

## Perception Testing at the Sandia National Laboratories' Fog Chamber: Data Publication and Data Documentation

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#### Abstract:

In the summer of 2021, a novel perception testbed, built and tested at NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, CA, was deployed to the Fog Chamber at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. This testbed featured a visible spectrum camera, a longwave infrared camera, and a light detection and ranging (LIDAR) instrument. During this deployment and test campaign, the testbed was integrated with the fog test chamber for the evaluation of sensor capabilities in visually degraded environments with a variety of target features. The data which resulted from over 30 individual tests consists of images and LIDAR point cloud data sets. These experiment data, and associated documentation are here included in a compiled set for publication. Data documentation includes visualization of the data collected and charts detailing the environmental conditions during the experiment. Also included is a test matrix detailing the experiment sequence and test variables. The test team and developers hope that this data can be of use to the community interested in understanding the limitations of such sensors in visually degraded environments.



#### 1 Experiment Setup and Equipment Specifications

#### 1.1 Perception Testbed Hardware

A novel testbed, featuring a visible spectrum camera, a longwave infrared camera, and a lidar was built and transported to the Fog Chamber at Sandia National Laboratories for fog chamber testing. The perception testbed features the following equipment:

- FLIR BlackFly Visible Range Camera
- FLIR Boson Long wave infrared thermal camera
- AEye Intelligent LIDAR

#### 1.2 Environment Montioring Equipment

During fog experiments, the following equipment was used for characterization of the fog and light scattering resulting from the fog:

- Malvern Spraytec instrument with inhalation cell accessory produces a measurement of fog particle sizes, this information is useful in understanding light scattering.
- Transmissometer used in measuring the Meterological Optical Range (MOR) a light emitting diode and camera are used under a static distance to measure the optical effects of the fog.

#### 2 Useful References

The following documents may be useful in understanding the scope and context of the experiments.

Shish, Kimberlee H., et al. "Survey of Capabilities and Gaps in External Perception Sensors for Autonomous Urban Air Mobility Applications." AIAA Scitech 2021 Forum. 2021.

Redman, Brian J., et al. "Measuring resolution degradation of long-wavelength infrared imagery in fog." Optical Engineering 58.5 (2019): 051806.

Wright, Jeremy B., et al. "Optical characterization of the Sandia fog facility." Degraded Environments: Sensing, Processing, and Display 2017. Vol. 10197. International Society for Optics and Photonics, 2017.

Exp_Name	Description	Lights	Target	Distance (m)	Target Temp
cal01	Calibration for BlackFly	Т	USAF-1951	N/A	37 C
cal02	Calibration for Lidar	Т	USAF-1951	N/A	37 C
baseline01	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
baseline02	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
baseline03	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
baseline04	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
fog00	Preview - Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
fog01	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
fog02	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	6.5532	37 C
fog03	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	6.5532	60 C
fog04	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	6.5532	60 C
cal03	Calibration (FOV adjustment)	Т	USAF-1951	41.148	60 C
fog05	Preview - Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	41.148	60 C
fog06	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	41.148	60 C
	ay 1, Tuesday May 11th, 2021				
baseline05	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	41.148	N/A
fog07	LIDAR Only	Т	USAF-1951	41.148	37 C
fog08	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	41.148	37 C
fog09	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	41.148	37 C
cal04	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	N/A
fog10	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	37 C
fog11	Full sensor suite	F	USAF-1951	17.6276	37 C
fog12	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	60 C
fog13	No LIDAR Data	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	60 C
fog14	Blackbody temp. is likely 60 C.	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	N/A
pao01	One human in chamber	Т	Human	N/A	N/A
Configuration Ch	ange: Boson camera focus set to i	nfinity			
fog15	Full sensor suite	T	USAF-1951	45.6692	37 C
	ay 2, Wednesday May 12th, 2021				
baseline07	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	45.6692	20 C
baseline08	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	45.6692	60 C
fog16	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	45.6692	60 C
	ange: Switch to UAV target on a t	ripod w	/ motors running		
baseline09	UAV Target	Т	UAV-Oncoming	18.2372	N/A
fog17	UAV Target	Т	UAV-Oncoming	18.2372	N/A
pao02	Target	Т	USAF-1951	N/A	N/A
fog18	UAV Target	F	UAV-Oncoming	18.2372	N/A
End of Testing Da	ay 3, Thursday May 13th, 2021				
baseline10	Cancel test, problem w/ motors	Т	UAV-Oncoming	45.6692	N/A
fog19	UAV Target	Т			N/A
fog20	UAV Target	F		45.6692	N/A
baseline11	UAV Target	Т			N/A
baseline12	UAV Target	F	UAV-Oncoming		N/A
baseline13	UAV Target	Т	UAV-Hover		N/A
	. 0				

baseline14	UAV Target	F	UAV-Hover	45.6692	N/A
fog21	UAV Target	F	UAV-Hover	45.6692	N/A
fog22	UAV Target	Т	UAV-Hover	45.6692	N/A
fog23	No visible spectrum data	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	37 C
fog24	Full sensor suite	Т	USAF-1951	17.6276	37 C



Experiment Name: baseline01

**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 10:47:27.331

**Duration:** 00:00:46.688 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 37 C

Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

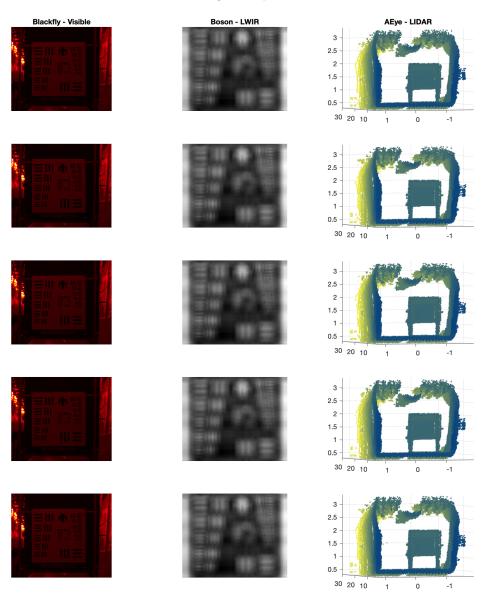
No environmental data available.

## File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 422 Images Longwave Infrared: 468 Images

LIDAR: 49 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline01





 $\textbf{Experiment Name:} \ \ baseline 02$ 

**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 10:50:04.854

**Duration:** 00:01:11.301 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 37 C

Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

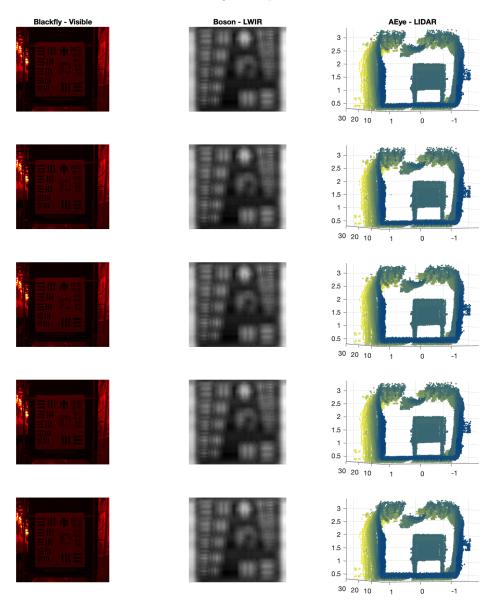
No environmental data available.

## File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 647 Images Longwave Infrared: 714 Images

LIDAR: 72 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline02





Experiment Name: baseline03

**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 10:54:57.179

**Duration:** 00:01:09.518 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 37 C

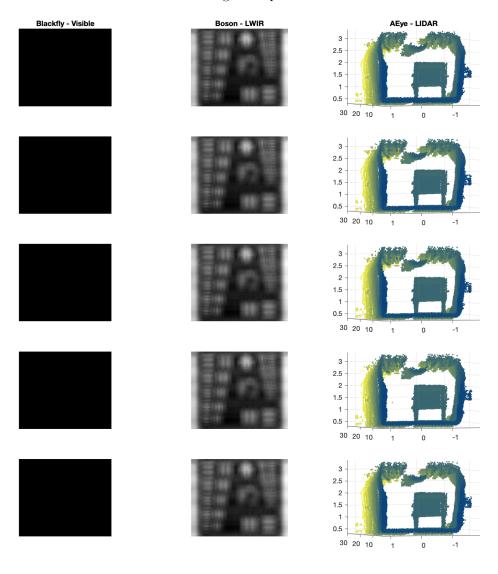
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

#### File Information: Visible Spectrum: 624 Images

Longwave Infrared: 696 Images LIDAR: 78 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline03





Experiment Name: baseline04

**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 10:57:44.260

**Duration:** 00:00:50.842 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 37 C

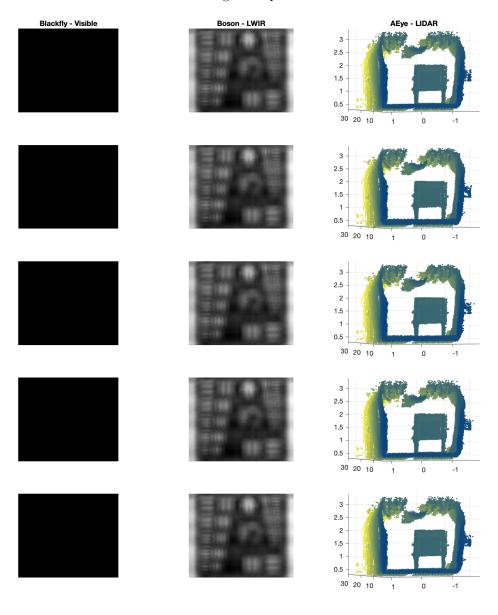
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

