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EFFECTIVENESS OF PACIFIC REGION - W04 WORKSHOP

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A simple analysis of the effectiveness of the satellite training seminar that was held at the Pacific Weather Centre during February, 1978.

INTRODUCTION

A training seminar was given at the Pacific Weather Centre during February, 1978. Often with such an undertaking it is quite difficult to determine just how much knowledge the participants of such a seminar have about the subject that is going to be discussed prior to their taking part in the training session. It was for this reason that a very simple procedure was developed which would allow some shift in emphasis to be initiated during the seminar. At the same time it was also hoped that the same procedure would provide some clues as to whether the seminar was at least partly effective.

Procedure

Two recent satellite pictures, (Figure 1) one visible and the other infrared, were photocopied and eight questions about these pictures were asked of each participant. About five minutes were allowed to answer the questions, and no names were required to be put on the papers. Initially it was planned to give these questions both at the beginning and at the end of the one day course. However, it turned out that with the first group, due to time limitations, this was not possible. Since the entire group of participants was composed of briefers it was felt that the second group could be given the questions at the end of the day without ever having seen the questions before, and in this way it was hoped to be able to assess the usefulness of the course. This procedure was followed.

Discussion of Results

Both the questions and a simple analysis of the results are attached. (Figures 2 and 3). A quick look at some of the answers given by the group that took the test before the beginning of the course showed that the participants had a good knowledge of frontal positions as related to satellite imagery, and also of cloud identification (see results of questions one and four). However, the difference between and presumably the different characteristics of visible and infrared imagery was not too well understood (see question 6). This allowed this part of the training seminar to be expanded at the expense of cloud identification. At the same time the results indicated that the dynamics of the atmosphere as revealed by satellite imagery was not too well understood, and should be stressed as had originally been planned.

The results of the second group of participants clearly showed that questions one and four were still answered in about the same manner as had been done by

group one; so that the assumption that both groups were relatively homogeneous was probably true.. The answers to the other questions showed that some improvement had been achieved, and in particular, question six which is fundamental to the interpretation of satellite imagery was answered correctly by all participants. It was also gratifying to see that several participants of the second group related their answers to question eight to the subject of mature storms that had been discussed during the seminar. Similarly, the relationship and structure of vorticity centres and wind maxima as revealed by the imagery seems to have been understood by most of the group. Needless to say, the quality of the copies of the imagery was not that good, but there the first group had the advantage of having these displayed on the T.V. screen.

Of course, the answers how well the seminar was received and how effective it really was can best be provided by the participants themselves.

