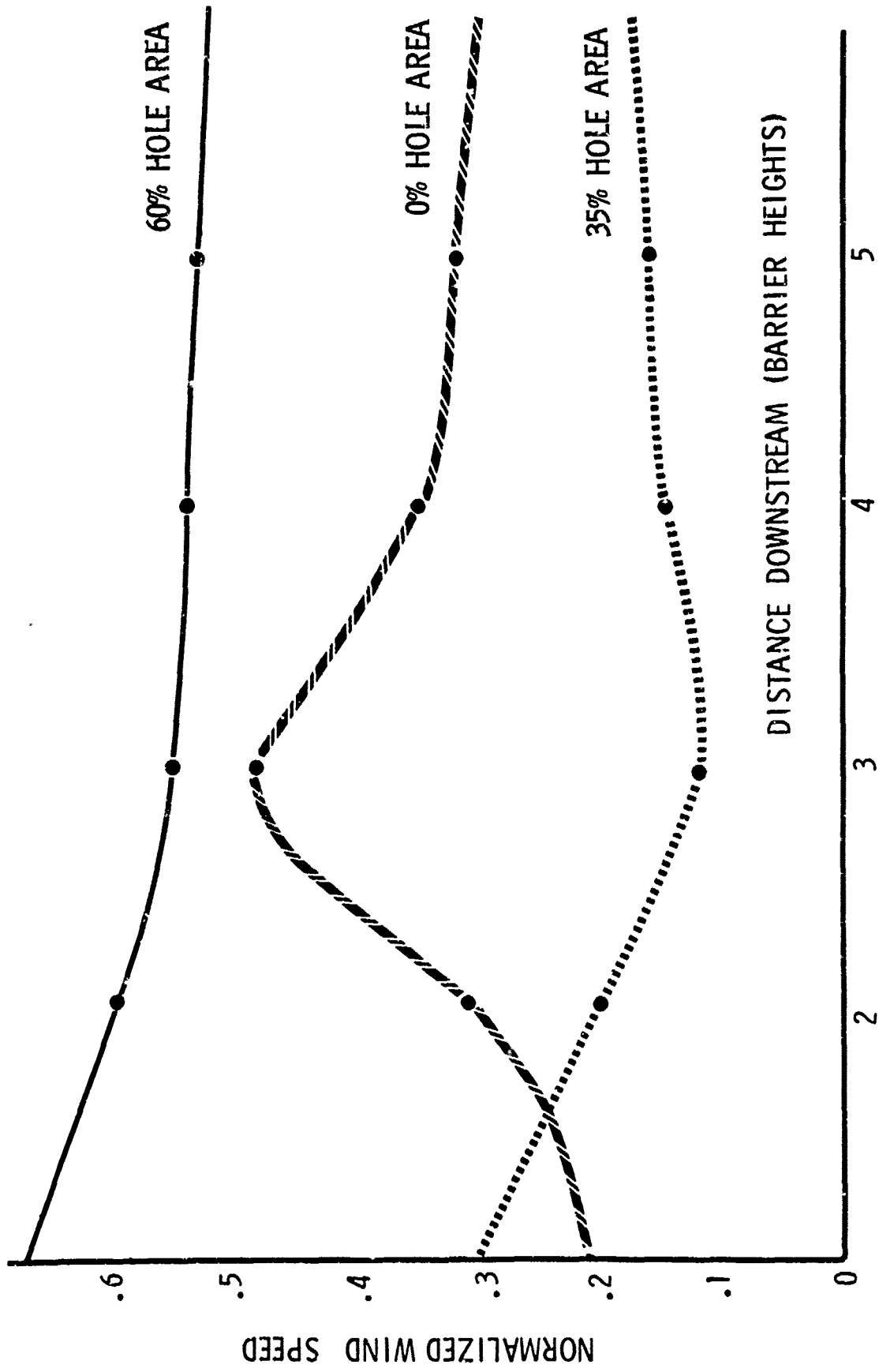


Figure 3. Wind tunnel comparison of barrier effectiveness.

TABLE I

NORMALIZED WIND SPEEDS FROM WIND TUNNEL TESTS  $U/U_0$   
 AMBIENT FREE FLOW IN TUNNEL =  $U_0 = 3.5 \pm 0.06$  m/s

NORMALIZED WIND SPEEDS

1.50	1.10	0.67	0.54	0.49	0.46	0.44
1.25	0.42	0.40	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.30
1.00	0.39	0.30	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.21
.75	0.35	0.19	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.16
.50	0.27	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.16
.25	0.16	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.15
0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Distance Downstream from Barrier (in terms of barrier height)

Vertical Position of Sensor (bh)