## File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 467 Images Longwave Infrared: 509 Images LIDAR: 60 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline04





Experiment Name: baseline07

**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 08:24:20.328

**Duration:** 00:01:56.093 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: 20 C

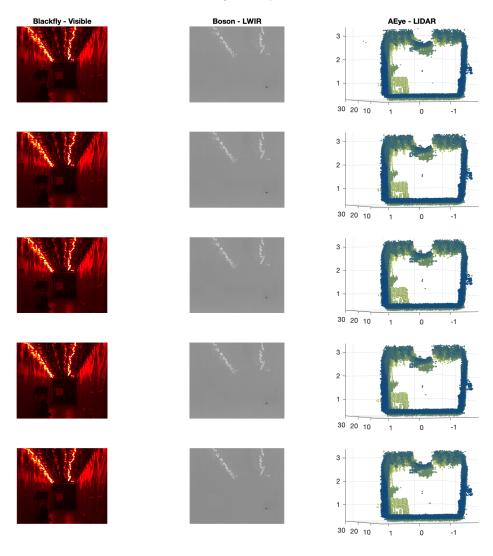
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

#### File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 1065 Images Longwave Infrared: 1162 Images LIDAR: 147 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline07





Experiment Name: baseline08

**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 08:37:41.334

**Duration:** 00:01:35.475 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: 60 C

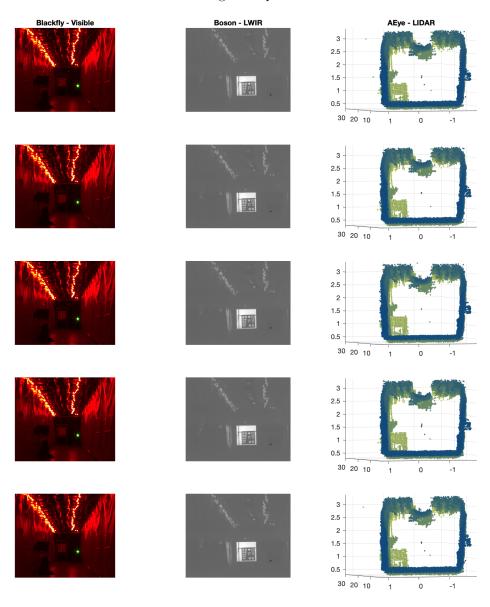
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

## File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 952 Images Longwave Infrared: 956 Images LIDAR: 118 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline08





 $\textbf{Experiment Name:} \ \ baseline 09 \\$ 

**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 12:19:52.473

**Duration:** 00:01:41.971 **Target:** UAV-Oncoming

Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: N/A

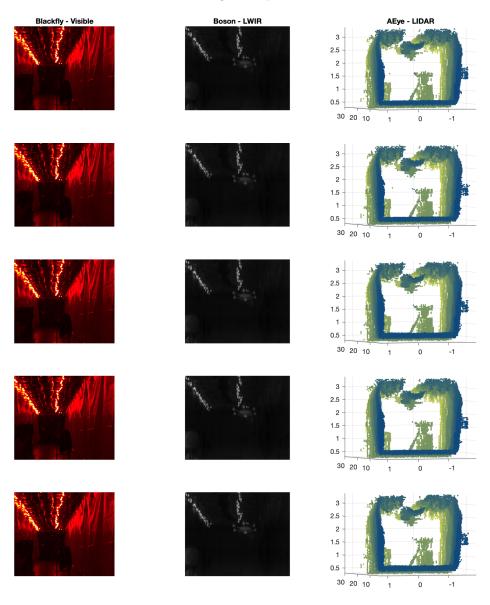
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

## File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 1016 Images Longwave Infrared: 1021 Images LIDAR: 121 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline09





Experiment Name: baseline11

**Start Time:** 14-May-2021 11:39:53.795

**Duration:** 00:01:34.604 **Target:** UAV-Oncoming

Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: N/A

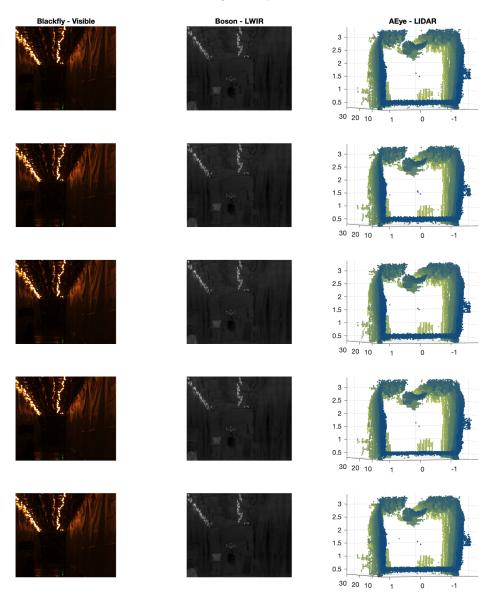
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

#### File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 861 Images Longwave Infrared: 947 Images LIDAR: 120 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline11





**Experiment Name:** baseline 12

**Start Time:** 14-May-2021 11:51:06.320

**Duration:** 00:02:03.375 **Target:** UAV-Oncoming

Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: N/A

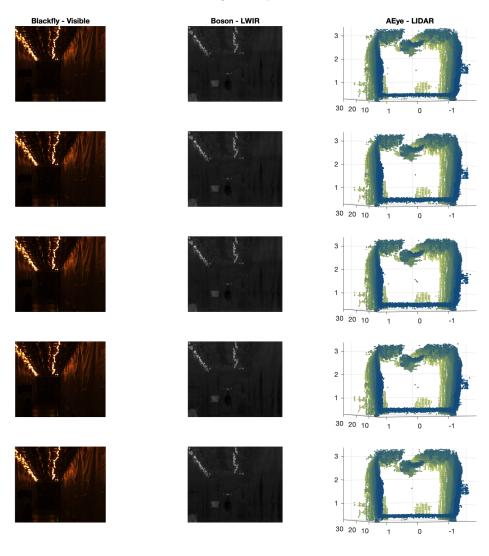
Environment Notes: No fog present during baseline tests.

No environmental data available.

#### File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 1123 Images Longwave Infrared: 1235 Images LIDAR: 209 Data & Images

#### 1 Data Snapshot: baseline12





Experiment Name: fog01

**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 11:55:16.294

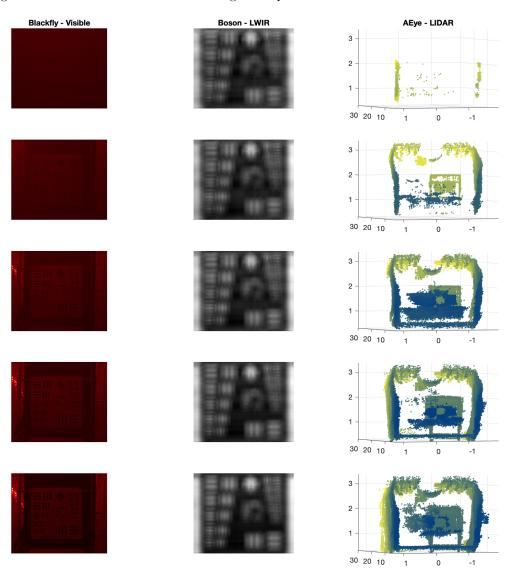
**Duration:** 00:25:03.796 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

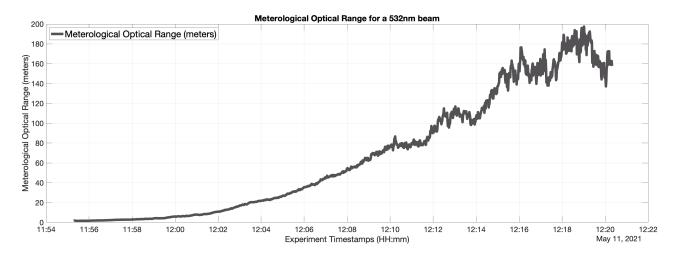
Visible Spectrum: 13533 Images Longwave Infrared: 15039 Images

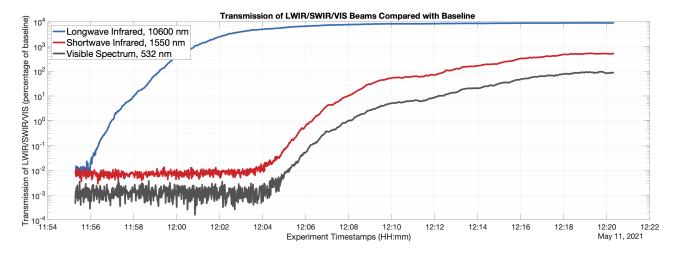
LIDAR: 1975 Data & Images

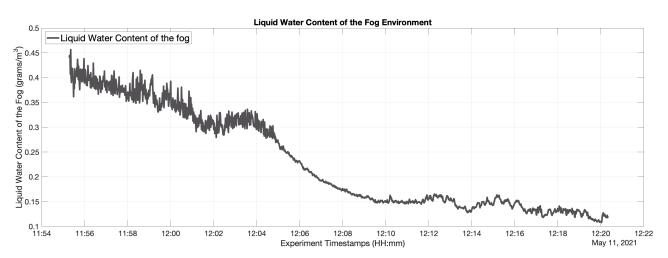
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog01