FIGURE 1

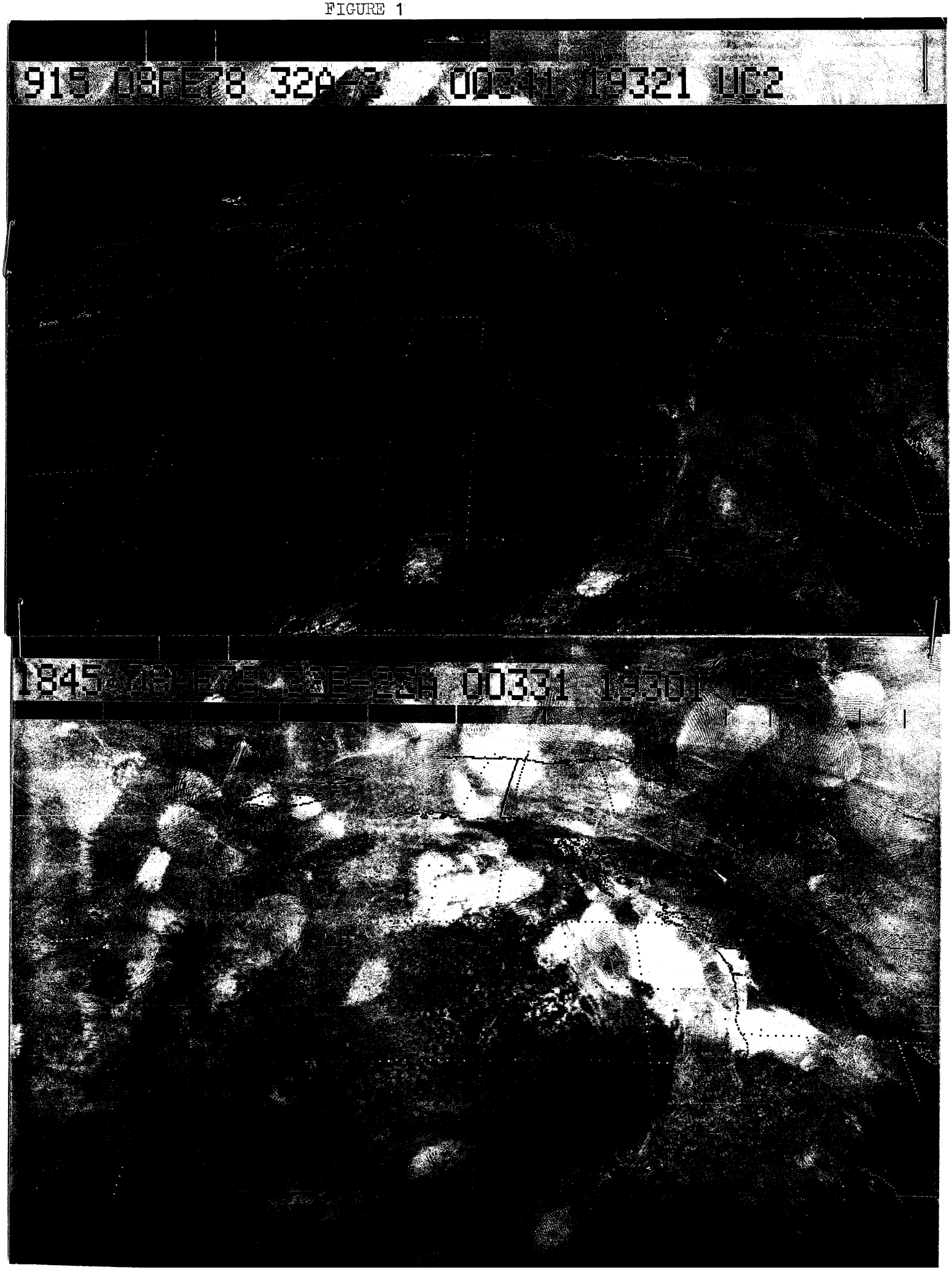

FIGURE 2

1. Mark the surface front.
2. Mark two maximum vorticity centers.
3. Mark the high level jet stream.
4. Mark an area of convective clouds.
5. Mark the position of the surface low.
6. Indicate which is the Visible and which is the Ir picture.
7. Mark one wind speed maxima. Is it at high or low levels?
8. Is the system along the coast developing? Why.

FIGURE 3

A SIMPLE ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SATELLITE TRAINING SEMINAR OF FEBRUARY 1978

	Marks for each question	Total possible	Before course	After course
QUESTION 1 Mark the surface front	1	21	19	21
QUESTION 2 Mark two maximum vorticity centers	2	42	8	30
QUESTION 3 Mark the high level jet stream	1	21	9	19
QUESTION 4 Mark an area of convective clouds	1	21	20	21
QUESTION 5 Mark the position of the surface low	1	21	6	15
QUESTION 6 Indicate which is the Visible and which is the Ir picture	2	42	16	42
QUESTION 7 Mark one wind speed maxima. Is it at high or low levels?	2	42	7	31
QUESTION 8 Is the system along the coast developing? Why?	2	42	3	16
	TOTAL	252	88	195

Number of participants was 21 for both groups (ie. for those answering questions before taking course as well as those answering questions after taking the course).