

Bill Boelte

320 kt P2

This is a picture of the MAD cone of VC-8's EP-2H BUNO 148338. We were flying an ADL mission and at the end of the exercise the ship requested a low, high speed pass, at least 300 kts. The AFWR controller passed on to the ship that there were no assets available which could be on station before dark. We volunteered the P-2 for a high speed pass- we could do 320 kts. The Neptune would save the day again. We set the recips to 2600 RPM and 46 in. Hg and the JETS to 96% RPM and headed for the ship, descending and accelerating.

We almost got to 300 kts. When the co-pilot's overhead hatch popped open, more like exploded open. Those hatches are huge, at least 2-1/2' X 4'. They are hinged at the front. The hatch stood straight up. Box lunches and headsets flew out of the cockpit. Talk about noise!

We crawled back home. On post flight we noticed that the tail cone had partially collapsed apparently due to the negative pressure in the fuselage.

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