

4.2. Summer Pattern: Summer is the rainy season in Korea. The vast majority of annual precipitation falls between late June and August. The heaviest rainfall amounts usually migrate northward during the period, first affecting the south coastal region and then moving northward to the China/North Korea border by mid-August. During the summer, the winds shift to the southwest and the warm, moist air moving off the ocean clashes with the cooler, moist air to the north. This monsoon frontal boundary is called the "Changma front" in Korea ("Baiu front" in Japan). The Changma front oscillates south and north across the Korean peninsula during the summer months (see figure 4-2). The worst flying weather of the year is associated with the rainy season. Ceilings and visibilities are less than 3000 feet and/or 3 miles about half the time. Thunderstorms usually occur 2-5 days per month during this period. Most heavy precipitation during this period occurs in monsoon frontal wave areas that move west to east along the Changma front. July through September is also the typhoon season. About twice a year, a typhoon will pass very close to or over Korea. Strong winds are usually confined to islands and exposed coastal areas. Although winds might not pose a problem, the associated rainfall can cause significant flash flooding. Several areas in Korea have received in excess of 20 inches of rainfall in a 24 hour period during one of these typhoon passages. The Tongduchon (Camp Casey) area, located in a narrow valley, is especially vulnerable to flash flooding. Field commanders should be aware that flash flooding during the rainy season is a very real threat, especially in rough terrain, near riverbeds, and low lying valley areas.

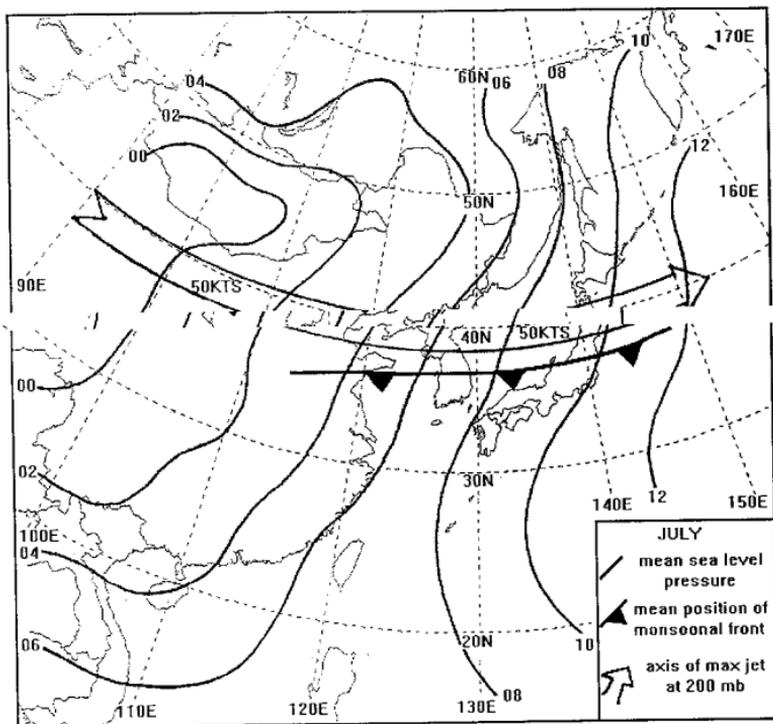


Figure 4-2. July Synoptic Pattern