



National Transportation Safety Board

Weather Planning and the Decision to Abandon Ship

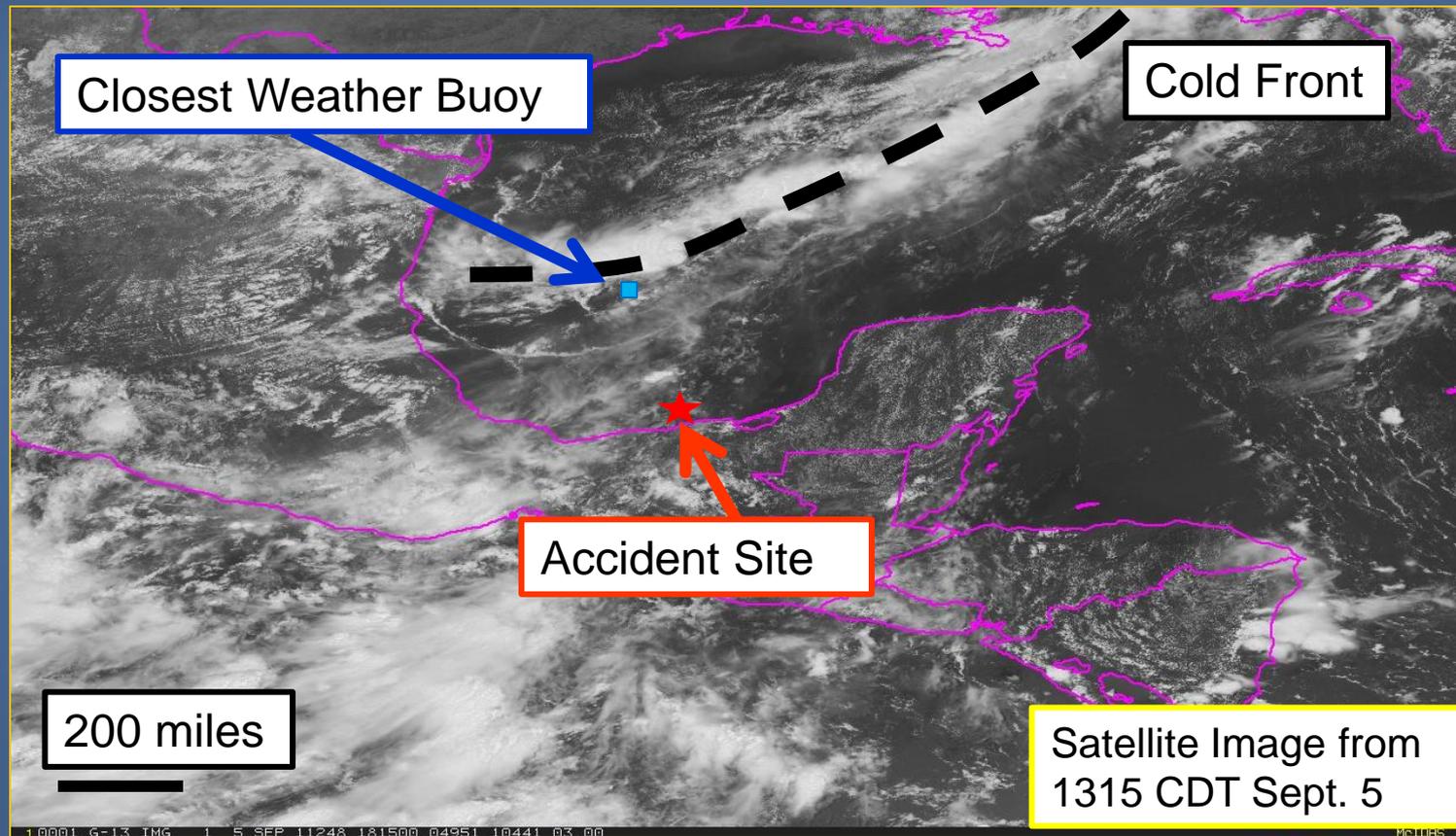
Office of Marine Safety
Morgan Turrell