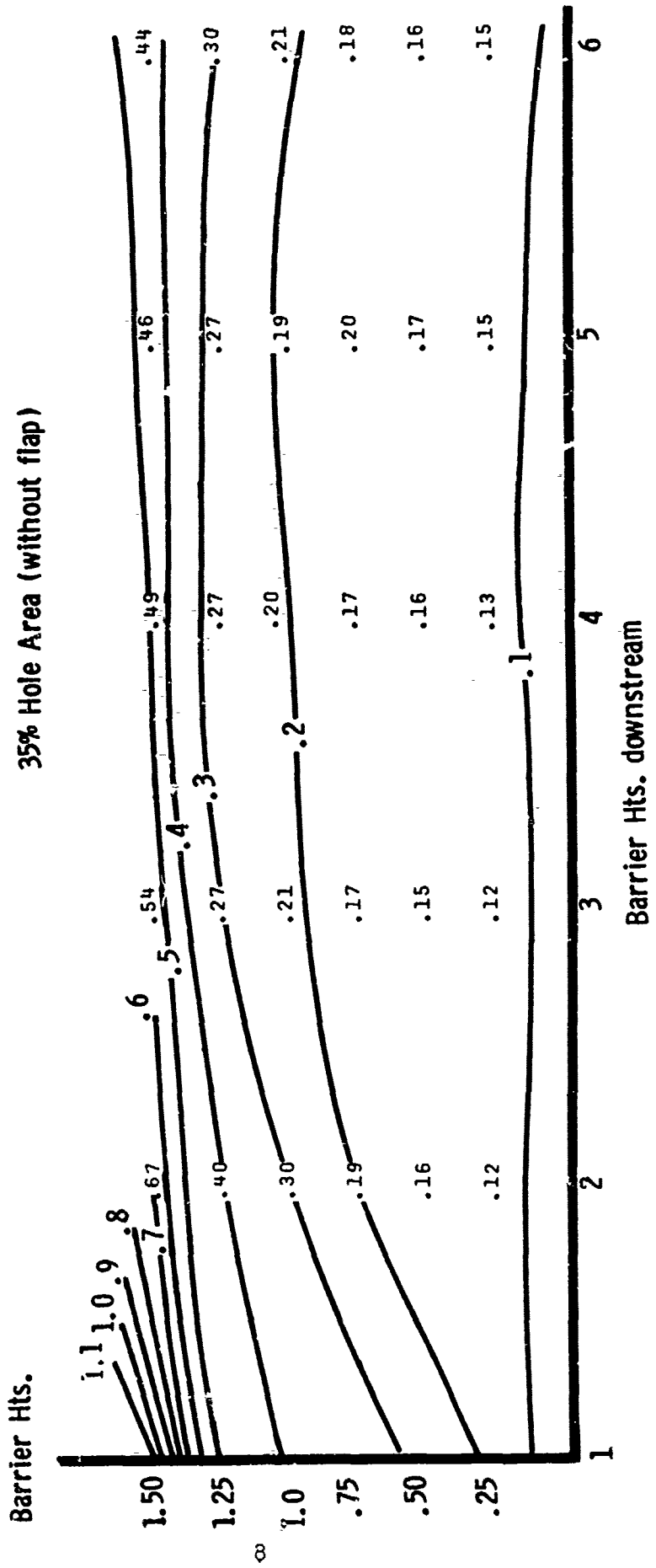


Figure 4. Downstream isotach field, wind tunnel test.



was observed between wind speed profiles when the flap was used and when it was not, although the flap did produce slightly more laminar flow and slightly lighter wind speeds close to the floor.

### Field Tests

To check the validity of the wind tunnel data and to provide a means to scale up to the dimensions of the desired wind barrier, a field prototype barrier was constructed. It consisted of a chain link fence, 30 m long and 2.1 m high, with diagonal aluminum slats (Figure 5). The top .3 m of the fence was inclined at a 45° angle. The hole area was estimated to be 30 to 40%, about the same as the optimal hole area in wind tunnel experiments.

Wind measurements were made in front of and behind the fence with low-threshold cup anemometers (output was integrated to give mean wind speed) and a wind vane for wind direction measurements.

### First Experiment

Initially, anemometers were set at 1/2 fence height at distances of 1.5, 3, and 6 fence heights to the lee of the fence and 6 fence heights to the windward side. Fifteen-minute averages of wind speed and direction were recorded. Visual evidence (Figures 8&9) show that for the porous barrier, variabilities about these averages for a steady wind are small. The wind speeds were normalized by dividing by the windward anemometer reading at the same height. Table II gives data for winds with large components perpendicular to the fence (normal  $\pm 30^\circ$ ). Because the wind direction is extremely variable in light winds, the 15-minute average may include winds from directions quite different from the indicated mean.

### Second Experiment

In a second experiment, conducted during a steady 3 to 5 m/sec wind, three anemometers were mounted on a mast at heights of .9, 1.8, and 2.7 m. A fourth anemometer was placed 18 m to the windward side of the fence at a height of .9 m to give average ambient wind. The mast was placed successively at 1.5, 3, and 6 m in front of and behind the fence and against the fence, and 5-minute averages were collected in each location. These were normalized by dividing by the wind speed obtained with the fourth anemometer. Results of the experiment are shown in Table III, and the isotachs are plotted in Figure 6.

