

later date. It is always easier to cut time from a segment than have to lengthen it by a series of assemble edits. If you have imagery or a case that is really good or of particular interest than let it cycle while recording for several minutes. Then add appropriate AFOS overlays or data sets in effective colors and tape each overlay or overlay composite for at least 2 minutes. Remember the tape has 2 hours of recording time, and seldom will you fill it on any particular event.

- Identify each segment with some type of title. This is because what is fresh in your mind while recording, may not be several months later, and certainly not for personnel at another site. If available, you can use a graphic tablet to insert information over a static image. Information that should be conveyed would include date, time (preferably GMT), sector, event classification (thunderstorm, tornado, fog, etc.), site where recorded, and any other information that could prove useful. These should be recorded for a minute or two preceding each event segment. They do not have to be neat, as they are for identification purposes only. If the material is later included in a formal training program or presentation then the information can be inserted via a character

generator. Titles will also prove useful when fast forwarding in search of a particular segment. In addition, a written index on the cassette itself, or its case will be very convenient. Logging tape counter information is an excellent bookkeeping vehicle.

Video tapes themselves are inexpensive, so it might be desirable to have separate video tapes prepared for specific weather event categories. A tape for severe weather, another for general convection and one for mountain waves might be sufficient for your forecast area. On the other hand, a dozen categories, some with multiple tapes addressing seasonal phenomena, may be in order. This will be a function of interest and regional emphasis.

### 3. SUMMARY

Sharing your examples with nearby offices, Regional and National Headquarters, and NESDIS's Satellite Applications Laboratory, will both edify and enhance your recorded selections. As appropriate, your cases may find their way into techniques development and training programs. Local use, for training and research, is assumed to be ongoing.

## SWIS VIDEO TAPING TECHNIQUES SYNOPSIS

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1. Connect video recorder directly to a BNC video-out port on rear of panel of SWIS.
2. Use fastest tape speed available on recorder (i.e. the SP or standard play mode for VHS recorders).
3. For highest resolution and clarity, record in Black & White whenever appropriate.
4. When recording color enhanced material, try to choose colors that are video compatible. Examples are colors like blues and yellows.
5. Try to keep all pertinent data at least one inch from edges of the screen.
6. Precede each segment with a description, dates, times, etc. As appropriate, use a graphic tablet for direct recording onto video tape. Annotate tape and tape box label, as well.
7. Record data loops for a minimum of 2-3 minutes each, longer when applicable.
8. Record imagery both with and without AFOS overlays.
9. Record imagery both with and without color enhancements.
10. Capture and record the information in a timely fashion. *After it has passed from SWIS's memory banks it is too late!*

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## FOLKLORE

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### "SHEEP IN A HUDDLE, TOMORROW'S A PUDDLE"

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Sue Mroz

Sheep, cattle and buffalo all have a behavioral tendency to bunch together prior to a storm. Unfortunately many cattle do this under a tree or against a metal fence during a thunderstorm and are killed in large numbers by lightning.