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog01









Experiment Name: fog02

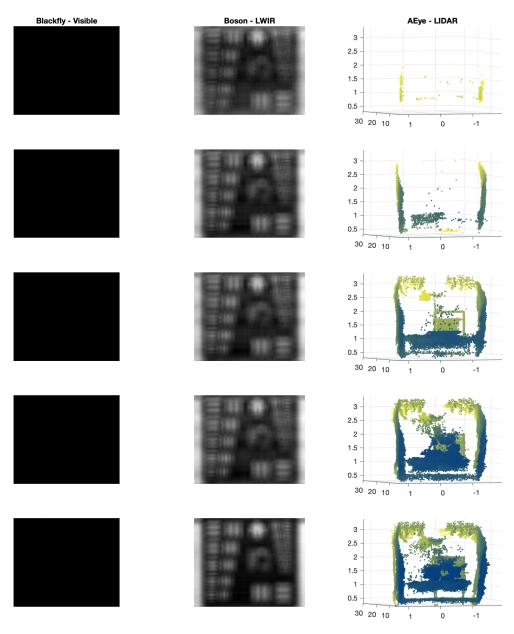
**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 12:29:03.237

**Duration:** 00:13:58.549 **Target:** USAF-1951

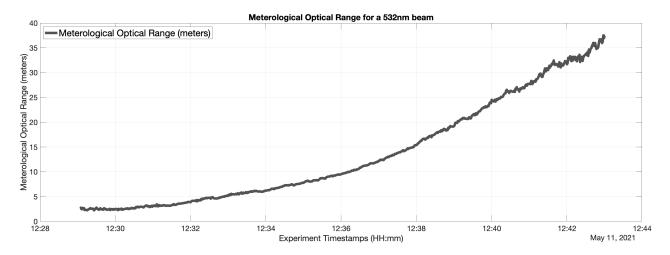
Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

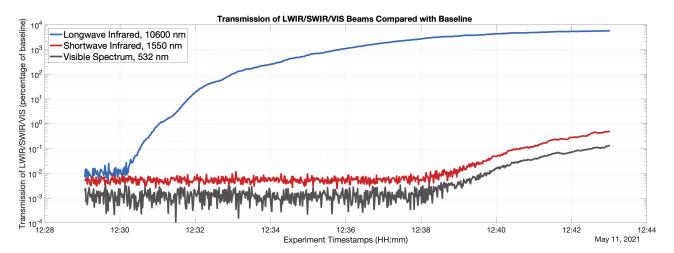
Visible Spectrum: 7557 Images Longwave Infrared: 8384 Images LIDAR: 1085 Data & Images

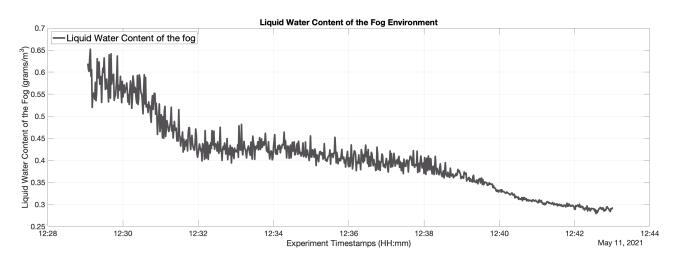
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog02



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog02









Experiment Name: fog03

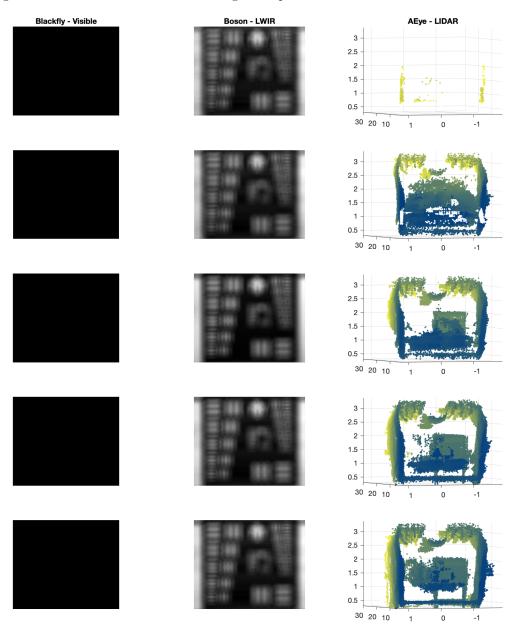
**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 12:55:33.234

**Duration:** 00:15:49.901 **Target:** USAF-1951

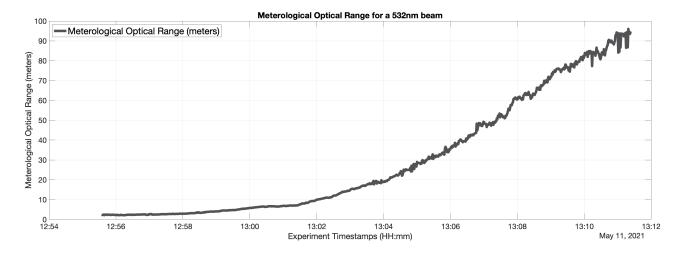
Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 60 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

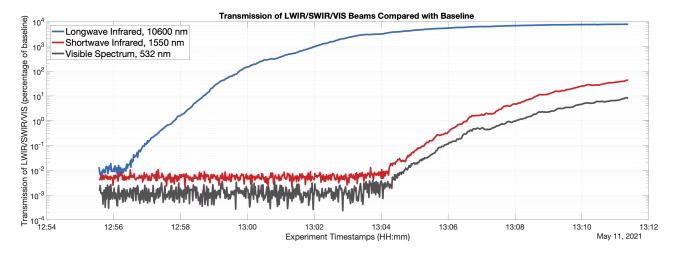
Visible Spectrum: 8547 Images Longwave Infrared: 9500 Images LIDAR: 1237 Data & Images

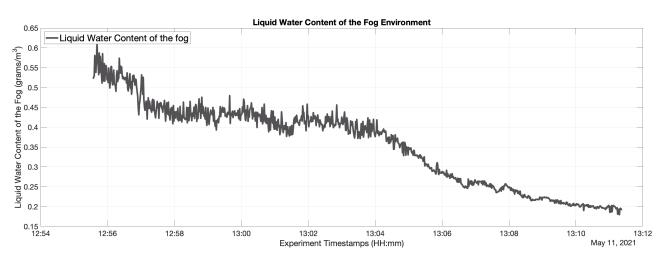
### 1 Data Snapshot: fog03



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog03









Experiment Name: fog04

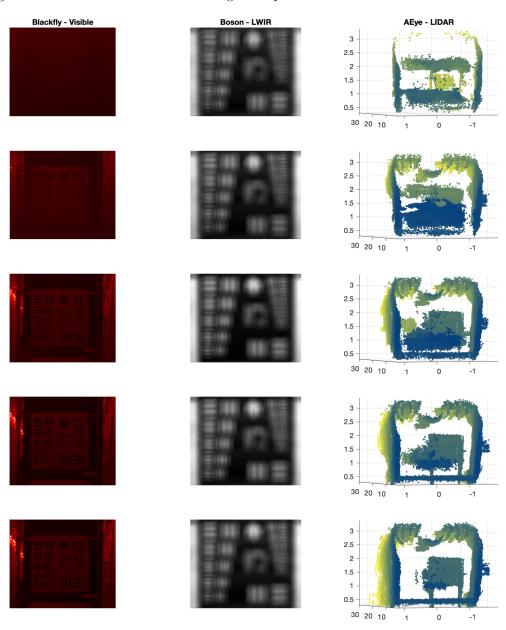
**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 13:25:57.371

**Duration:** 00:16:03.175 **Target:** USAF-1951

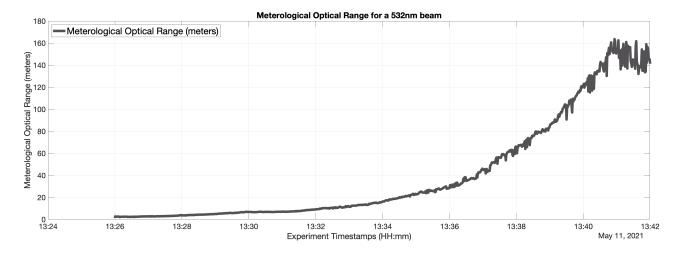
Target Distance: 6.5532 meters Target Temperature: 60 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

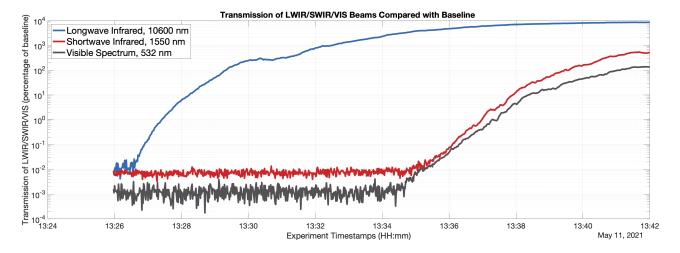
Visible Spectrum: 8676 Images Longwave Infrared: 9633 Images LIDAR: 1253 Data & Images

