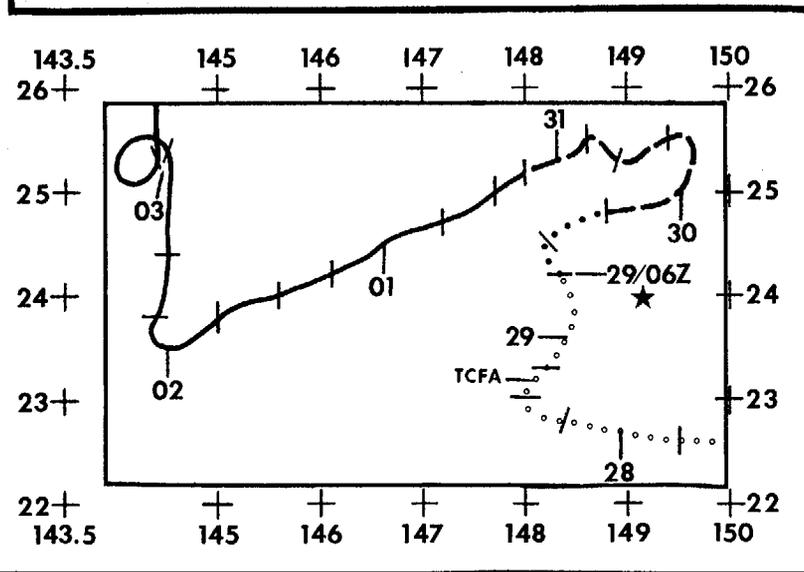


TYPHOON LEX
 BEST TRACK TC-12
 29 JUL-07 AUG 1980
 MAX SFC WIND 80 KTS
 MINIMUM SLP 962 MBS

LEGEND

- 06 HOUR BEST TRACK POSIT
- A SPEED OF MOVEMENT
- B INTENSITY
- C POSITION AT XX/0000Z
- ... TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
- ... TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- - - TROPICAL STORM
- TYPHOON
- ◆ SUPER TYPHOON START
- ◇ SUPER TYPHOON END
- ◇◇◇ EXTRATROPICAL
- ... DISSIPATING STAGE
- ★ FIRST WARNING ISSUED
- ☆ LAST WARNING ISSUED

DTG	SPEED	INTENSITY
29/06Z		30
29/12Z	6	30
29/18Z	6	35
30/00Z	7	40
30/06Z	8	45
30/12Z	6	50
30/18Z	4	55
31/00Z	3	60
31/06Z	4	65
31/12Z	5	65
31/18Z	6	65
01/00Z	6	65
01/06Z	6	65
01/12Z	6	70
01/18Z	6	70
02/00Z	6	75
02/06Z	7	75
02/12Z	7	75
02/18Z	9	75
03/00Z	9	80



Typhoon Lex was the most difficult tropical cyclone to forecast during the entire 1980 season. This typhoon developed from a Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT) near 22N 152E and initially moved westward. From this point, Lex made five right angle or greater turns and executed one tight cyclonic loop before finally heading northeastward into the western Pacific east of Japan. The only saving grace was that Lex remained well away from major landmasses and did not affect any military installations ashore or afloat.

Lex was first observed as a small disturbed area of convection on 24 July. The first satellite position fix at 260600Z placed the disturbance approximately 125 nm (230 km) south-southwest of Marcus Island. The disturbance moved almost due west (Fig. 3-12-1), and a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued at 281500Z when the satellite signature improved. The first warning was issued for Tropical Depression (TD) 12 at 290600Z after aircraft reconnaissance located a surface circulation center with a central pressure of 1002 mb and estimated maximum surface winds of 35 kt (18 m/sec). Twelve hours later, as the satellite signature continued to improve, the cyclone was upgraded to Tropical Storm Lex.

During the early development stage, a deep steering current was not evident above Lex. However, a broad 200 mb trough to the

north-northeast seemed to have the strongest influence and turned Lex from a westward to a northeastward track. As the upper trough moved eastward, a middle- and upper-level ridge built northwest of Lex. The steering currents veered from southwesterly to northeasterly in response to the intensifying subtropical ridge, and Lex turned to a south-westward track.

Lex continued to intensify slowly during his southwestward movement, reaching typhoon strength of 65 kt (33 m/sec) at 310600Z. Shortly after 020000Z, Lex again changed direction and headed on a northward track through a break in the subtropical ridge. The break developed as a trough deepened to the north over the Sea of Japan. At the same time, anticyclonic cells intensified at all levels to the southeast and west-southwest of Lex.

Lex executed a cyclonic loop while accelerating northward and, before completing the loop, reached his maximum intensity of 80 kt (41 m/sec). The satellite signature for Lex at maximum intensity is illustrated in Figure 3-12-2. Upon exiting the loop, Lex continued tracking north until a deep surface low and associated cold front began moving eastward across Japan. As the frontal system approached from the west, Lex commenced recurvature to the northeast and accelerated slightly. The slow entrainment of cold air caused Lex to weaken and transition into an extratropical system. The last warning was issued for Lex at 070000Z August 1980.

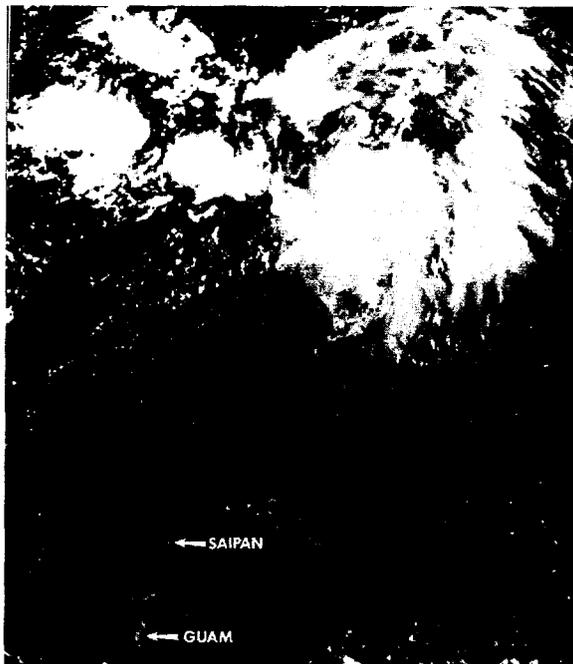


FIGURE 3-12-1. Lex as a tropical disturbance prior to issuance of a TCFA, 27 July 1980, 0026Z. (DMSF imagery)



FIGURE 3-12-2. Typhoon Lex at maximum intensity of 80 kt (41 m/sec), 2 August 1980, 2242Z. Iwo Jima is about 155 nm (285 km) west of Lex. (NOAA6 imagery)