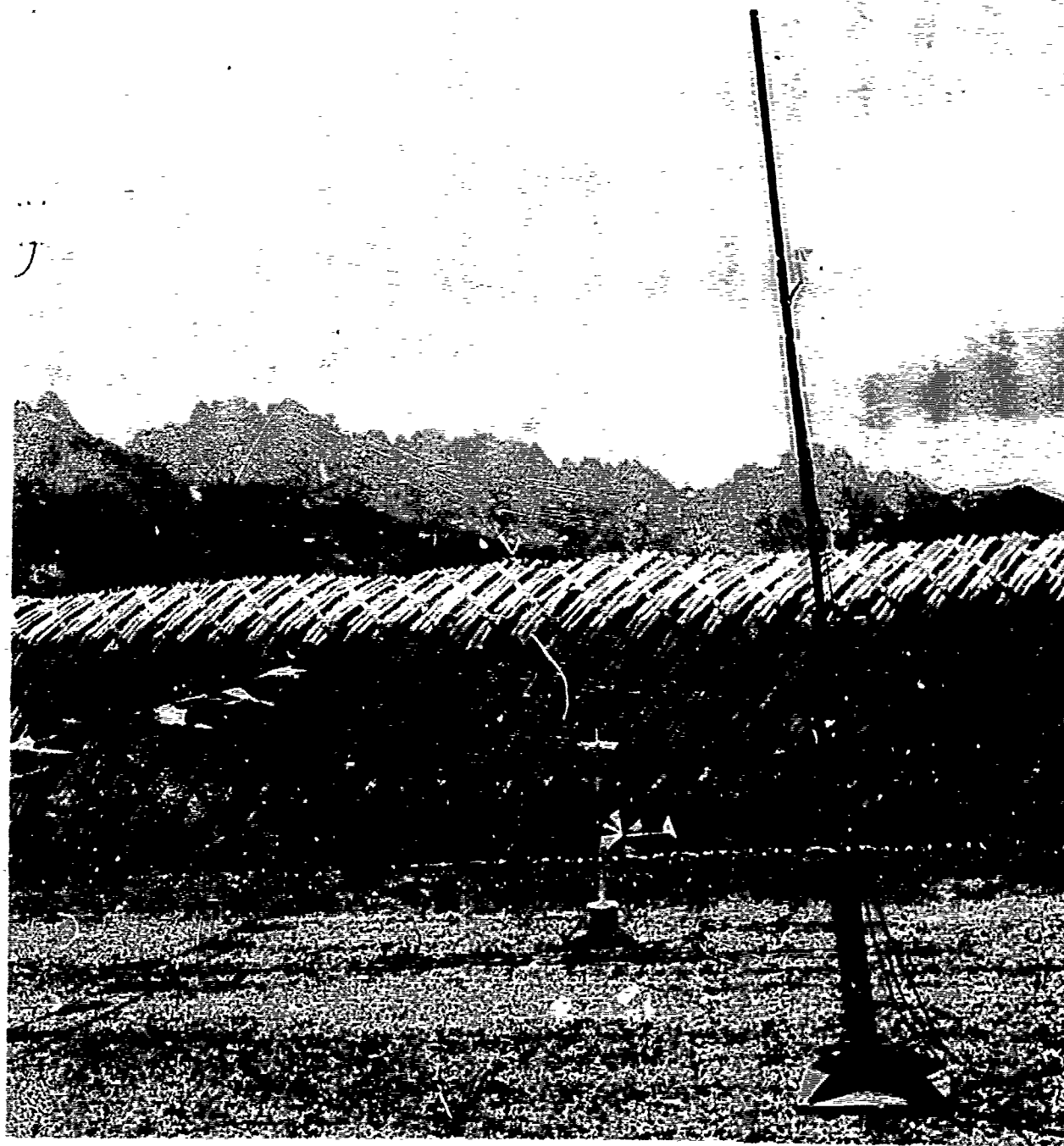


Figure 5. Prototype fence with aluminum slats.

TABLE 11  
 THESE DATA ARE FOR WINDS PERPENDICULAR (WITHIN  $\pm 30^\circ$  OF NORMAL) TO THE PROTOTYPE BARRIER (COVER 15-MINUTE INTERVALS)

MEAN AMBIENT WIND SPEED (METERS/SECOND)	N O R M A L I Z E D W I N D S P E E D S	D O W N S T R E A M		
		1.5 bh	3 bh	6 bh
0.80	0.01	0.15	0.55	
1.24	0.18	0.42	0.68	
1.13	0.01	0.12	0.35	
1.24	0.06	0.23	0.56	
1.21	0.02	0.13	0.42	
0.83	0.29	0.54	0.75	
1.15	0.00	0.03	0.31	
1.08	0.23	0.40	0.59	
0.55	0.02	0.44	0.84	
1.27	0.01	0.13	0.39	
0.85	0.00	0.07	0.48	
1.24	0.00	0.09	0.40	
1.54	0.10	0.19	0.42	
1.95	0.19	0.28	0.54	
2.36	0.19	0.28	0.51	
2.79	0.20	0.29	0.51	
2.74	0.19	0.27	0.50	
2.45	0.22	0.30	0.59	
2.15	0.20	0.23	0.43	
2.92	0.26	0.29	0.52	
1.35	0.08	0.14	0.36	

Wind Sensor Vertical Position was 1/2 Barrier Height

TABLE III

AMBIENT WIND SPEED  $3.6 \pm 0.9$  m/sec WIND DIRECTION--FROM THE EAST

Vertical Position of Sensors	141	139	150	371	438	127	102	123	Pulses NWS*
2.7 m	1.06	1.15	1.04	1.22	1.20	0.91	0.65	1.08	
1.8 m	1.30	1.25	1.28	297	92	32	41	88	Pulses NWS*
.9 m	0.98	1.03	0.89	0.98	0.26	0.23	0.26	0.77	
	1.13	1.05	1.00	153	111	45	34	65	Pulses NWS*
	0.85	0.88	0.69	0.50	0.31	0.82	0.22	0.57	
HORIZONTAL POSITION OF SENSORS (M)									
Control	6E	3E	1.5E	0.2E	1.5W	3W	6W	12W	Pulses
	133	121	144	304	357	140	158	114	

Data taken as puses and normalized by simultaneous measurements at control instrument in ambient flow.

Data taken 12 m west were influenced by 0.8 m ridge parallel to fence which would be expected to increase wind velocity measured at this station.

\*NWS denotes Normalized Wind Speed =  $\frac{\text{pulses}}{\text{control pulses}}$  •

