

Tropical Storm June, the last of seven significant tropical cyclones to develop during August, originated in the monsoon trough like most of the other storms before it. June would also be typical of several other storms during the month, in that the most difficult part of warning on the system would be in locating the actual surface center.

Even as the final warning was being issued on the exposed low-level circulation of Tropical Depression 12W, satellite imagery indicated a large area of convection persisted further south over the active monsoon trough (Figure 3-14-1). At 1200Z on the 25th of August, synoptic data indicated a closed 1000 mb circulation had formed in the trough. During the next two days this circulation drifted westward as the associated convection tried to consolidate. Strong upper-level shearing, from the same anticyclone which sheared Tropical
Depression 12W, inhibited development on the
25th and 26th. But early on the 27th, an
upper-level anticyclone began to form over the disturbance making conditions more favorable for development. Although synoptic data clearly indicated a surface circulation was present during this time, the low-level center was not consistently locatable on satellite imagery within the broad area of convection. This problem would plague JTWC throughout the life of Tropical Storm June.

The first aircraft reconnaissance mission into the disturbance at 270651Z found a closed 30 kt (15 m/s) circulation with a light and variable wind center 50 nm (93 km) in diameter. Based on this information and indications from satellite imagery that the convection was becoming more organized, a TCFA was issued at 270800Z. As typical with most monsoon disturbances, the strongest winds were observed south of the circulation center and associated with the southwest monsoon.

During the following 18 hours, synoptic data indicated the disturbance continued to intensify. However, the convection failed to show the expected increase in organization. During much of this time satellite imagery actually indicated multiple circulation centers were present! Although JTWC wanted to go to warning status on this disturbance as early as 2712002, the inability to accurately position the surface center made this impossible. The area of gale force winds, however, were covered in the NAVOCEANCOMCEN Guam, extratropical wind warning bulletin (WWPN PGFW).

Between 280000Z and 280600Z the disturbance finally consolidated into a single circulation center (Figure 3-14-2). Aircraft and satellite fixes now began to consistently agree on the location of that center. This prompted the issuance of the first warning on June as a tropical storm at 280600Z.



Figure 3-14-1. Active area of convection in the northern Philippine Sea associated with the southwest monsoon which would later develop into Tropical Storm June. Note the exposed low-level circulation further north which is the remnants of Tropical Depression 12W (250630Z August NOAA visual imagery).

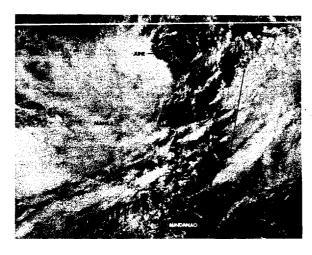


Figure 3-14-2. The developing Tropical Storm June east of the Philippines. At this time June was consolidating about a single circulation center [2807347 August NOAA visual imagery].

At the time of the first warning, Tropical Storm June was located 110 nm (204 km) east of Luzon. June was a broad circulation with the strongest winds in a band 60 to 150 nm (111 to 278 km) from the center. During the next 12 hours June headed west steered by the flow along the south side of a mid to low-level subtropical ridge. The storm made landfall on the east coast of northern Luzon at about 2815002.

After landfall synoptic data indicated the surface circulation of June apparently

tracked to the west-northwest following the low-level terrain over northern Luzon and re-emerged on the northwest coast at approximately 290000Z. However, the mid-level circulation and nearly all of the convection continued to move almost due west. Since the passage over Luzon occurred at night when only infrared imagery was available, accurate positioning of the low-level center from satellite imagery was impossible.



Figure 3-14-3. Tropical Storm June in the northern South China Sea. The broad surface circulation is located north of the convection. This is one of the few times that satellite imagery would be able to accurately fix the low-level circulation of June as it transited the South China Sea (292340Z NOAA visual imagery).

As June emerged in the northern South China Sea a mid-latitude trough moved across eastern China and weakened the subtropical ridge. This allowed June to turn to the northwest. June made landfall at approximately 301700Z on the coast of mainland China 130 nm (241 km) east of Hong Kong (WMO 45005). Although June did intensify to 60 kt (31 m/s) as it transitted the northern South China Sea, the storm remained poorly organized (Figure 3-14-3). During this time aircraft and radar were the only accurate and consistent means of locating the circulation center.

Tropical Storm June was the first named

tropical cyclone of the 1984 season to directly strike the Philippines. Heavy rains from the combination of June and the southwest monsoon caused extensive flooding throughout much of Luzon, particularly along the west coast and in river valleys. At least 67 deaths were attributed to the storm. The deaths resulted primarily from heavy rains, flooding and the accompanying landslides. In addition to extensive damage to crops and vegetation, over 25,000 families lost their homes. However, despite the considerable damage caused by June, it was relatively minor compared to the death and destruction Typhoon Ike brought to the central Philippines only four days later.