

PRE-ANALYZED SATELLITE PICTURE

In preparing for the morning map discussion, the briefer was reading the National Environmental Satellite Service (NESS) satellite interpretation message and labeling the key features on the two-mile resolution infrared satellite picture. All was going well until the briefer tried to label a vorticity maximum and associated short-wave trough near 47° north latitude and 164° west longitude (X, Figure 1). About five degrees ahead of the trough was a comma shaped cloud mass produced in the area of upward vertical motion induced by the area of Positive Vorticity Advection (PVA). Between the PVA comma and the short-wave trough there is another cloud mass in the shape of an "L" with a dot to the right of it (see Figure 2 for an enlargement of this area). It appeared as if Mother Nature was trying to tell us that the trough was further ahead than the interpretation message had it. The briefer chose to go along with the location suggested in the NESS message, but he had to commend Mother Nature on her effort to analyze the picture for us.

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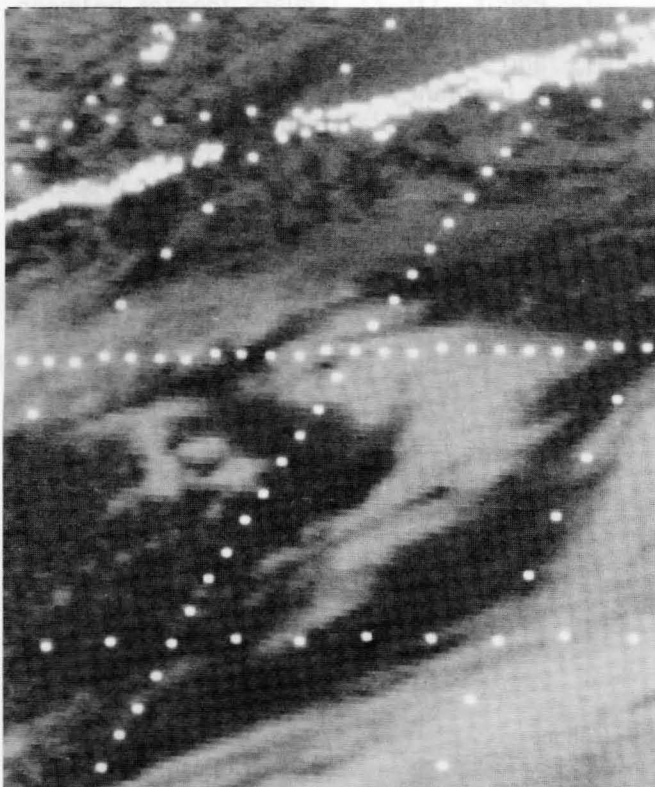


Figure 2 Enlarged Portion of Figure 2.

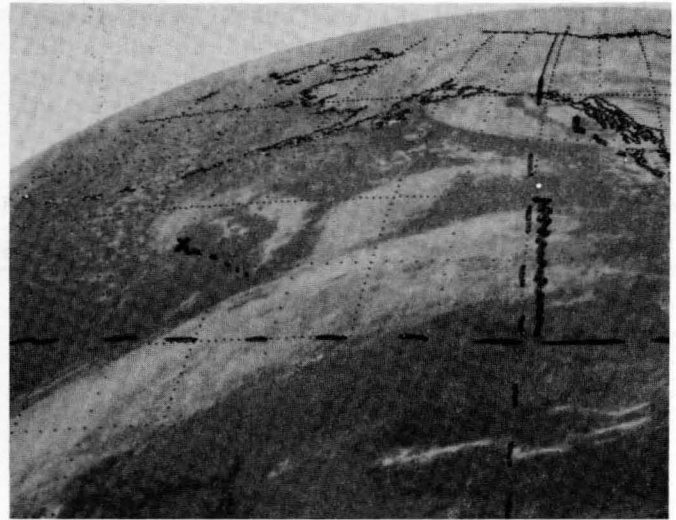


Figure 1 Two-Mile Resolution Infrared Satellite Picture for 1145 GMT November 14, 1977.

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been getting useful information from the program? Has this information been helpful to the field forecasters? If the answers are not yes, then changes should be made. Feedback is the key word in a quality control program.

The operational forecaster has to work and be considered by management as a "professional." There is a tendency to consider him, or he consider himself, as an assembly line producer of weather forecasts. If he meets deadlines, makes satisfactory forecasts, etc., all is well.

Instead of this, the operational forecasters must have time for additional professional development, i.e., shifts for forecast studies, training, visitations, etc. A varied work routine would do much to stimulate self motivation and job satisfaction. Staffing patterns have to be arranged to allow such a work pattern. This philosophy has to be promoted at the station level and follow-through done by the supervisors. Meteorologists have to accept this "professionalism" as a part of the job and actually participate in it.

As a postscript, Mr. Augulis adds that "my comments on training for 'young' operational forecasters are equally applicable to the journeyman or 'experienced' forecasters."