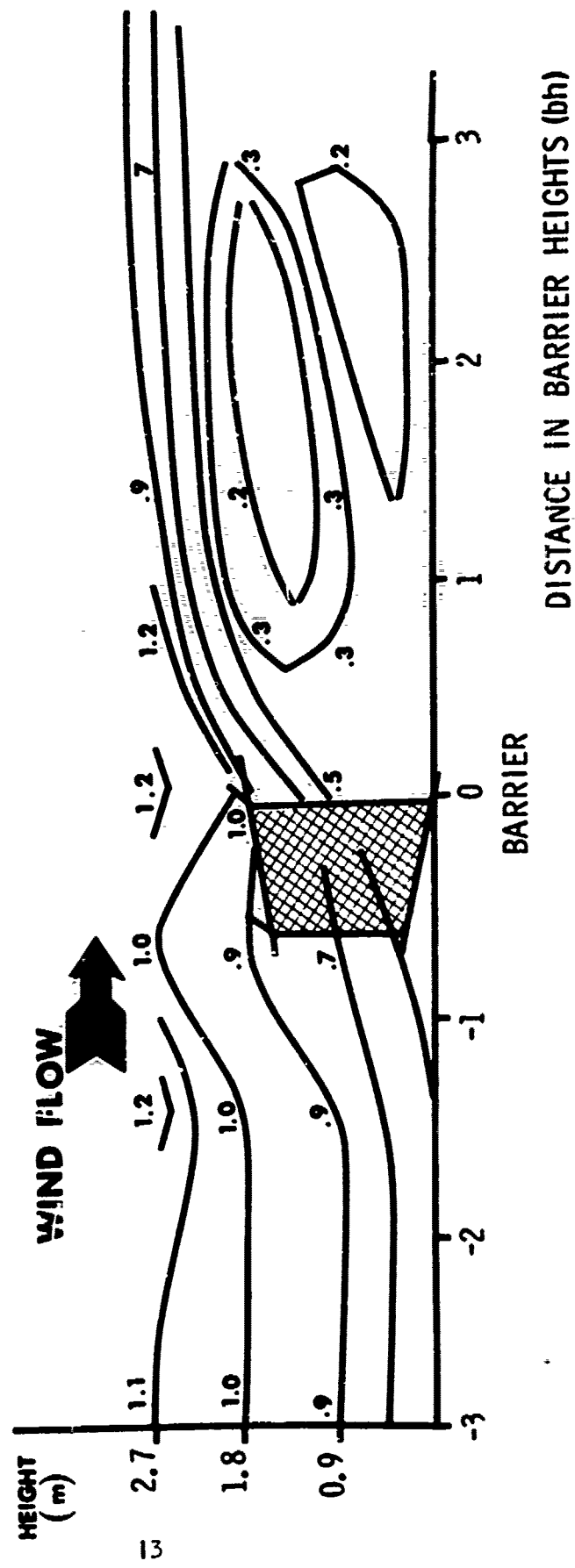


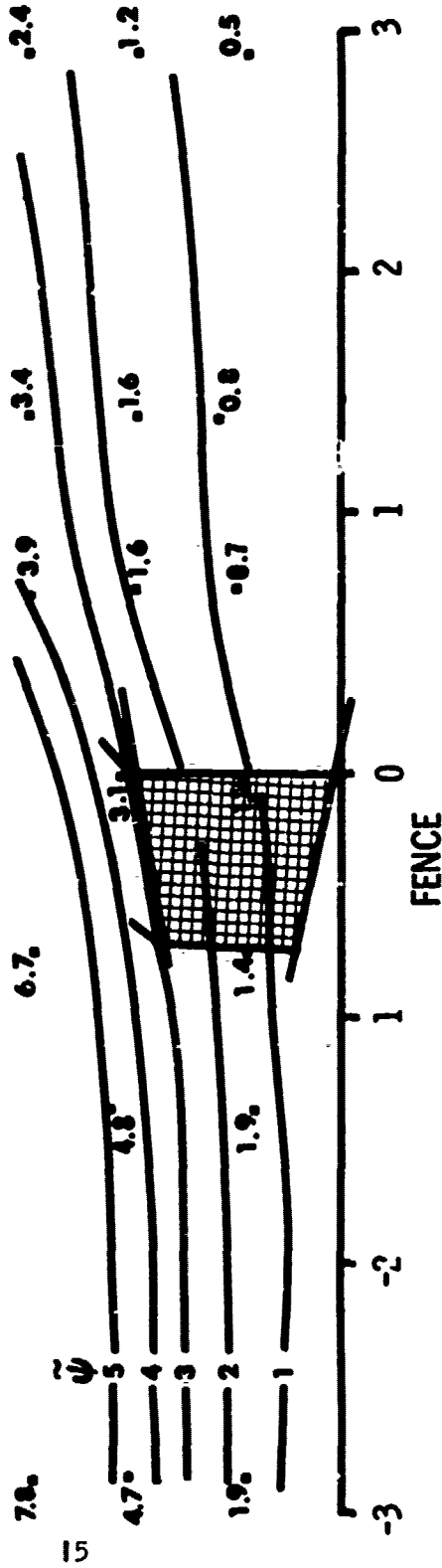
Figure 6. Isotachs of normalized wind speed, prototype barrier.

The isotach patterns of Figure 6 show relative velocity minimums below  $0.2 U_0$  downstream of the fence, demonstrating the effectiveness of the prototype barrier in a form directly applicable to rain field tests at the rocket sled test track, decreasing the wind field, particularly cross-wind components, during simulation tests. In addition, it is evident from the normalized streamlines (Figure 7) that an upward component is induced in the flow approaching the barrier on the upstream side. This effect persists downstream of the barrier for at least 3 bh. One sees that the barrier acts in such a way as to transform a portion of the horizontal momentum of the flow to a vertical component. The streamline analysis in Figure 7 may also be compared with the smoke flow over and through the partially porous fence illustrated in Figure 8. Smoke grenades were released in the vicinity of the fence to provide qualitative information. In one case for .6-1.2 m/s easterly winds, the movement of the smoke over and through the fence was photographed. Just as the streamlines indicate speedup in the flow immediately above the fence, smoke pouring rapidly over the top of the fence is evident in the photograph. There is a definite tendency for the smoke to "pile up" in front of the fence and go over or filter through more slowly. Movies, taken from behind the fence, of the smoke passing through and over the fence showed smoke puffs reaching and going over the fence with little change in speed while some time was required for smoke to filter through the fence. The stagnant smoke behind the fence in Figure 9 may again be compared with the diverging streamlines downstream of the fence in Figure 7. Note that there is little smoke movement until the smoke reaches about fence height.

Comparison of Figures 4 and 6 and Geiger's Figure 1 [1] indicates that the wind tunnel barrier, the fence, and the dense shelter belt affect wind flow similarly. The smoke studies (Figures 8 and 9) show flow patterns similar to those given by the wind speed measurements. All of the studies indicate a 70 to 80% reduction in the wind component perpendicular to the fence.

The streamline analysis of Figure 6 indicates the decrease in downstream velocity and increase in vertical velocity component engendered by the barrier. Values of the average wind speed over a 1.8 m height range both upwind and downwind of the obstacle are shown in Figure 10. Figure 11 delineates the average wind defect under east and west wind conditions as a function of distance from the prototype barrier. Measurements at a height of .9 m were taken over a span of several days for these averaged data. (See Tables IV and V.) These long-term data may be compared with the shorter-term samples shown in Figure 6. Wind defects of 71% and 84% are indicated at distances of 1.5 bh downstream in Figure 11. These data were taken under conditions of generally light and variable winds at the site. The data in Figures 6 and 10 indicate that the barrier effect may be observed further downstream under conditions of stronger and steadier flow.

WIND FLOW



DISTANCE IN BARRIER HEIGHTS (bh)

Figure 7. Streamline analysis, prototype barrier.



Figure 8. Smoke tracer release upstream of barrier.





Figure 9. Downstream smoke train release non-prototype barrier.

# AVERAGE WIND SPEED

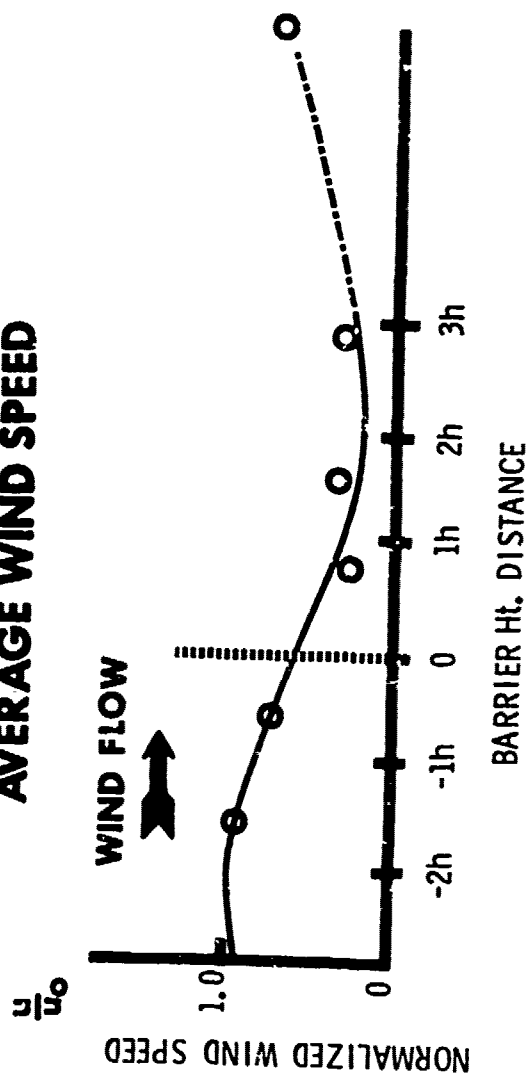


Figure 10. Mean wind speed, 0-2 m, prototype barrier.

