

Tropical Storm Forrest was influenced by an unusually large and strong mid-tropospheric ridge which built westward across the Philippine Sea following the recurvature of Typhoon Ellen. This ridge dominated the entire northwestern Pacific and affected Forrest's direction of movement, forward speed, and intensity.

The majority of TS Forrest's track was spent skirting the southern periphery of the large subtropical ridge. During the month of May, cyclones typically track northwestward over the Philippine Sea. However, Figure 3-05-1 shows that nearly zonal 500 mb flow prevailed during this period and forced Forrest to track nearly due west. This steady zonal flow also pushed Forrest forward at speeds reaching 18 kt (33 km/hr), which is 3 times the climatological mean speed.

The strength of the subtropical ridge also affected Forrest's intensity. The subtropical ridge raised environmental pressures throughout the northwestern Pacific north of Forrest. Aircraft reconnaissance consistently observed winds in Forrest that were 10 to 15 kt (5 to 8 m/sec) stronger than would be expected from Forrest's minimum sea-level pressure of 990 mb and the Atkinson and Holliday (1977) pressure/wind relationship (Fig. 3-05-2). The Atkinson and Holliday relationship indicates that the 55 kt (28 m/sec) maximum sustained winds observed in Forrest (Fig. 3-05-3) are typically associated with tropical cyclones having a 983 mb minimum sea-level pressure. Aircraft reconnaissance also observed that Forrest tilted south-southwest from the surface to 700 mb. The surface and 700 mb centers were displaced as much as 35 nm (65 km) at times, apparently in response to upper-level northeast flow which existed over Forrest.

Following landfall on Luzon, Forrest weakened rapidly while passing approximately 40 nm (74 km) northeast of Clark AB. Highest observed wind speeds at this location associated with the passage of TS Forrest were in the 10 to 15 kt (5 to 8 m/sec) range.

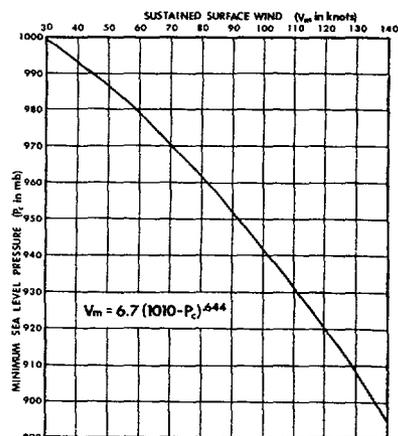


FIGURE 3-05-2. Atkinson and Holliday (1977) maximum sustained surface wind-minimum sea-level pressure relationship.

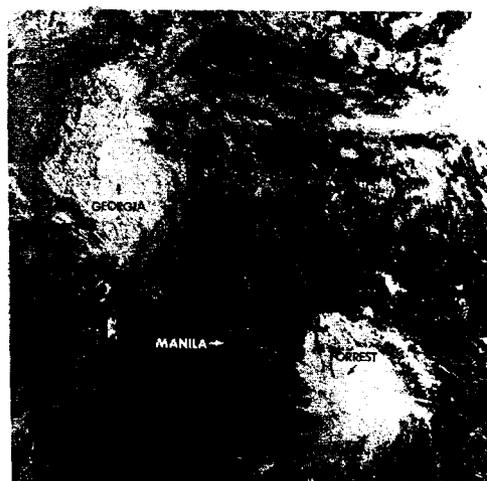


FIGURE 3-05-3. Tropical Storm Forrest at maximum intensity, 23 May 1980, 2344Z. Tropical Storm Georgia is making landfall over southeastern China. (NOAA 6 imagery)

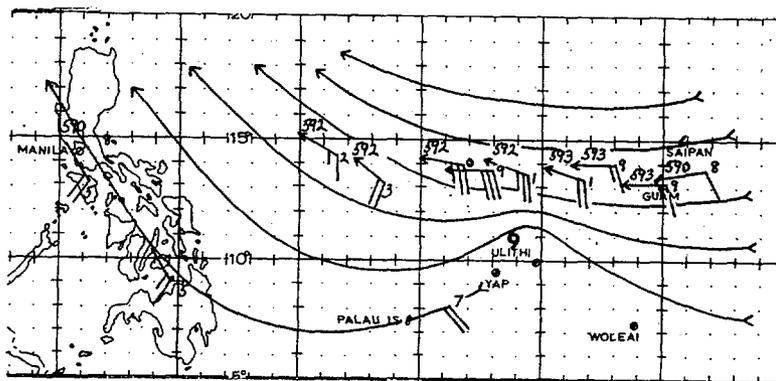


FIGURE 3-05-1. The 220000Z May 1980 streamline analysis of 500 mb rawinsonde (→) and aircraft reconnaissance (←) data. The 500 mb heights are plotted in decameters and wind speeds are in knots.