Multi-Year Hurricane Study Wrapping Up This Summer.

The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (9/13, Dietrich, 181K) reported that this summer is the third and final summer NASA is flying Global Hawk UAVs out of the Wallops Flight Facility in a project to study hurricanes, "the first multiyear campaign of its kind." Jack Kaye, associate director for research with NASA's Earth Science Division, said, "In the past, we've done campaigns that go out for six weeks, and then a couple of years later we might go back somewhere else. ... So the ability to be at the same place and revisit with all that capability is something that we haven't done before." Goddard Space Flight Center's Scott Braun, HS3 campaign principal investigator, reportedly said that researchers were keen on using the Global Hawks to investigate "the roles of the Saharan Air Layer and the upper-level environment in a storm's development." Wallops Flight Facility Director Bill Wrobel said, "It's been guite a ride, despite these aircraft being unmanned. ... The importance of this mission isn't lost on me. ... As the climate changes, as the series of storms becomes more frequent and more intense, it's vitally important that we understand what's happening around us."