TABLE IV

## 15-MINUTE AVERAGED WIND DATA

DATE (Aug 1970)	TIME (MDT)	WIND DIRECTION (DEGREES)	POSITION WITH RESPECT TO BARRIER (M)					12E	12W
			6E	3E	3W	6W			
04	0145	078	120/108	86/103	64/077	93/111			
03	1928	127	317/286	81/256	29/93	40/128			
03	1913	120	337/304	83/279	29/97	28/95			
03	1828	124	444/400	82/363	31/136	38/167			
03	1743	121	366/330	80/294	30/110	37/137			
03	1628	109	332/209	81/269	24/079	29/097			
03	1613	125	299/269	80/240	32/96	42/127			
03	1513	101	206/186	82/169	34/71	50/103			
03	1458	114	295/266	81/238	33/98	43/128			
03	1443	105	278/250	82/227	27/104	63/175			
03	1428	119	282/254	82/230	46/129	70/197			
03	1258	090	162/146	84/136			101/163	81/131	
03	1313	114	222/200	80/178			96/213	71/157	
03	1243	095	311/280	80/248			97/302	54/169	
03	1228	098	151/136	81/123			100/151	79/119	
03	1158	116	179/161	79/141			99/178	62/111	
03	1113	096	173/156	82/141			92/159	88/153	
03	1058	067	151/136	83/126			97/146	88/133	
04	1315	112	430/387	78/341	27/115	28/122			
04	1300	112	493/444	80/395	27/135	33/162			
04	1230	119	503/453	81/409	28/141	34/173			
04	1215	115	373/336	82/304	29/109	40/150			
04	1200	092	230/207	82/188	27/61	32/73			
04	1145	112	240/216	79/190	25/61	38/90			
04	1045	115	159/143	79/126	23/37	37/59			
04	0945	112	134/121	78/104	28/38	44/59			
04	0930	110	117/105	81/95	32/37	59/69			
04	0915	116	114/103	80/91	22/25	55/63			
04	0900	111	143/129	80/114	20/29	42/60			
04	0845	080	246/222	78/193	6/39	19/46			
04	0830	067	162/146	79/128	20/32	40/65			

In 6E column, numbers to right of slash are measured winds, cm/sec. Numbers to left of slash are computed Free Stream Flow velocities assuming the 6E data to be 90% of free stream flow, e.g., using the first entry,  $108 \times 10/9 = 120$  cm/sec, the computed free stream flow. In columns 3E, 3W, 6W, 12E and 12W, the number to the right of the slash is measured speed; to the left the number is % of free stream flow, e.g., in column 6W 111 cm/sec is 93% of free stream flow (120 cm/sec).

TABLE V

## 15-MINUTE AVERAGED WIND DATA

DATE (AUG 1970)	TIME (MDT)	WIND DIRECTION (DEGREES)	POSITION WITH RESPECT TO BARRIER (M)			
			6E	3E	3W	6W*
04	0759	290	56/39 <sup>†</sup>	24/17	87/61	70/63 <sup>††</sup>
04	0659	269	33/30	10/09	74/67	91/82
04	0644	291	45/62	30/41	81/111	137/123
04	0629	306	45/63	26/31	76/91	119/102
04	0615	285	27/28	15/16	73/76	104/94
04	0545	293	34/23	05/03	64/43	67/60
04	0430	293	34/36	21/22	75/79	105/95
04	0400	286	30/24	08/06	73/58	80/72
04	0345	287	31/28	10/09	75/67	89/80
04	0330	282	32/30	07/07	75/71	95/86

\* 6W data are measured winds, cm/sec, assumed 90% of free stream flow ( $U_o$ )

†Format is % Free Stream/Measured Speed (cm/sec)

††Format is  $\frac{10}{9} \times$  Speed/Measured Speed

Example: At 6W measured speed = 63 cm/sec: calculated free stream flow,

$$U_o = \frac{10}{9} \times 63 = 70 \text{ cm/sec. At 6E measured speed of 39 cm/sec is 56\% of}$$

free stream flow.

