

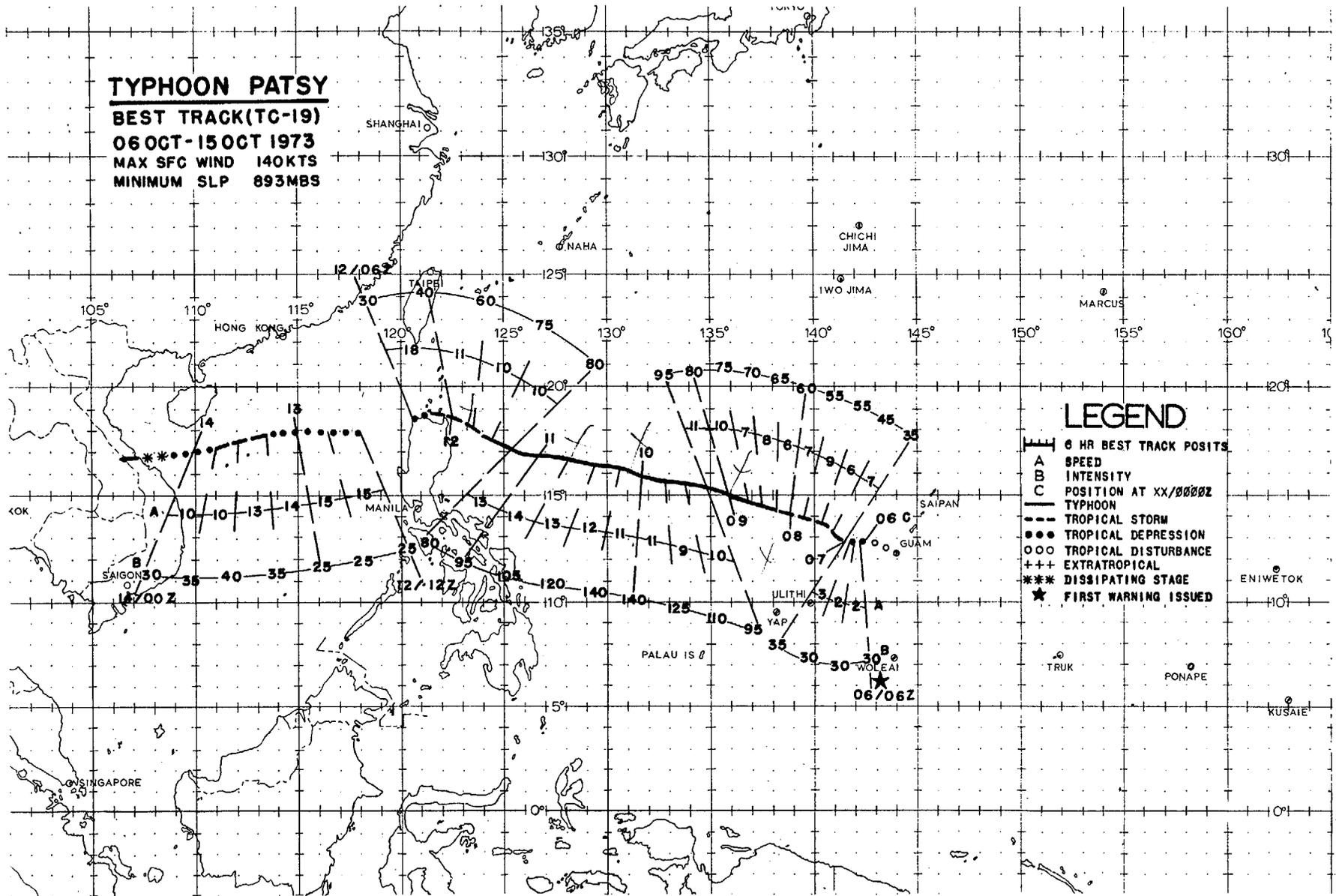
TYPHOON PATSY

BEST TRACK(TC-19)

06 OCT-15 OCT 1973

MAX SFC WIND 140KTS

MINIMUM SLP 893MBS



LEGEND

- 6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
- A SPEED
- B INTENSITY
- C POSITION AT XX/0000Z
- TYPHOON
- - - TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
- +++ EXTRATROPICAL
- *** DISSIPATING STAGE
- ★ FIRST WARNING ISSUED

A weak disturbance formed in the monsoon trough 300nm south of Guam on the 3rd of October. The weak vortex drifted westward in the wake of Nora. Until the 6th, it underwent only minor development due to the strong vertical shear caused by Nora's vigorous upper tropospheric outflow. Reconnaissance aircraft, investigating the disturbance on that day, reported maximum surface winds of 35 kts, heralding the arrival of Tropical Storm Patsy.

