

TROPICAL STORM KIT (17W)

Tropical Storm Kit was the sixth of eight significant tropical cyclones in September. It was a "straight runner" to the northwest and made landfall on the south coast of China. Kit caused loss of life and significant property damage in southeastern China.

The tropical cyclone was first detected

on satellite imagery on 18 September 300 nm (556 km) east of Manila. The disturbance rapidly developed in the eastward extension of the monsoon trough and immediately became the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert at 182230Z (Figure 3-17-1). Increased deep convection in the banding feature, improved outflow aloft, plus a satellite intensity

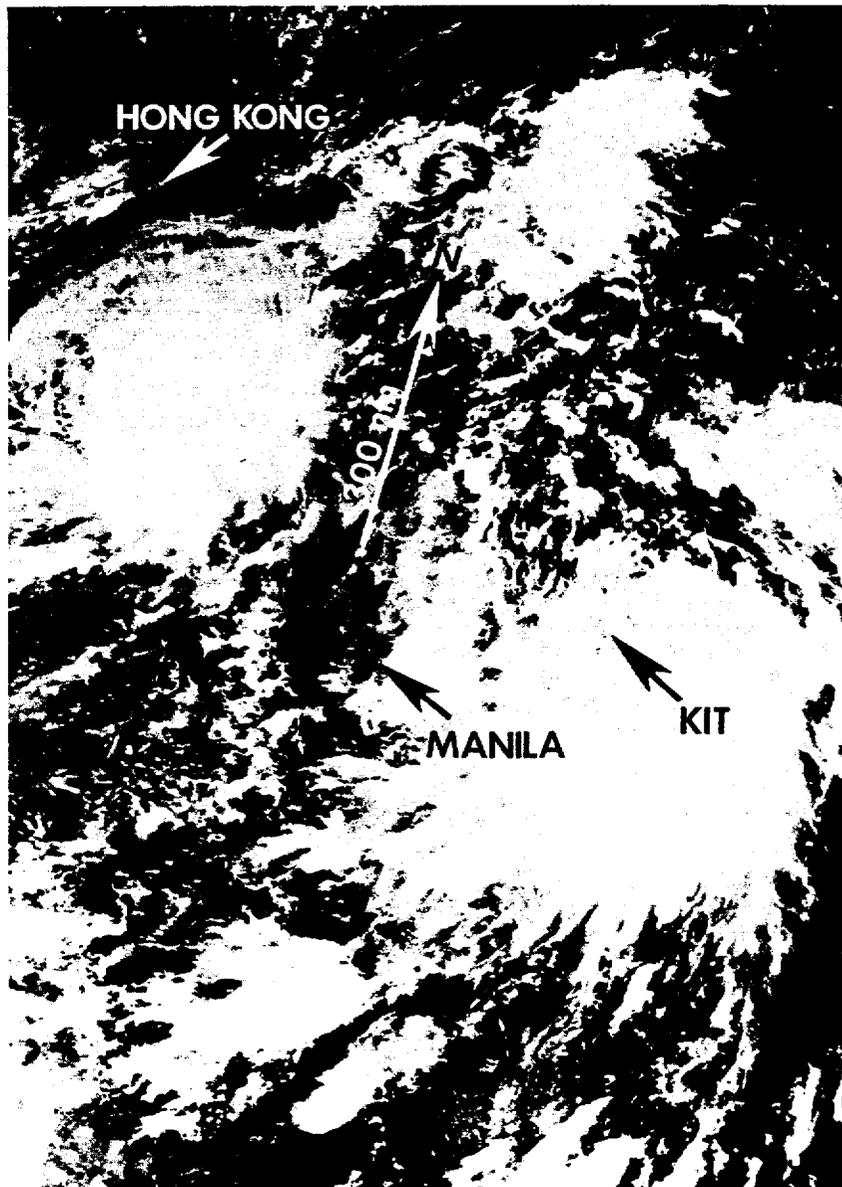


Figure 3-17-1. Kit as a tropical disturbance (190051Z September DMSF visual imagery).

estimate of sustained 30 kt (15 m/sec) surface winds, dictated the upgrade to Tropical Depression 17W at 090600Z.