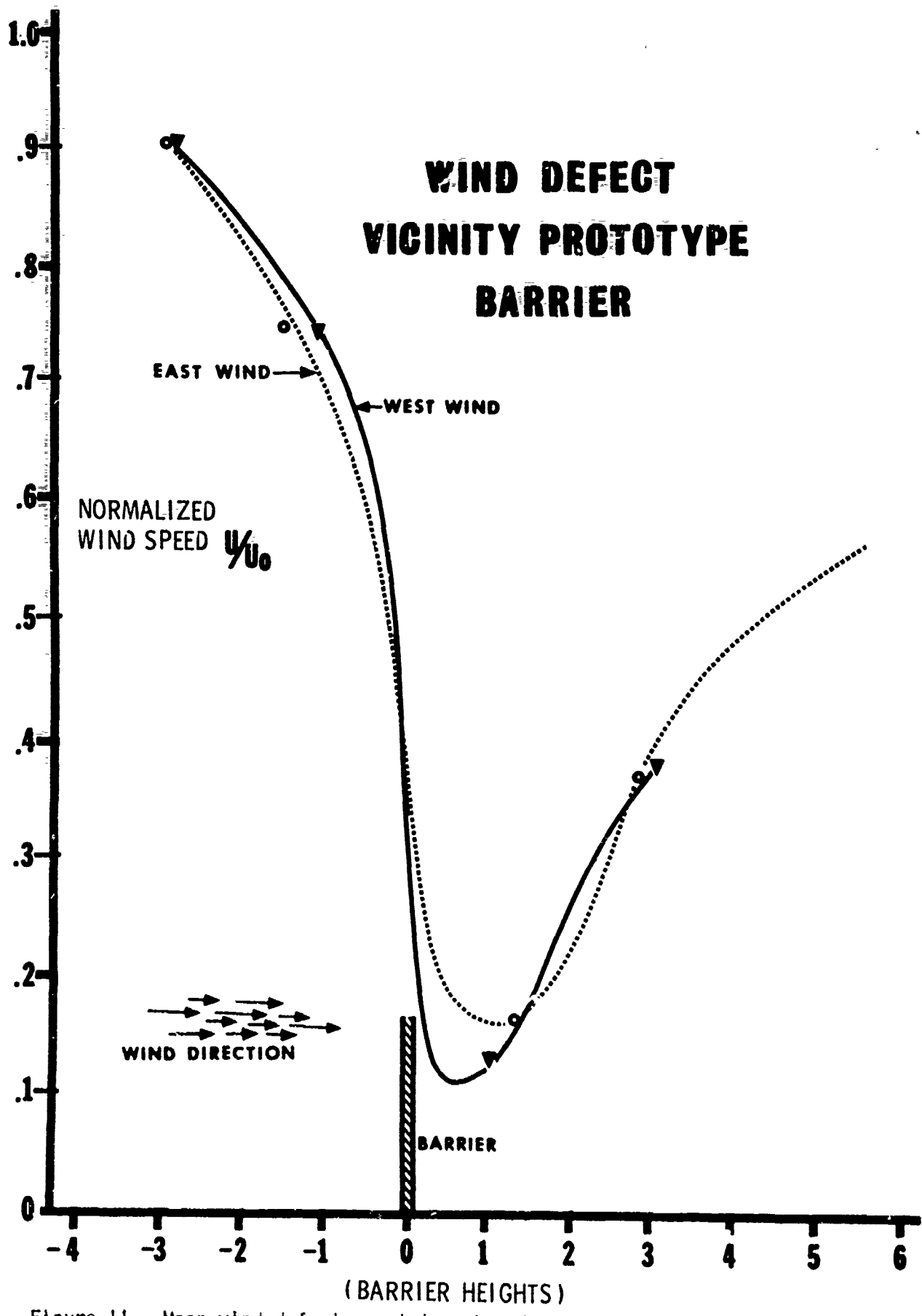


Figure 11. Mean wind defect, prototype barrier, for east winds and west winds. 21

## Environmental Factors

To interpret the preceding in terms of the test track requirements, several salient environmental factors should be considered, including test track climatology, peak gust data, and terrain effects of the wind field in the test track area. Limited amounts of specific wind data from the rain field at the test track lead one to consider the climatology of nearby observing stations to be interpreted in terms of expected conditions at the test track itself. WSMR meteorological records relating to strong winds [13] (Table VI) show an all-time peak gust of 82 knots from the southwest. Maximum monthly mean winds for the year may be expected during March and April from a westerly direction.

While the paucity of wind data from the test track area per se poses a handicap, one would nonetheless recommend that a wind barrier configuration of maximum efficiency in decreasing cross-wind effects be designed. An idea of the expected percent increase in time available for testing is shown in Table VII, excerpted from 20-year Holloman AFB wind records. One should also mention that, in addition to increasing available test time, the barrier concept will also provide more hours of lower mean cross-wind velocities, thereby enhancing test control conditions.

One important local effect on the winds across the test track comes from the venturi created by an arroyo located to the west of the center of the rain field. The channeling or venturi effect under westerly flow conditions could cause significantly higher mean winds and peak gusts in the area at times.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Studies undertaken show that the critical factors in wind barrier protection are barrier height and permeability. The barrier height is primarily important in determining the extent of wind defect one may achieve, while barrier permeability is critical in determining the region over which the wind defect is near or at its maximum. Moreover, permeable fences widen the region of large wind defect, making for much greater reliability in scaling from a prototype test barrier to actual barrier specifications recommended for the Holloman facility.

Agreement between wind tunnel results and field tests with the 2 m prototype fence was consistent. Similar wind defects at corresponding downstream distances were found in the two cases. In addition, visual evidence supplied by photographs and motion pictures supported the measured wind data.

TABLE VI

## MAXIMUM WINDS (STRONGEST GUSTS IN KNOTS), 1950-1961

"A" STATION, WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

YEAR	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
1950	31SW	27NE	35SW	26WSW	35W	26W	26NW	22W	22SSE	17SE	35W	30W
1951	56SW	65WSW	74W	56SW	48W	45SSW	43SSE	45S	35S	43WNW	56W	82SW
1952	56W	27NNW	26NW	31W	27S	25SSE	30SSW	43NNW	22W	17SE	48W	49S
1953	56NW	68SW	54SW	56W	55SW	- - -	37NW	26NW	26SSW	22SE	43NW	65N
1954	35W	62WNW	65W	40WNW	48W	21W	44E	40NE	32SSE	45W	53W	47WNW
1955	46WNW	40W	64W	66W	48W	49W	36N	32SE	32S	35W	56W	46WSW
1956	64S	64WNW	56W	60W	64W	42W	36SW	32SSW	35SSE	46WSW	47WNW	52W
1957	65WSW	40NW	54WNW	66WSW	59WSW	53WNW	33S	51SSE	37NNW	52WNW	38WSW	50WSW
1958	51WSW	63SW	60W	66WSW	43W	37W	36WSW	33NW	30NE	26WNW	45SW	46WSW
1959	70W	56W	52W	44W	43W	40N	34ENE	30S	39ESE	41SW	45WSW	70W
1960	57WNW	63WNW	45W	52W	40W	34S	32E	28S	35WSW	41W	54W	56W
1961	35W	52W	64WSW	49W	74WSW	40W	34SSE	27SSE	40W	60SW	56WNW	56S
XTRMS:	70W	68SW*	74W	64W*	74SSW	53WNW	44E	51SSE	40W	60SW	56W*	82SW
*MORE THAN ONE OCCURRENCE.												