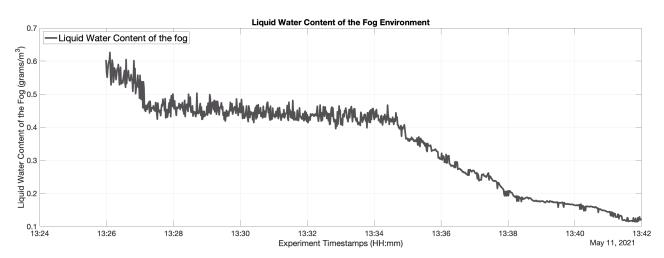
### 1 Data Snapshot: fog04



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog04









Experiment Name: fog06

**Start Time:** 11-May-2021 15:20:23.586

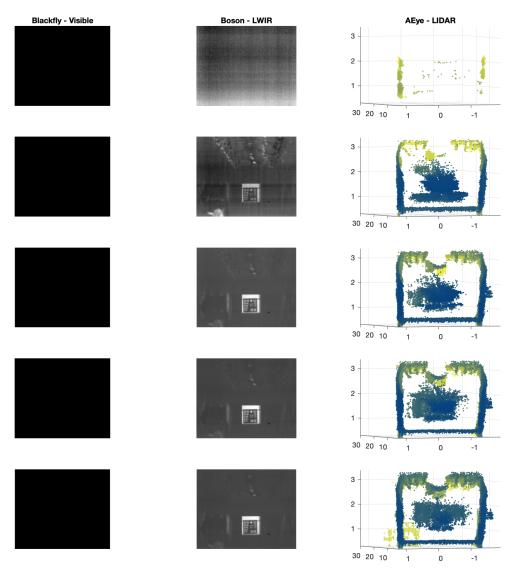
**Duration:** 01:13:27.429 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 41.148 meters Target Temperature: 60 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

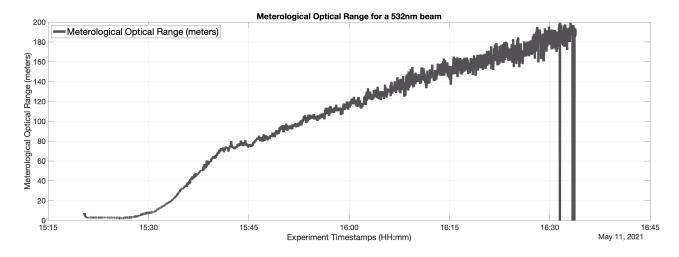
Visible Spectrum: 39844 Images Longwave Infrared: 44074 Images

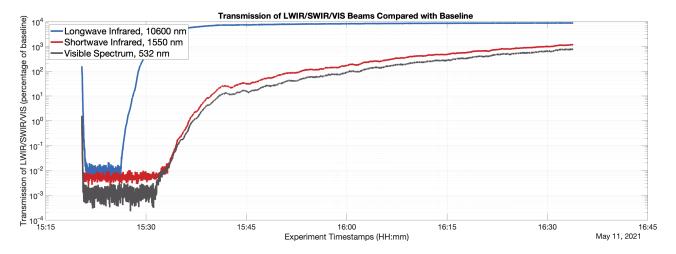
LIDAR: 5767 Data & Images

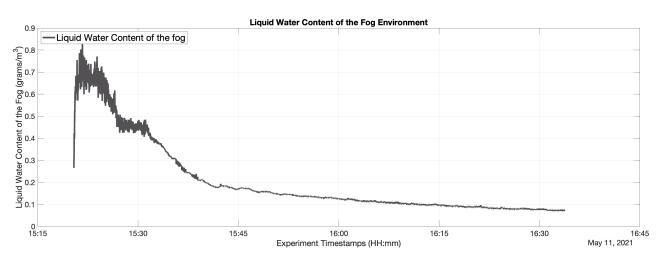
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog06



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog06









Experiment Name: fog08

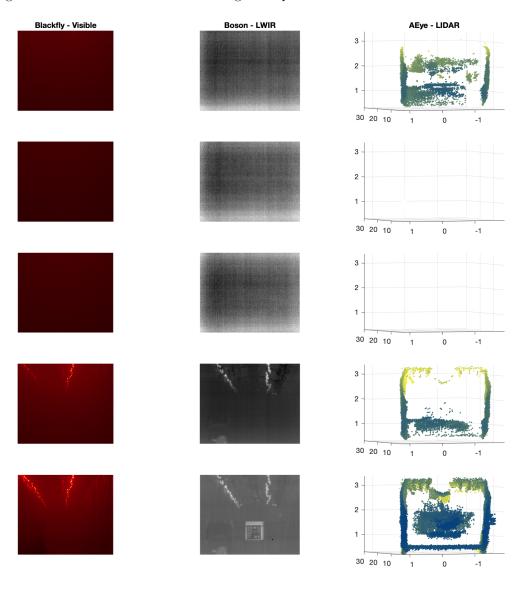
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 10:13:30.999

**Duration:** 00:35:53.752 **Target:** USAF-1951

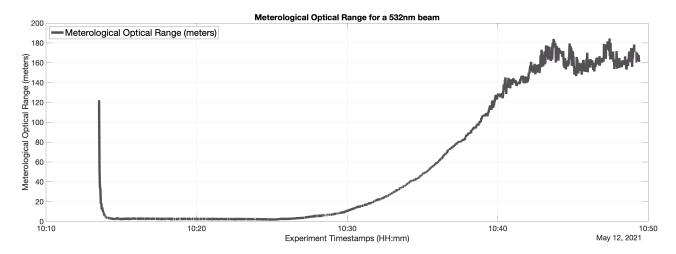
Target Distance: 41.148 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

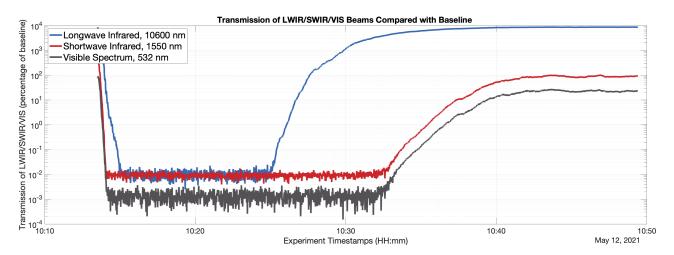
Visible Spectrum: 20060 Images Longwave Infrared: 21536 Images LIDAR: 2817 Data & Images

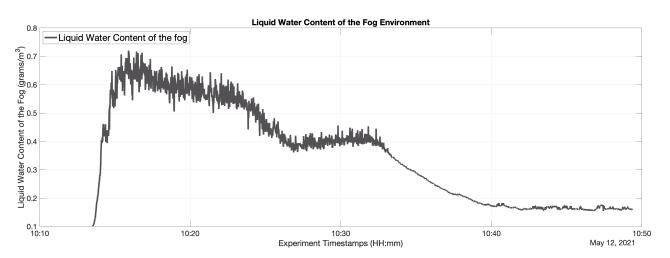
## 1 Data Snapshot: fog08



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog08









Experiment Name: fog09

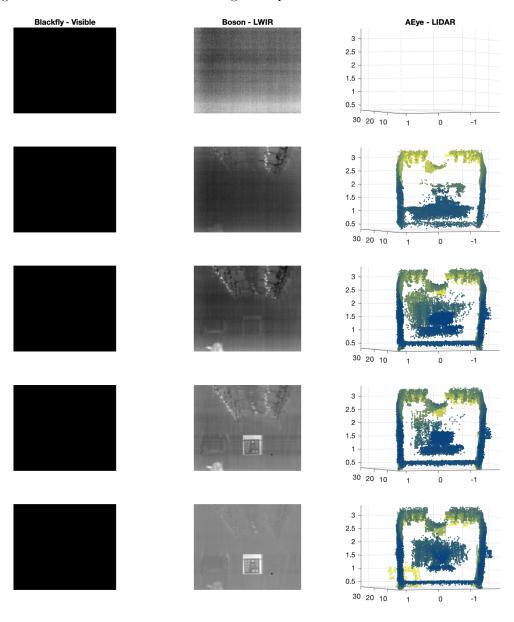
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 10:55:00.017

**Duration:** 00:26:17.360 **Target:** USAF-1951

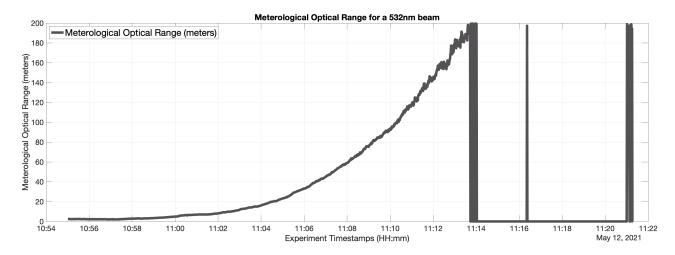
Target Distance: 41.148 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

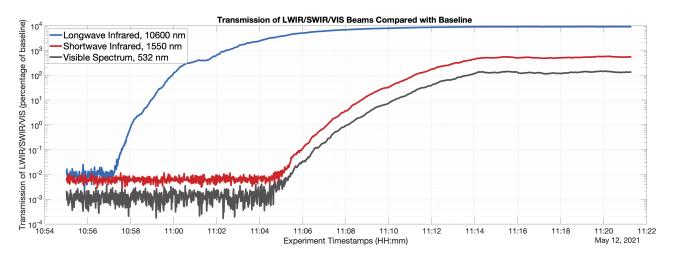
Visible Spectrum: 14289 Images Longwave Infrared: 15772 Images LIDAR: 2063 Data & Images