For the next two days she followed a westnorthwest course at 6-8 kts under the influence of the steering flow of the mid-tropospheric ridge to the north. Patsy was characteristically a small storm throughout her life. By the 8th she had developed typhoon force winds as she began to accelerate to a speed of 10-12 kts.

A reconnaissance aircraft reported that Patsy had rapidly intensified into a super typhoon with estimated maximum surface winds of 150 kts and a central pressure of 893mb (10/0020 GMT). Her central pressure had dropped 57mb in a span of 22 hours (Figure 4-21).

Patsy continued unerringly toward the northern tip of Luzon as she began to weaken late on the 10th. Interestingly, on

the evening of the 11th, DMSP satellite imagery revealed that Patsy's low level circulation had separated from the upper level portion of the cyclone (Figure 4-22). The low level portion took a more northwesterly course and weakened to a tropical disturbance as it crossed the southern Luzon Strait. Meanwhile, a radar site in the Republic of the Philippines continued to follow the upper level cloudiness as it tracked due west towards Luzon. A similar situation occurred with Susan in 1972.

The upper level circulation drifted over Luzon and out into the South China Sea. It apparently became superimposed over a low level vortex that had been situated in the South China Sea for several days. This system developed to tropical storm intensity as it passed to the north of the Paracel Islands. It weakened to a tropical depression just prior to making landfall in the Republic of Vietnam.

Patsy was the 3rd and final super typhoon of the year. She was only the 2nd storm to form in the western Caroline Islands area in the 1973 season.

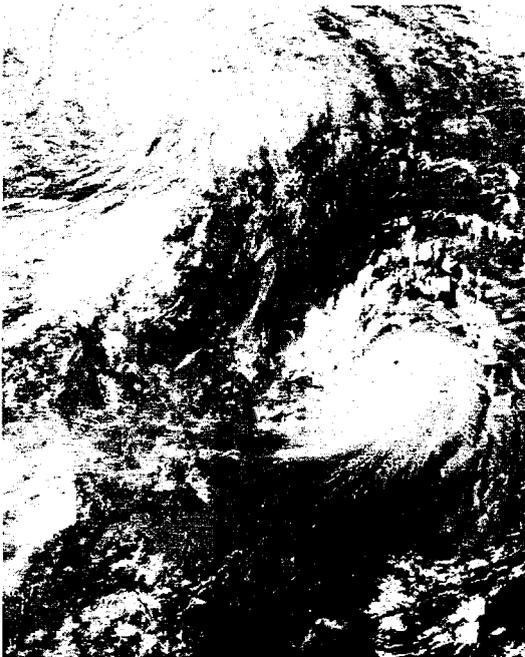


FIGURE 4-21. Super Typhoon Patsy (right) at peak intensity. Typhoon Nora (left) in the Taiwan Strait, 9 October 1973, 2341 GMT. (DMSP imagery)

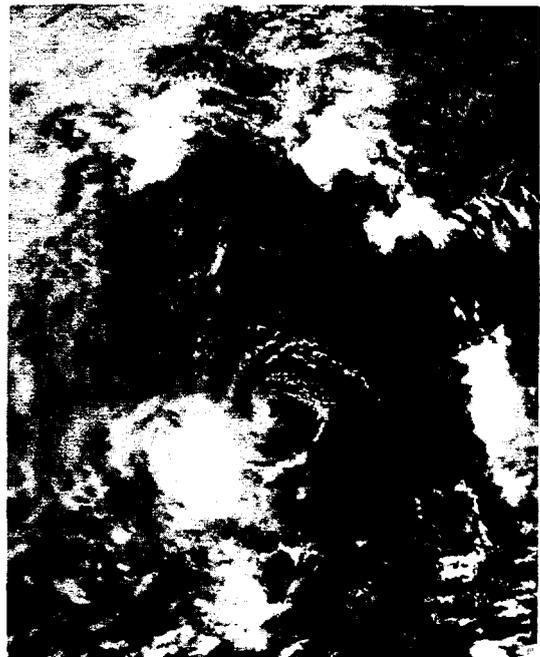


FIGURE 4-22. Moonlight visual of Tropical Storm Patsy. Spiral cumulus pattern depicts the low level circulation with the cirrus canopy displaced to the southwest, 11 October 1973, 1613 GMT. (DMSP imagery)