TABLE VII

WIND CLIMATOLOGY, HOLLOWMAN AFB, NM, ALL HOURS AND ALL WEATHER  
WITH MODIFICATIONS EXPECTED FROM A 70% WIND DEFECT

	<u>PERCENT OF TIME WIND <math>\leq</math> 3kt</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TIME WIND <math>\leq</math> 10kt WITH 70% DEFECT <math>\leq</math> 3kt</u>	<u>% INCREASE IN TIME</u>
JAN	41.5	89.5	107
FEB	35.8	86.8	142
MAR	30.4	81.4	168
APR	27.4	80.2	189
MAY	26.8	80.7	201
JUNE	29.3	83.4	185
JULY	32.2	88.6	175
AUG	35.9	91.1	154
SEP	39.2	91.5	133
OCT	46.2	93.2	102
NOV	45.3	91.3	101
DEC	41.5	91.4	108



## RECOMMENDATIONS

The area of the test track in need of wind protection extends 3-4 m above the ambient ground level at the rails. The empirical results obtained in the wind tunnel and from prototype investigations indicate a wind speed minimum at a scale distance of 2 to 3 bh downstream from the barrier for free-stream speeds in the 2-5 m/sec range. No appreciable effect from air circulating around the end of the barrier was apparent at stations located near the center of the prototype barrier. The recommended extension, therefore, on each end of the barrier protection zones is a minimum of 15 m and a maximum of 30 m for wind velocities within  $\pm 30^\circ$  of flow normal to the barrier. For sufficient protection of the critical rain field test area the proposed barrier configuration is:

Height	6 m
Upstream Distance	15 m
Hole Area	35%

One would recommend that the barrier be built to conform to the arroyo or that a large land fill be designed to allow for consistent barrier protection over the entire length of the rain field. If the decision were made to follow the terrain with the fence, the hole area of the fence should decrease closer to the test track, as indicated by the wind tunnel results of Figure 3. In addition, since the rain field is known to be affected significantly by light winds, a dual wind barrier with one segment on each side of the track may well be desirable.

## APPENDIX A

### Wind Tunnel

Wind tunnel simulation measurements were made in the ASL low-speed wind tunnel facility at WSMR. The wind tunnel employed is a closed-circuit system (Figure 12) in which air moves from a propeller section through a round-to-square transition section and then through a gradually increasing square section to a first corner. The square corners are constructed with turning vanes which direct the air to a second square corner and into a contraction section. At the head of the contraction section is a set of four fine mesh screens for turbulence reduction. The contraction section follows an exponential function in design and has a contraction ratio of 5:1.

From the contraction section the air flows through a 1.2 by 1.2 by 2 meter test section in which the barrier experiments were conducted. The test section is isolated from the main structure by foam rubber inserts to reduce vibration. The air then moves through an expansion section, a square-to-round transition, two sets of turning vanes, and then returns to the propeller section. Maximum propeller speed is 840 rpm. The turning vanes are designed for the low-speed flow generated in this wind tunnel [14].

Since the facility is a low turbulence wind tunnel, the simulation data represent the most precise measurements of barrier flow phenomena available. Possible minor error sources exist arising from finite fence width across the tunnel floor and residual turbulence effects in the tunnel in addition to the normal errors occasioned by the recording of the experimental data [15].

Reynolds number calculations for the wind tunnel model, fence, and prototype lie within an order of magnitude for cases a, c, and e, as listed in Table VIII. Thus it becomes reasonable to apply the results from the wind tunnel simulation data and the prototype fence data to design recommendations for the rain field barrier at the rocket sled test track. Reasonable results in terms of Reynolds number modeling for flow around sharp-edged obstacles may be obtained by geometric simulation alone as indicated by Chein [16], Goldstein [17], and Cermak and Horn [18]. The fence barriers are sufficiently angular so that the flow patterns around them (Figure 13) are largely independent of viscous influences and thus dynamic similarity may be achieved at lower wind tunnel speeds than would otherwise be possible. The results of Figure 13 were obtained from flow visualization tests conducted in the University of Notre Dame low turbulence subsonic wind tunnel.

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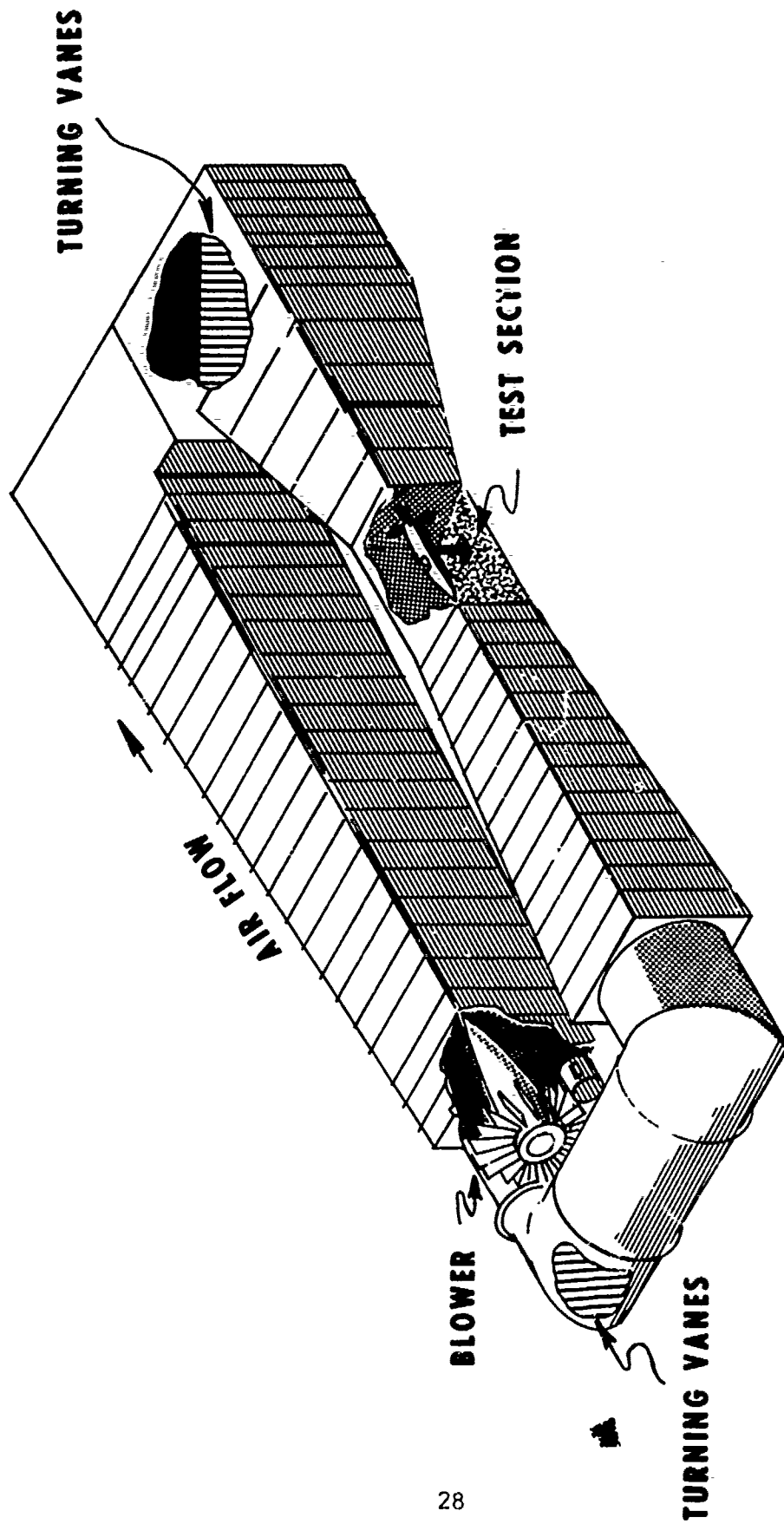