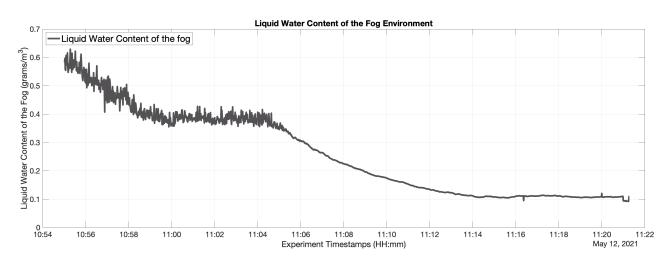
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog09



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog09









Experiment Name: fog10

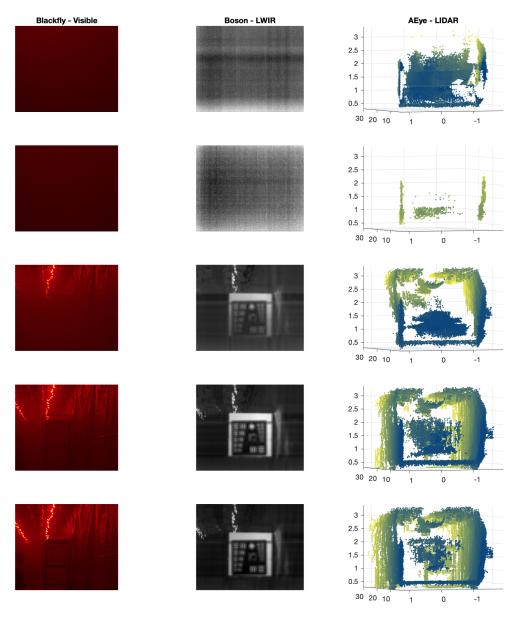
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 11:44:39.227

**Duration:** 00:28:41.182 **Target:** USAF-1951

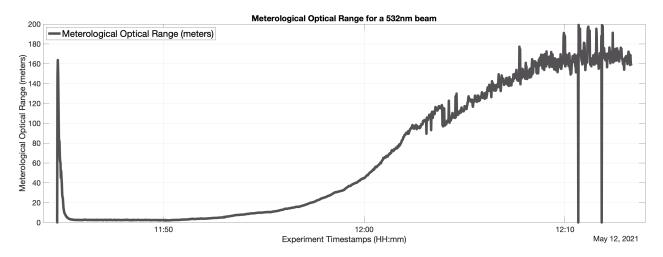
Target Distance: 17.6276 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

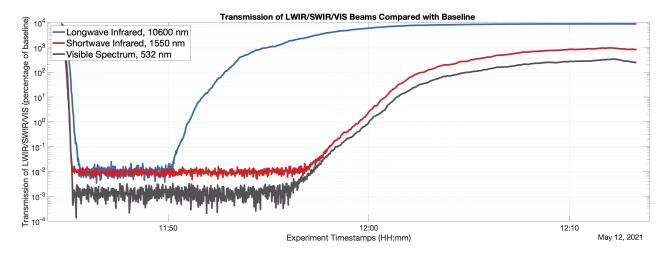
Visible Spectrum: 15695 Images Longwave Infrared: 17213 Images LIDAR: 2247 Data & Images

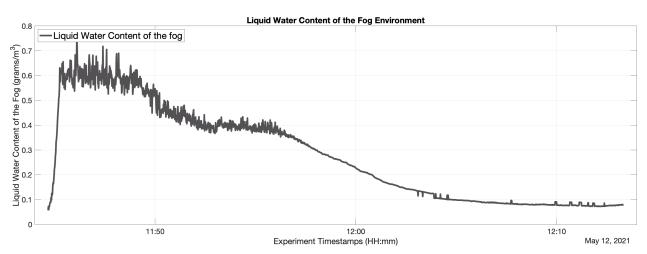
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog10



### 2 Experiment Environment: fog10









Experiment Name: fog11

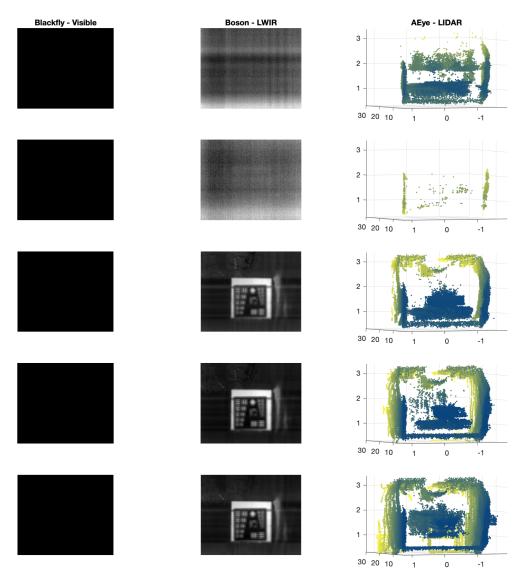
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 12:20:25.111

**Duration:** 00:35:42.372 **Target:** USAF-1951

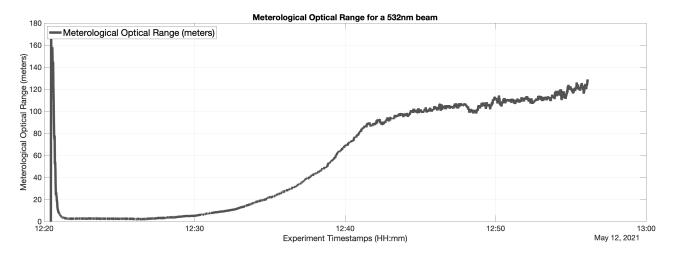
Target Distance: 17.6276 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

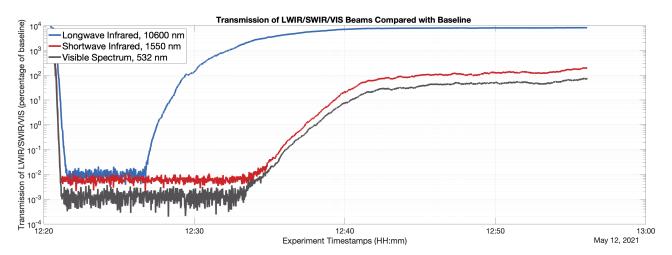
Visible Spectrum: 20453 Images Longwave Infrared: 21423 Images LIDAR: 2798 Data & Images

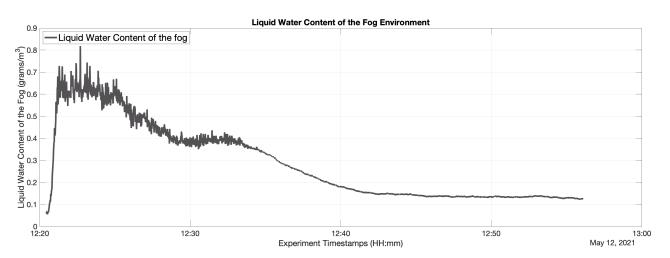
### 1 Data Snapshot: fog11



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog11









Experiment Name: fog12

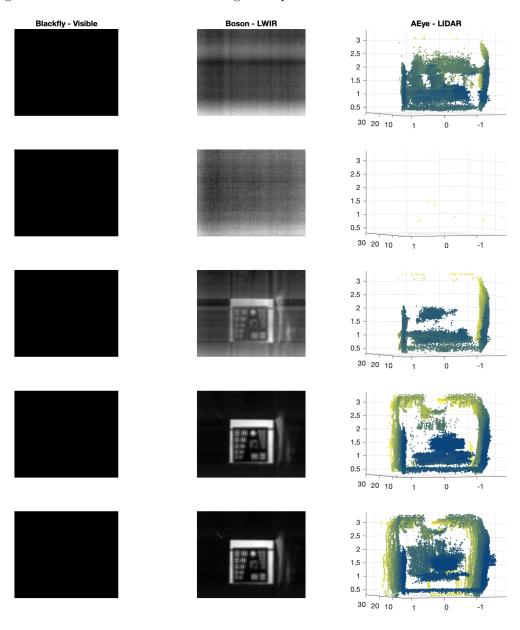
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 13:01:09.953

**Duration:** 00:27:36.052 **Target:** USAF-1951

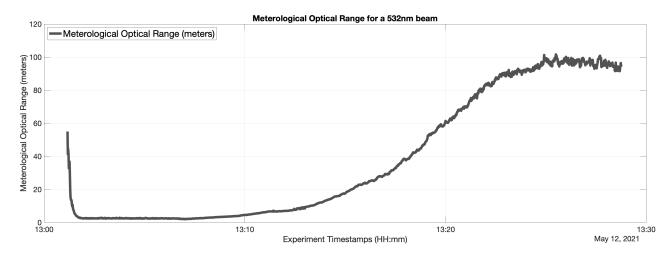
Target Distance: 17.6276 meters Target Temperature: 60 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

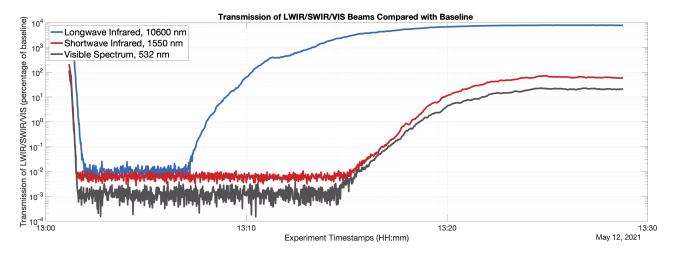
Visible Spectrum: 14941 Images Longwave Infrared: 16561 Images LIDAR: 2172 Data & Images