Even though Kit tracked across the northern tip of Luzon, it continued to intensify. At 191800Z, another upgrade was needed — this time to tropical storm intensity. After being over land for six hours, it once again moved over open waters. The system developed a strong low-level inflow from the southwest and improved its upper-level outflow to the

southeast through southwest (Figure 3-17-2). A day later, at 210600Z, Kit reached its peak intensity of 60 kt (31 m/sec).

After the intensity peaked, the tropical storm approached the coast of southern China and weakened. The final warning was issued on Kit at 220000Z, when it made landfall 120 nm (222 km) northeast of Hong Kong. Press releases from China indicated widespread flooding, loss of electrical power and at least three lives lost in the Guangdong province.

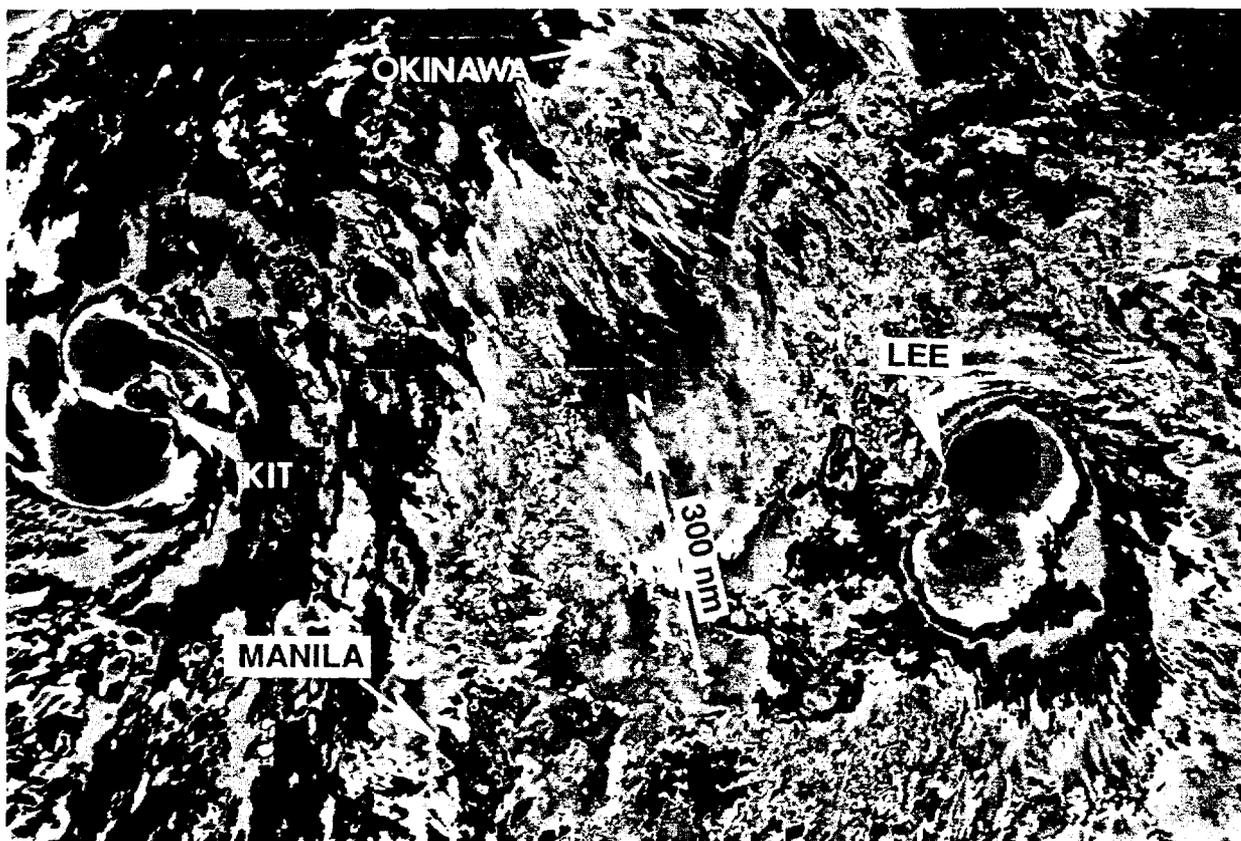


Figure 3-17-2. Kit at peak intensity (to the left) and Tropical Storm Lee (18W) (to the lower right of the picture) (211003Z September DMSP infrared imagery).