Figure 12. ASL wind tunnel, cutaway sketch.

TABLE VIII

DETERMINATION OF REYNOLDS NUMBER FOR SIMILARITY ANALYSIS  
OF MODEL AND PROTOTYPE BARRIERS

<u>CASE</u>	<u>MODEL DIMENSION</u>	<u>VELOCITY (m/sec)</u>	<u><math>Re = \frac{U\ell}{\nu}</math></u>
a	15 cm model in tunnel	15	$1.1 \times 10^5$
b	15 cm model in tunnel	5	$0.4 \times 10^5$
c	2 m slat fence	2	$2.0 \times 10^5$
d	6 m barrier	5	$15.0 \times 10^5$
e	6 m barrier	1	$3.0 \times 10^5$

Kinematic viscosity,  $\nu$ , is taken as  $0.2 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$ .

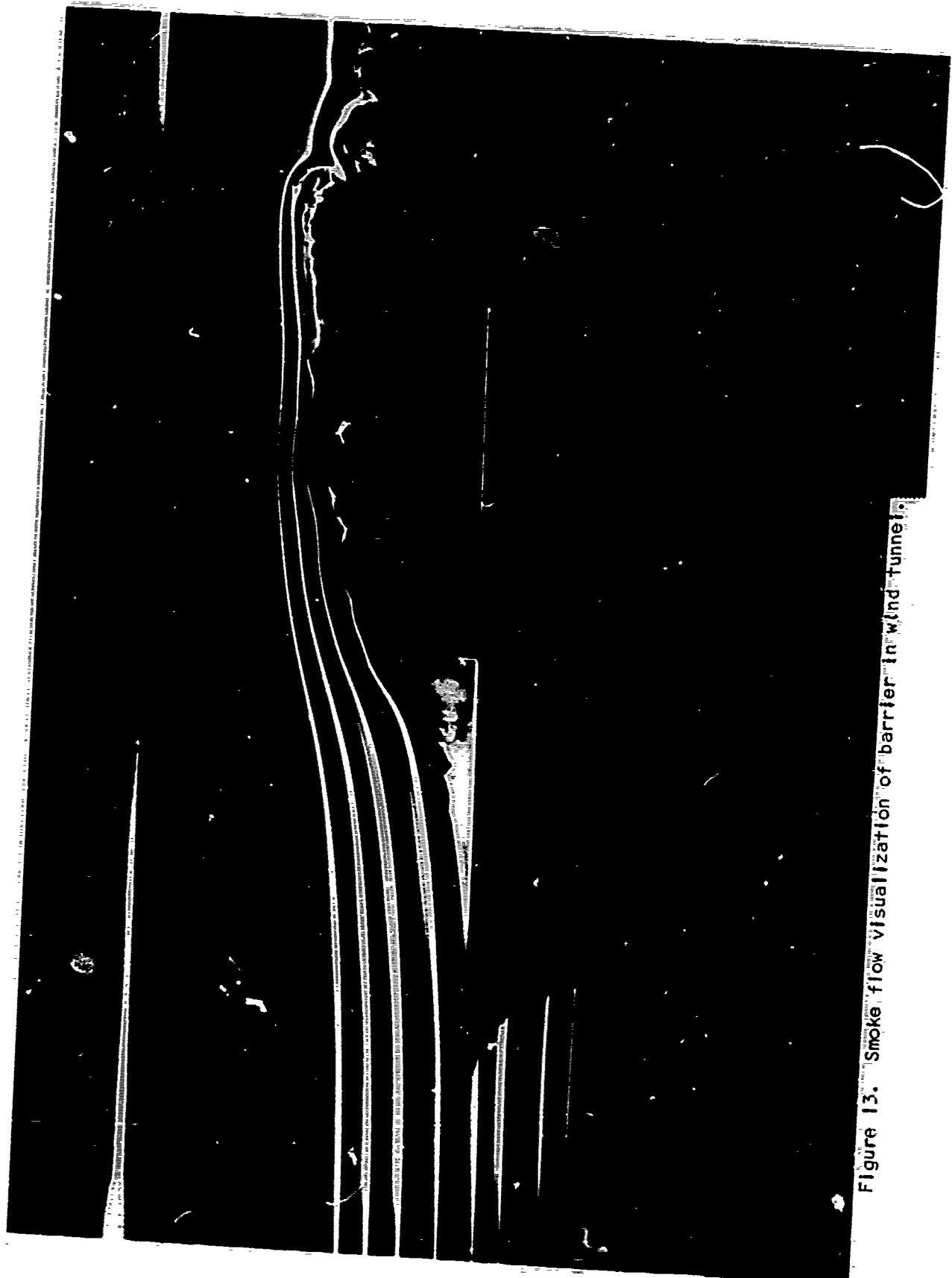


Figure 13. Smoke flow visualization of barrier in wind tunnel.

The wind tunnel flow measurement device used as a control in the test section is a propeller-anemometer (MRI Velocity Vane) mounted on the ceiling of the tunnel facing into the airstream. Velocity measurements for the barrier simulation tests were obtained with a TSI 1054B, hot-film constant-temperature anemometer. Turbulent scintillations were obtained from a Tektronix 564 oscilloscope and a B&K VTVM analyzer. Wind velocity defect data downstream of the barrier were read on a Fluke 805B potentiometer and recorded by an observer. Velocity data were obtained at stations located  $1bh$  to  $9bh$  downstream of the barrier at  $1bh$  intervals and from  $0.25$  to  $1.5bh$  above the tunnel floor.

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