

SECTION II

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This report is primarily a summarization of Western North Pacific typhoons and Central North Pacific hurricanes (one) which occurred during the calendar year 1959.

Section III is a general summary of the 1959 Typhoon Season and pertains to the number of typhoons, areas of formation and development, physical characteristics, movement, etc. Section IV contains a discussion and evaluation of procedures for the detection of tropical cyclones, and techniques used both in preparing forecasts and in typhoon reconnaissance. Section V contains a short narrative of each typhoon, in chronological order, with post-analysis charts showing best track, eye position fixes, speed of movement, intensity and forecast positions. Also included are tables containing position verification data, and reconnaissance aircraft fixes. Section VI treats of destructive effects of the 1959 typhoons. This information is by no means complete, but merely touches on known losses, using only reports which were readily available to this Command.

Worthy of mention is the fact that this is the first Annual Typhoon Report published by Fleet Weather Central/Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Guam. Effective on 1 May 1959, CINCPAC, through CINCPACFLT, redesignated Fleet Weather Central, Guam as Fleet Weather Central/Joint Typhoon Warning Center (FWC/JTWC), Guam. The new entity was assigned the following additional responsibilities:

1. To provide warnings to U.S. Government agencies for all tropical cyclones west of 180 degrees longitude.

2. To determine typhoon reconnaissance requirements and priorities.

3. To conduct investigative and post analysis programs including the preparation of annual typhoon summaries.

4. To conduct forecasting and detection research as practicable.

Tokyo Weather Central, assisted as necessary by Fleet Weather Facility Yokosuka, was designated as alternate JTWC in case of failure of FWC/JTWC, Guam. Responsible for the issuance of tropical warnings for the Central North Pacific, east of 180 degrees, is the Joint Hurricane Warning Center in Hawaii, a coordinated agency composed of the U.S. Weather Bureau, Honolulu, the Air Force Kunia Weather Center, and Fleet Weather Central, Pearl Harbor. In practice, coordinated tropical warnings are issued both by the U.S. Weather Bureau, Honolulu and Fleet Weather Central, Pearl Harbor.

The JTWC, which is an integral section of FWC/JTWC, Guam, is staffed by two Air Force and two Navy meteorologists, and three enlisted men from each service. The senior Air Force Officer has been designated as the Director, JTWC.

Prior to the activation of FWC/JTWC, the Air Force and Navy both had various weather units in the Northwest Pacific assigned the responsibility of issuing tropical warnings. It can be easily understood that coordination of tropical warnings between widely

separated Air Force and Navy units was at times difficult or impossible due to communications problems. Thus it was not uncommon for uncoordinated warnings to be issued. For this reason, a single but joint unit, coordinating directly with the reconnaissance unit is believed to be the most efficient method of providing tropical warnings to all U.S. Government agencies in the Northwest Pacific.

Throughout this report, the word "miles" should be construed to mean "nautical miles" unless other wise indicated.