

Tropical Cyclone Abbreviated Report
Tropical Depression Fourteen
14 - 16 October 2002

Jack Beven
National Hurricane Center
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A weak tropical wave moved through the Lesser Antilles on 9 October. Convection increased in association with the wave on the 12th as it reached the southwestern Caribbean Sea, and a broad low pressure area formed later that day. The low moved northward near the east coast of Nicaragua on the 13th and it became better organized. The system developed sufficient organized convection to be considered a tropical depression by 1200 UTC 14 October while centered about 120 n mi north-northeast of Cape Gracias a Dios (Table 1 and Figure 1) on the border of Honduras and Nicaragua.

The cyclone moved erratically for the next 12 h before beginning a slow north-northeastward motion early on 15 October. This increased in forward speed during the remainder of the cyclone's life. Southwesterly vertical shear associated with a deep-layer trough over the southeastern United States prevented further development and may have contributed to a persistent elongation of the circulation. The center made landfall on the south coast of central Cuba on the 16th and was absorbed by a cold front late that day.

An Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft reported a minimum pressure of 1002 mb on multiple occasions on 15 October. The maximum flight-level winds observed were 37 kt. The ships **Explorer of the Seas** (call sign ELWX5) and **ZCBU5** (name unknown) reported 29 kt winds respectively at 0800 and 0500 UTC 15 October. There were no significant observations of winds from land stations.

Although the depression caused locally heavy rains over portions of Jamaica, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands, there are no reports of damages or casualties.

Table 1. Best track, Tropical Depression Fourteen, 14 - 16 October 2002

Date/Time (UTC)	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Pressure (mb)	Wind Speed (kt)	Stage
14 / 1200	16.9	82.6	1008	30	tropical depression
14 / 1800	17.2	83.1	1005	30	"
15 / 0000	17.1	83.2	1004	30	"
15 / 0600	17.5	83.0	1004	30	"
15 / 1200	17.9	82.8	1004	30	"
15 / 1800	18.6	82.5	1002	30	"

Date/Time (UTC)	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Pressure (mb)	Wind Speed (kt)	Stage
16 / 0000	19.7	82.2	1003	30	"
16 / 0600	20.5	81.6	1003	30	"
16 / 1200	21.5	81.0	1005	30	"
16 / 1800	22.4	80.5	1006	25	"
17 / 0000					absorbed by cold front
15 / 1800	18.6	82.5	1002	30	minimum pressure
16 / 1600	22.0	80.7	1006	25	landfall near Cienfuegos, Cuba

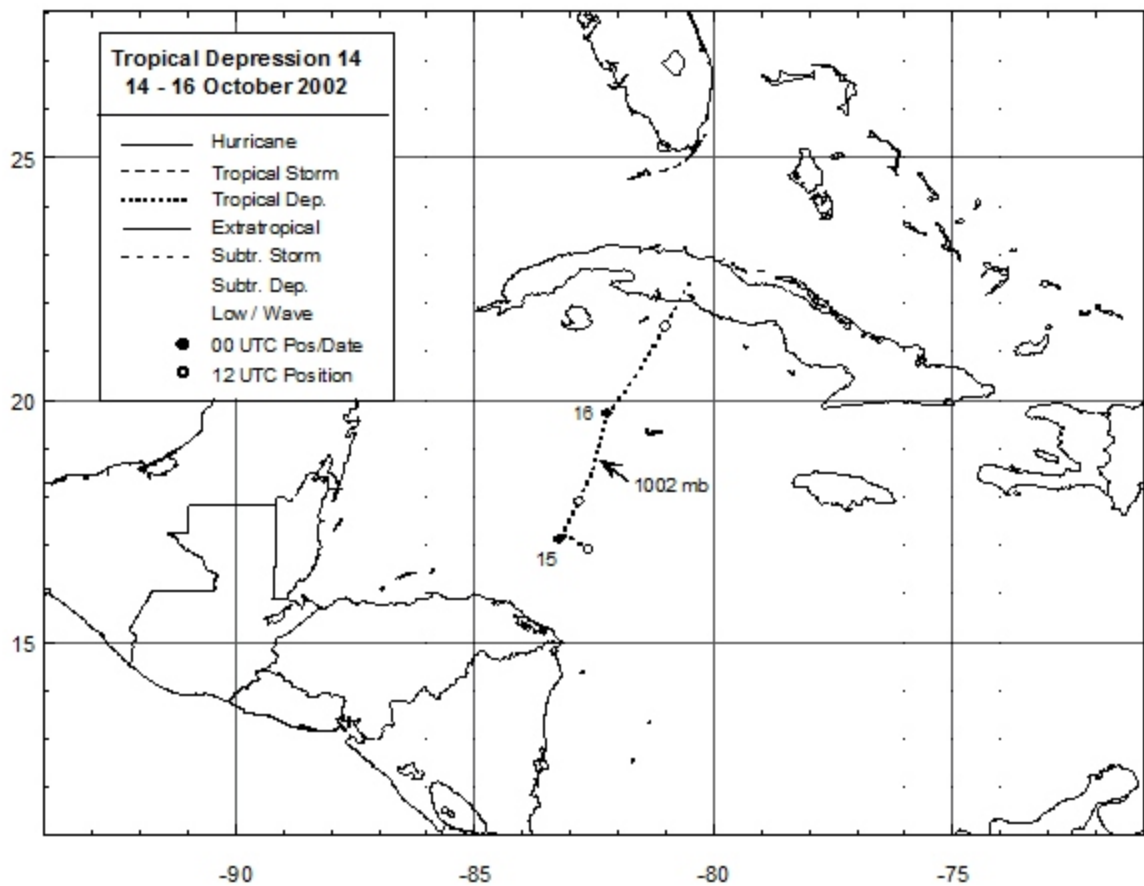


Figure 1. Best track of Tropical Depression Fourteen, 14 - 16 October 2002.