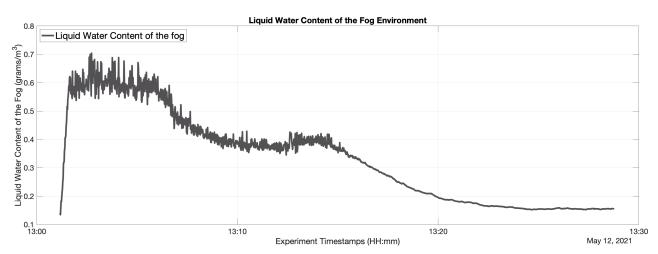
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog12



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog12









Experiment Name: fog14

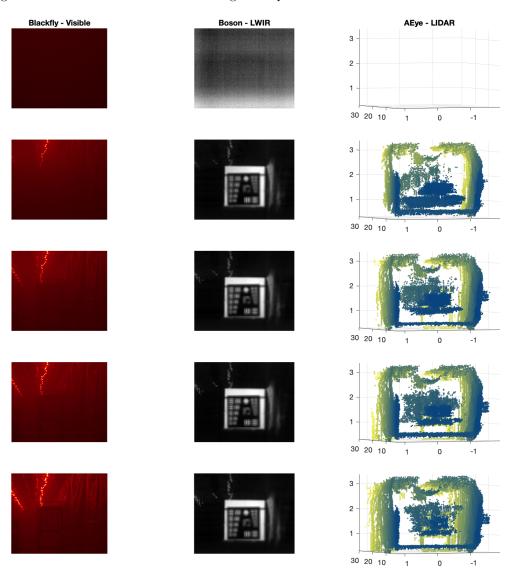
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 14:01:13.036

**Duration:** 00:58:41.298 **Target:** USAF-1951

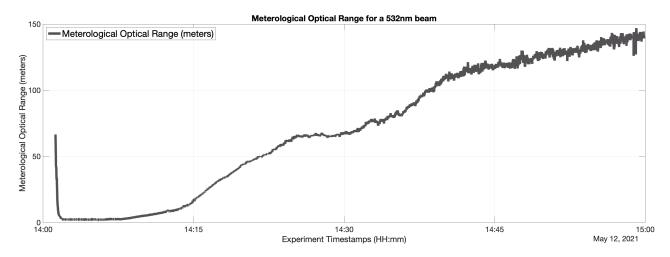
Target Distance: 17.6276 meters Target Temperature: N/A Environment Notes: None. File Information:

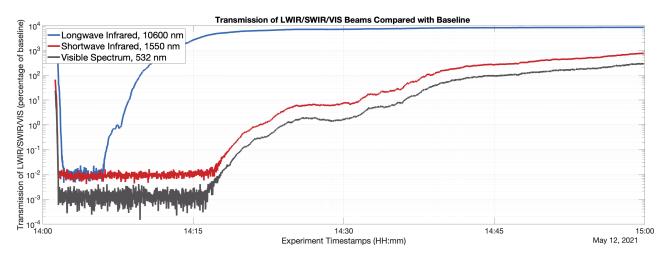
Visible Spectrum: 32035 Images Longwave Infrared: 35212 Images LIDAR: 4604 Data & Images

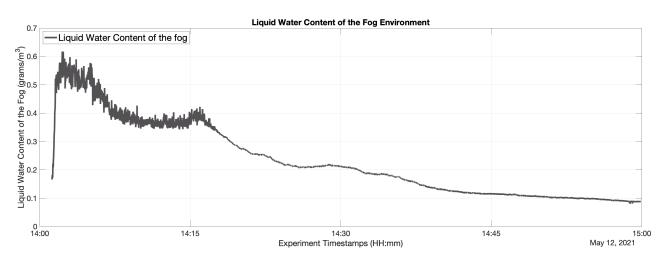
#### 1 Data Snapshot: fog14



## 2 Experiment Environment: fog14









Experiment Name: fog15

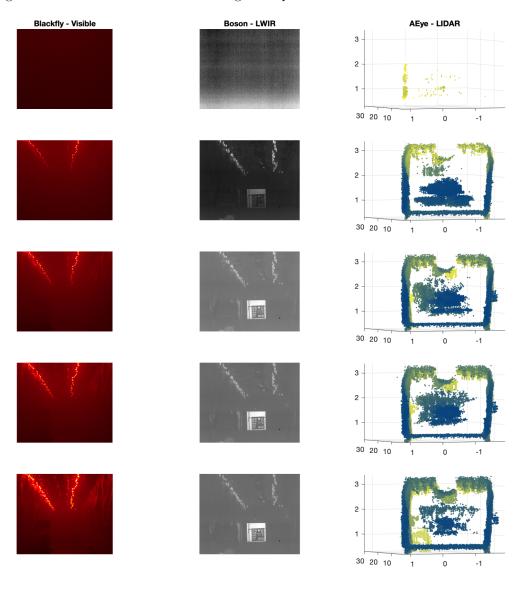
**Start Time:** 12-May-2021 16:08:11.260

**Duration:** 01:22:05.925 **Target:** USAF-1951

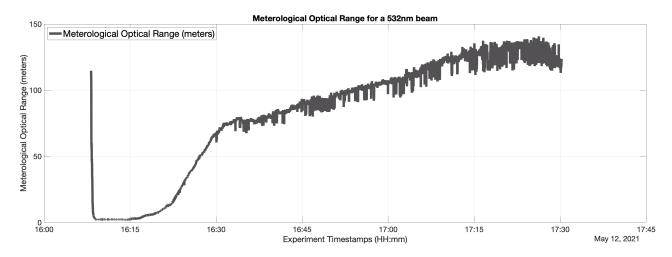
Target Distance: 45.66 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

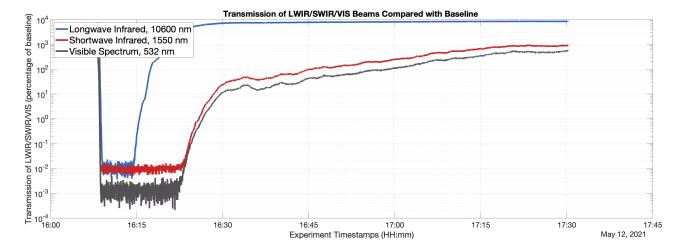
Visible Spectrum: 45034 Images Longwave Infrared: 49259 Images LIDAR: 6440 Data & Images

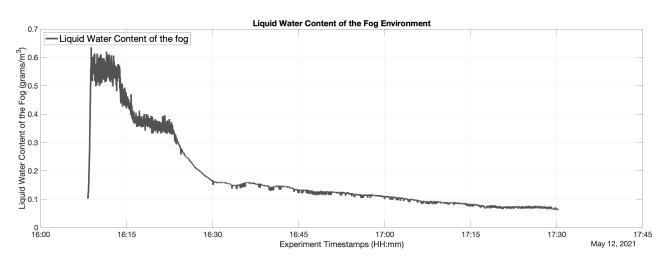
### 1 Data Snapshot: fog15



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog15









Experiment Name: fog16

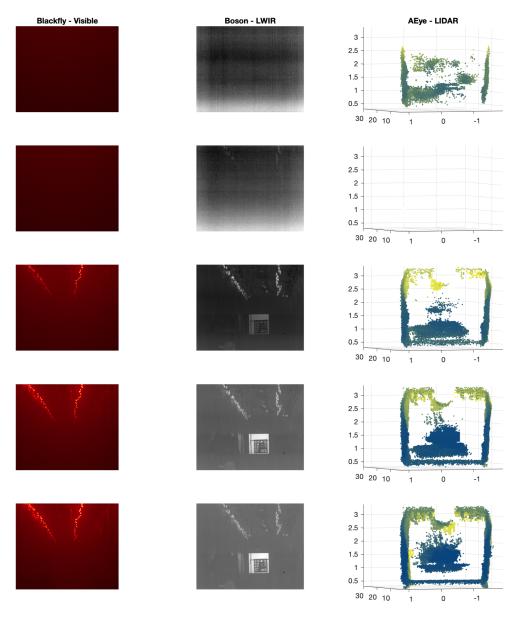
**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 09:28:39.918

**Duration:** 00:41:40.255 **Target:** USAF-1951

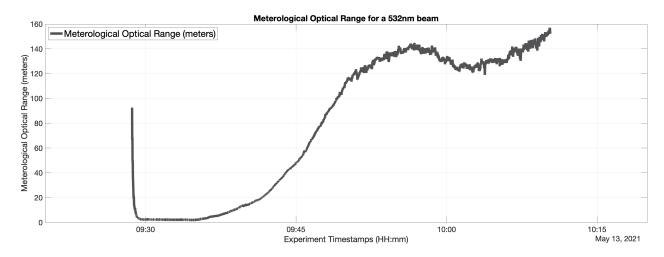
Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: 60 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

