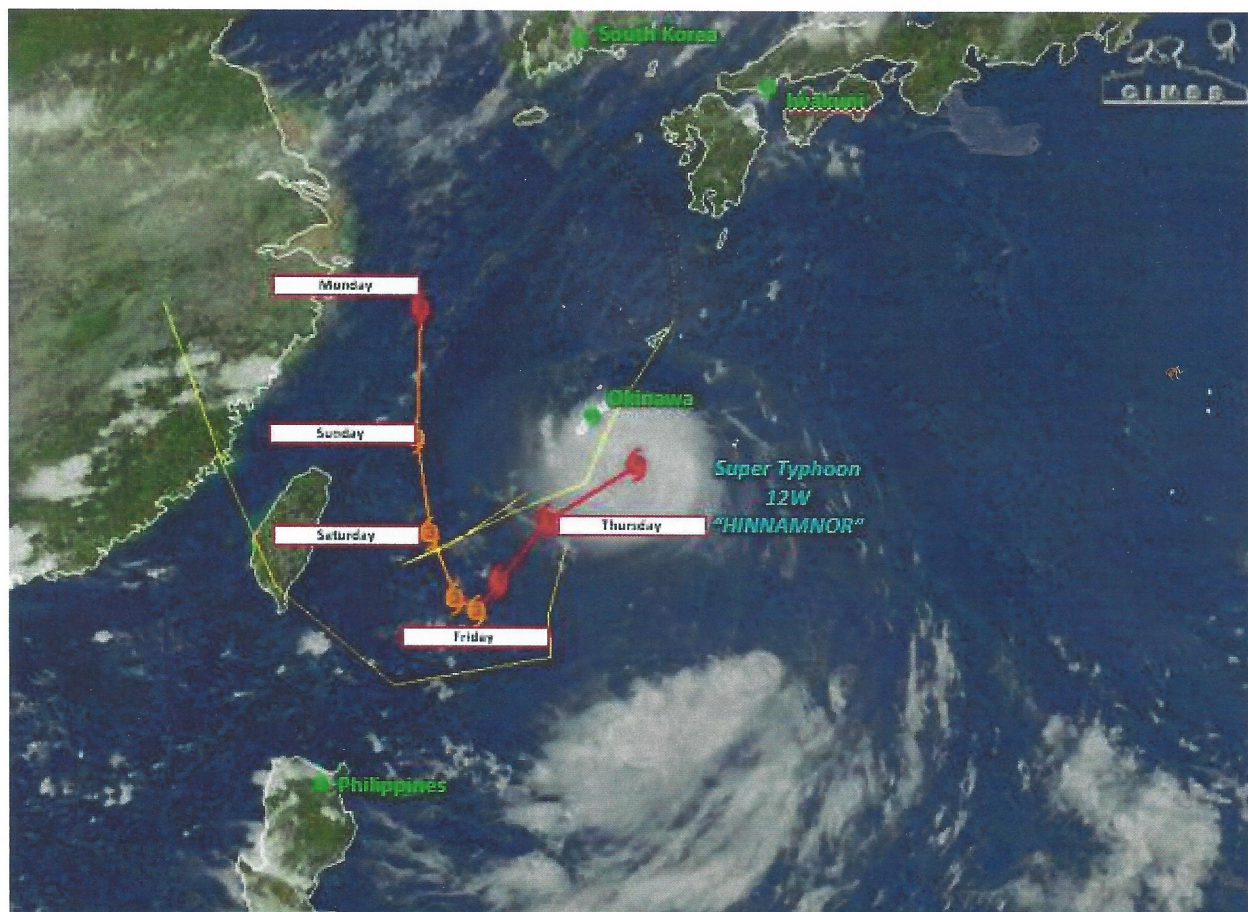


III MEF and MCIPAC Marines, Sailors, Civilians, and Family Members

I want to reach out and tell you what is currently known about Super Typhoon Hinnamnor. Storms are always somewhat unpredictable, but our weather team is working with the Joint Weather Typhoon Center (JWTC) to best track and forecast Hinnamnor's path and impacts. As Hinnamnor approaches Okinawa, preparations are ongoing across the island to mitigate the storm's impacts. Hinnamnor is currently a Category 5 (CAT-5) typhoon, producing sustained wind speeds of 165 MPH and sporadic wind gusts of 190 MPH. In and of itself this is concerning, however current weather models predict Hinnamnor will turn south-southwest before reaching Okinawa.

Hinnamnor is predicted to make two passes by Okinawa. On the first pass, the closest approach to Okinawa is currently assessed to be 80 miles (using Kadena as the reference point). Because multiple pressure systems around Okinawa are pushing the typhoon south, the JWTC has reasonably high confidence that Hinnamnor will not make outright landfall on Okinawa; this will mitigate some of the impacts of the typhoon. During the typhoon's initial approach to Okinawa, Hinnamnor is expected to produce sustained winds of 40 MPH between August 31 and September 1. These wind speeds are concerning, but do not meet destructive wind criteria (classified as 55 MPH or higher).



After Hinnamnor moves south of Okinawa, the storm will loiter to the east-southeast of Taiwan. Hinnamnor will lose energy from September 2-3, becoming a CAT-2 typhoon by September 3 (sustained winds 96-110 MPH). Hinnamnor is then expected to move north on September 3 and regain strength as a CAT-3 typhoon (sustained winds of 110-129 MPH). Hinnamnor is expected to track west of Okinawa during this second pass. Current JWTC weather models predict that Hinnamnor will not make landfall as

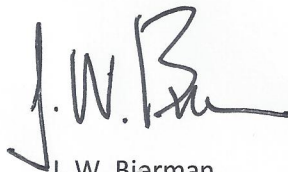
it moves west past Okinawa. However, on September 4, winds are expected to reach sustained speeds of 45-60 MPH, with sporadic gusts of 70-80 MPH. These winds eclipse the destructive wind threshold. By September 5, JWTC forecasts that Hinnamnor will have moved north of Okinawa. Before the storm dissipates, we may see some effects in the vicinity of the southern Japan mainland and southern Korea. Throughout the period of Hinnamnor's movement around Okinawa, we can expect very heavy sustained rainfall.

As many of you know, Okinawa sits in a typhoon alley. The local infrastructure is designed to withstand strong-force typhoons. The Government of Japan and Okinawa Prefectural Government have significant experience dealing with typhoons. Government entities and the U.S. Military will rapidly respond if utilities and essential services are affected.

Hinnamnor arrives during a busy period when many III MEF Marines and Sailors are off-island for operations and training. In addition, as a busy PCS season concludes, many are new to Okinawa and experiencing their first typhoon. Stay in touch with teammates and family members in your unit. Ensure address and contact information is up-to-date. Check on each other. Familiarize yourself with the TCCOR levels in the included attachment. There is lots of good information on the best steps to prepare. Track Hinnamnor and receive accurate information from the MCIPAC Facebook page, Shogun Weather (Kadena), and AFN (Facebook, TV, and radio). Significant updates will also be shared on the III MEF Facebook page.

The return of Marines and Sailors training and operating in the region may be delayed while Hinnamnor moves past. I am committed to getting everyone back safely and as soon as possible.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Bierman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. W. Bierman
LtGen, U.S. Marines
Commanding General
III Marine Expeditionary Force