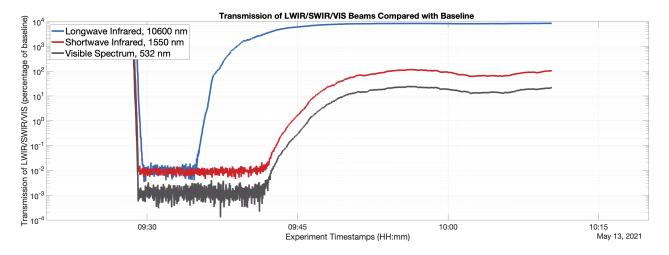
Visible Spectrum: 22847 Images Longwave Infrared: 25004 Images LIDAR: 3271 Data & Images

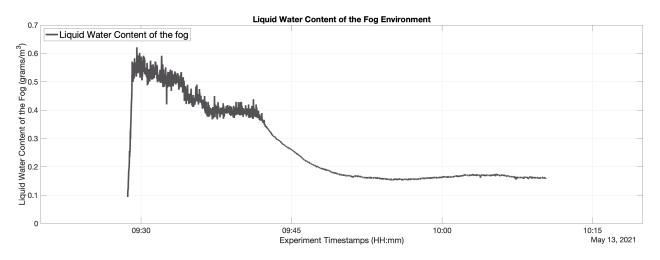
## 1 Data Snapshot: fog16



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog16









Experiment Name: fog17

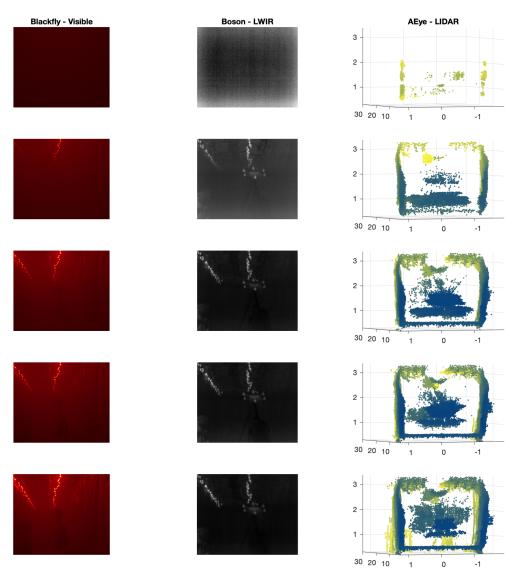
**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 12:45:34.338

**Duration:** 01:02:59.197 **Target:** UAV-Oncoming

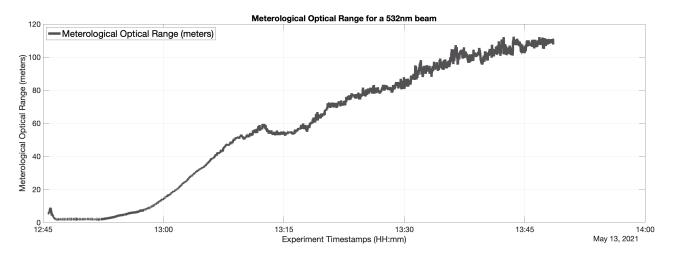
Target Distance: 18.23 meters Target Temperature: N/A Environment Notes: None. File Information:

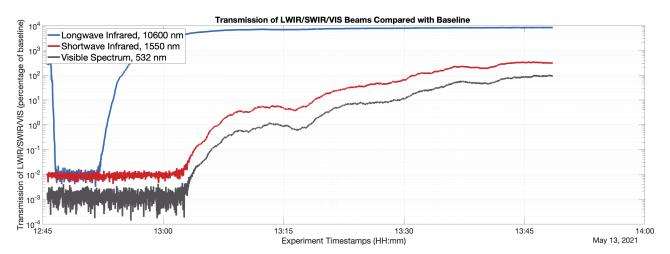
Visible Spectrum: 34384 Images Longwave Infrared: 37793 Images LIDAR: 4941 Data & Images

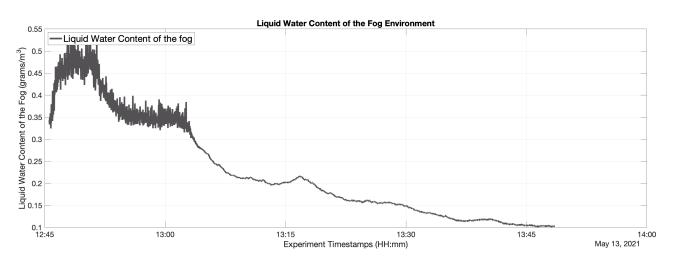
## 1 Data Snapshot: fog17



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog17









Experiment Name: fog18

**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 15:41:42.650

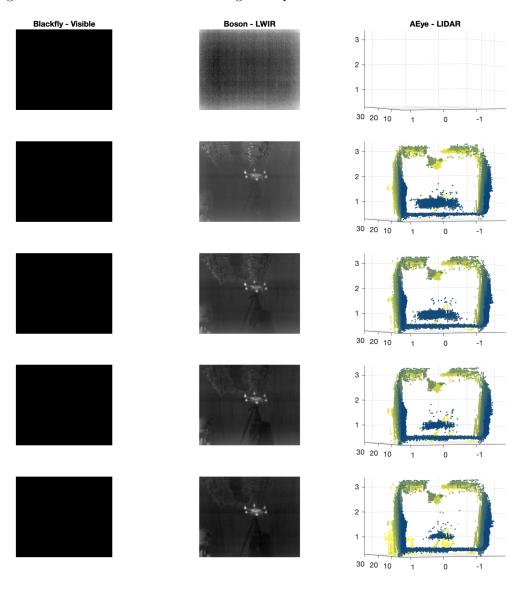
**Duration:** 00:48:00.116 **Target:** UAV-Oncoming

Target Distance: 18.2372 meters Target Temperature: N/A Environment Notes: None. File Information:

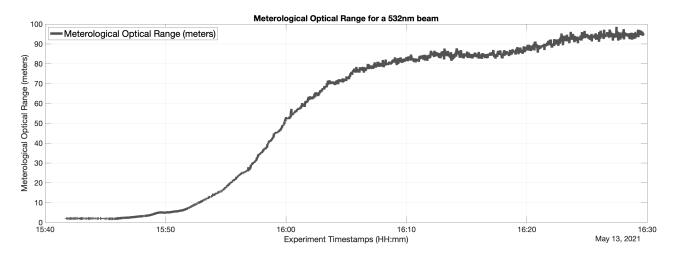
Visible Spectrum: 25992 Images Longwave Infrared: 28800 Images LIDAR: 2789 Data & Images

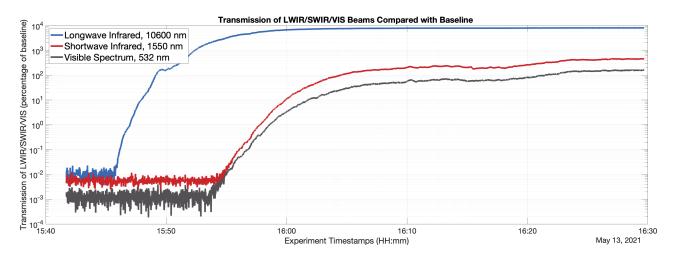
### LIDAR: 2789 Data & Images

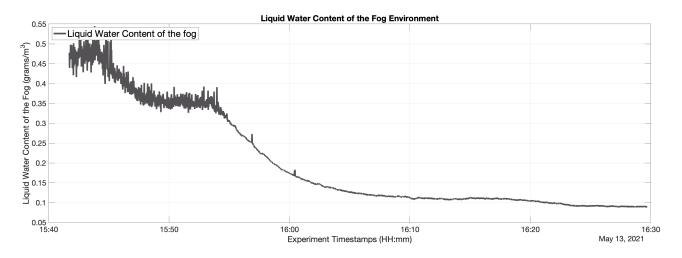
## 1 Data Snapshot: fog18



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog18









Experiment Name: fog20

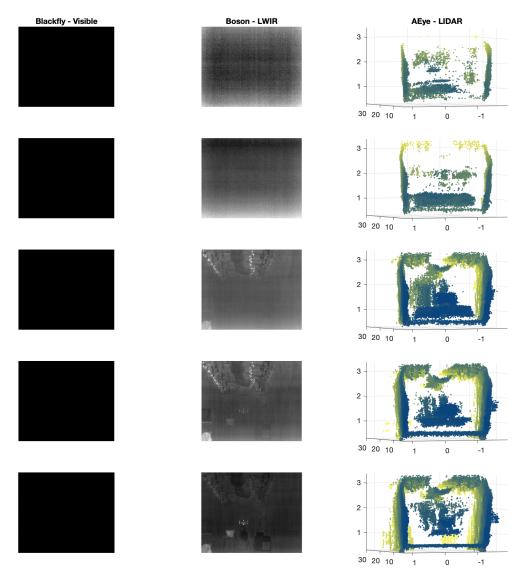
**Start Time:** 14-May-2021 10:50:28.216

**Duration:** 00:31:18.961 **Target:** UAV-Oncoming

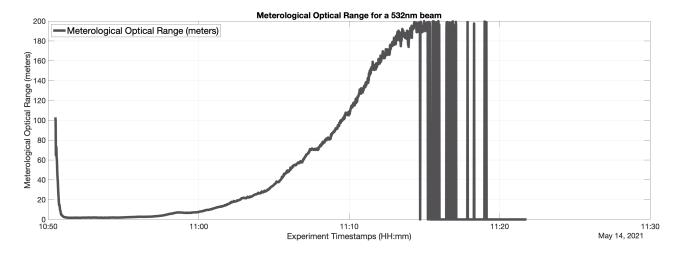
Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: N/A Environment Notes: None. File Information:

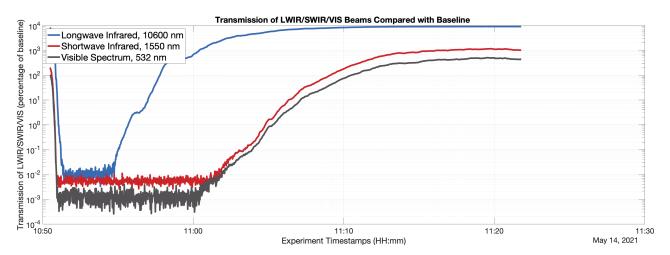
Visible Spectrum: 17271 Images Longwave Infrared: 18791 Images LIDAR: 2452 Data & Images

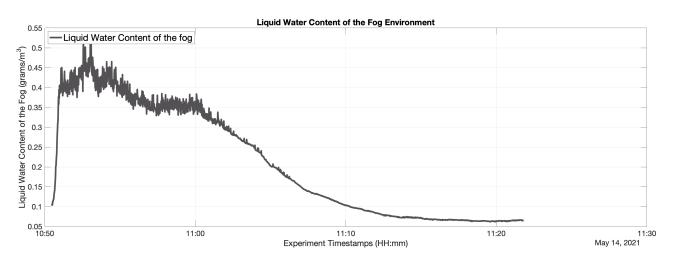
### 1 Data Snapshot: fog20



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog20









Experiment Name: fog22

**Start Time:** 14-May-2021 13:25:03.432

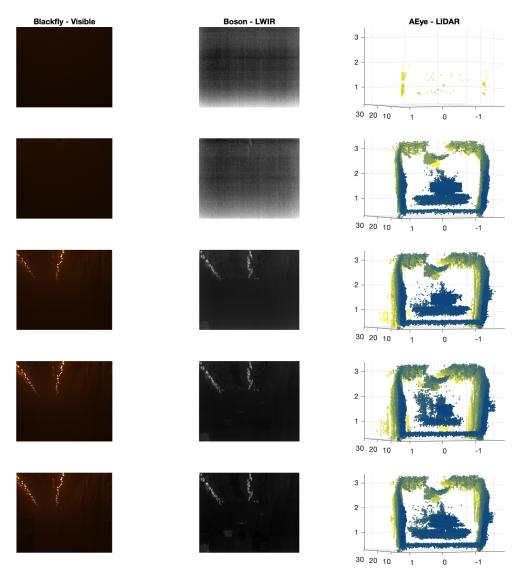
**Duration:** 00:31:05.889 **Target:** UAV-Hover

Target Distance: 45.6692 meters Target Temperature: N/A Environment Notes: None.

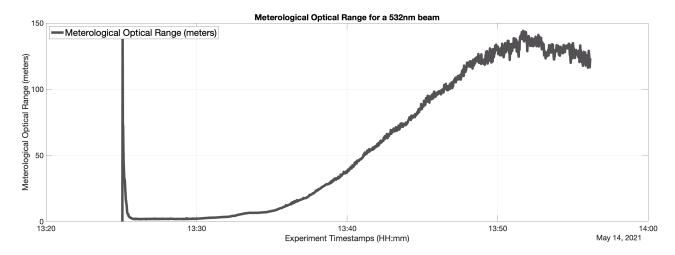
#### File Information:

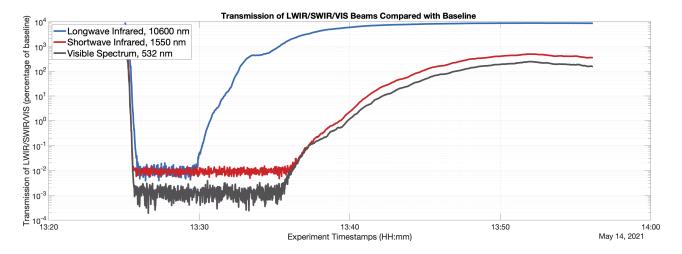
Visible Spectrum: 16943 Images Longwave Infrared: 18660 Images LIDAR: 5548 Data & Images

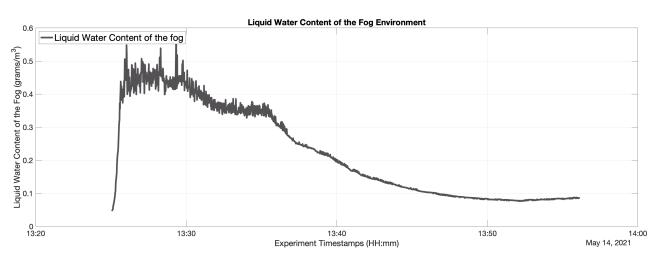
## 1 Data Snapshot: fog22



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog22









Experiment Name: fog24

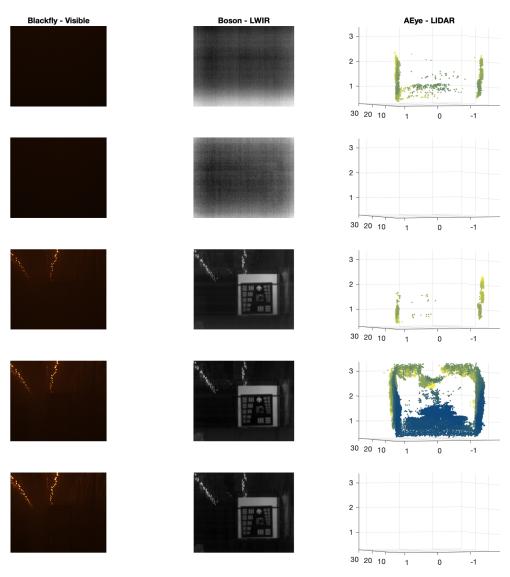
**Start Time:** 14-May-2021 14:33:54.354

**Duration:** 00:56:35.916 **Target:** USAF-1951

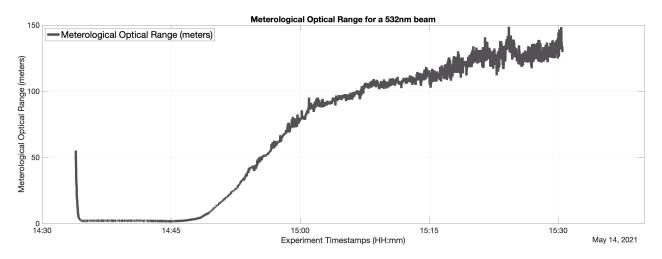
Target Distance: 17.6276 meters Target Temperature: 37 C Environment Notes: None. File Information:

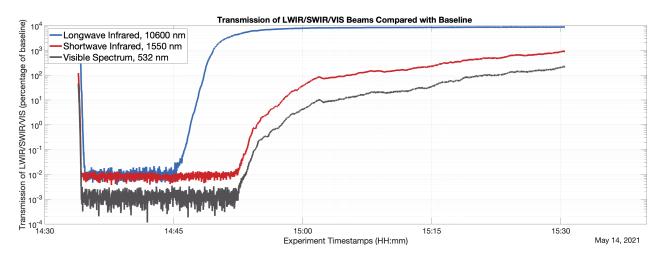
Visible Spectrum: 30925 Images Longwave Infrared: 33958 Images LIDAR: 3243 Data & Images

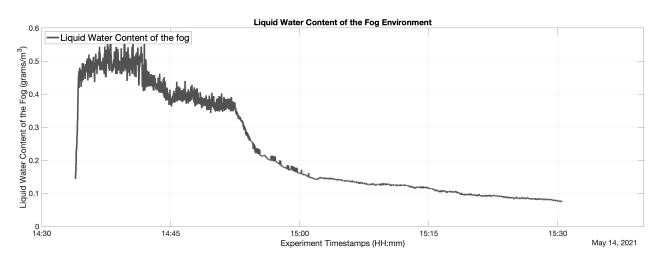
## 1 Data Snapshot: fog24



# 2 Experiment Environment: fog24









Experiment Name: pao02

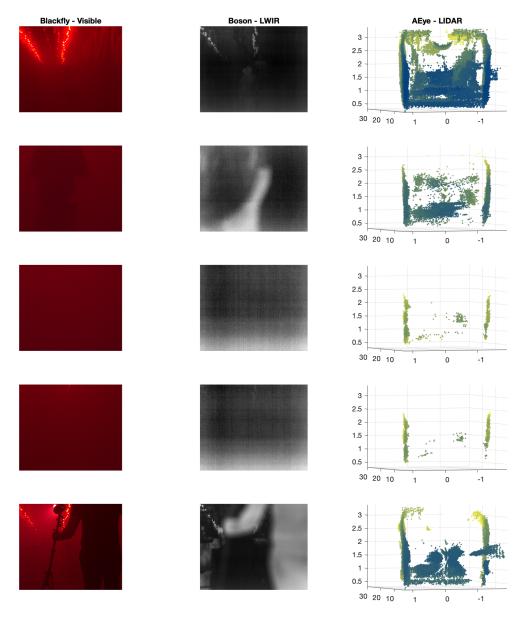
**Start Time:** 13-May-2021 15:07:32.073

**Duration:** 00:09:31.249 **Target:** USAF-1951

Target Distance: 50 meters Target Temperature: N/A Environment Notes: None. File Information:

Visible Spectrum: 5218 Images Longwave Infrared: 5712 Images LIDAR: 742 Data & Images

## 1 Data Snapshot: pao02



# 2 Experiment Environment: pao02