Weather Forecast

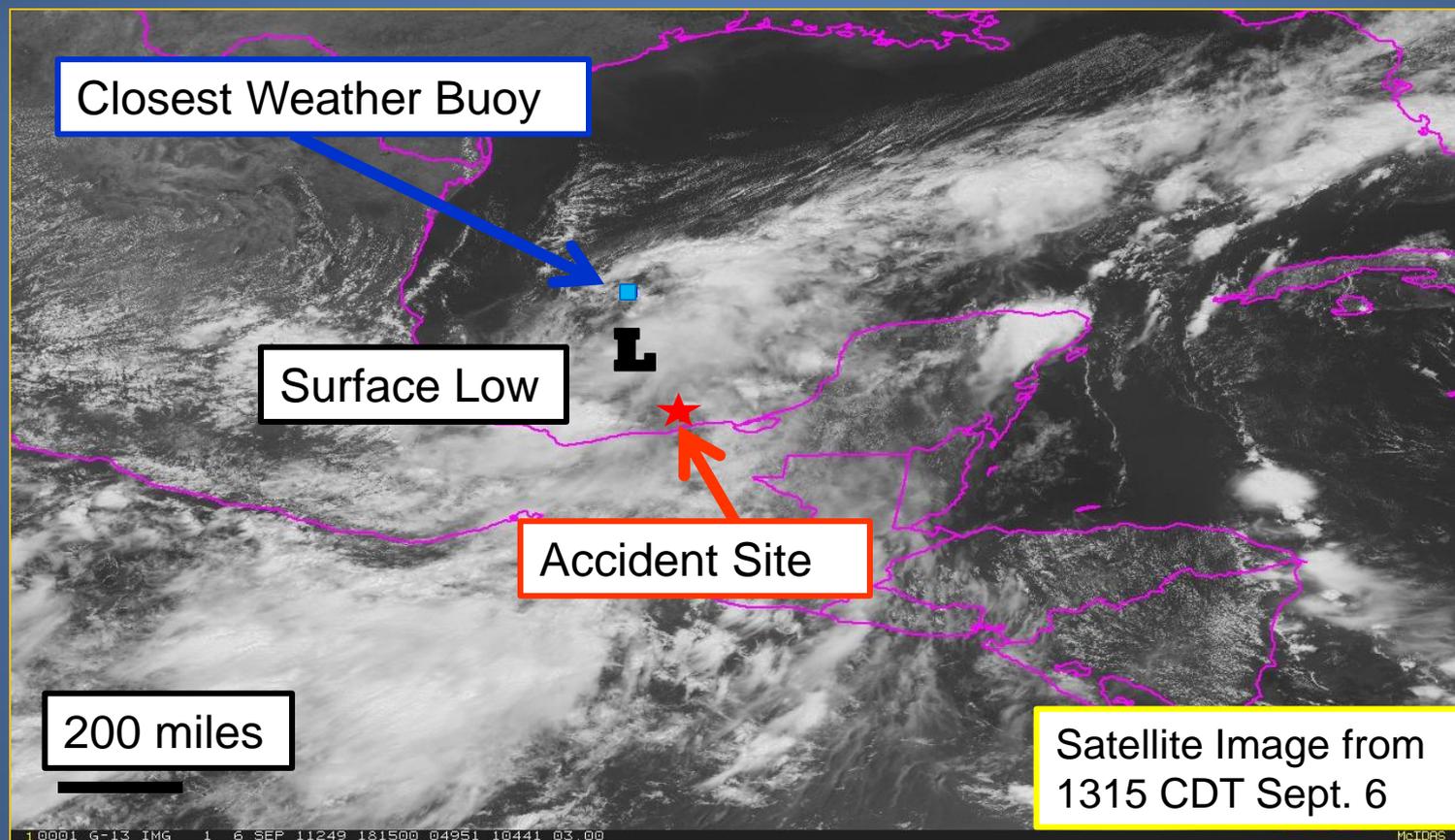
- First forecasts
- Chance of development increased
- Sea state restriction exceeded
- Elevate or evacuate



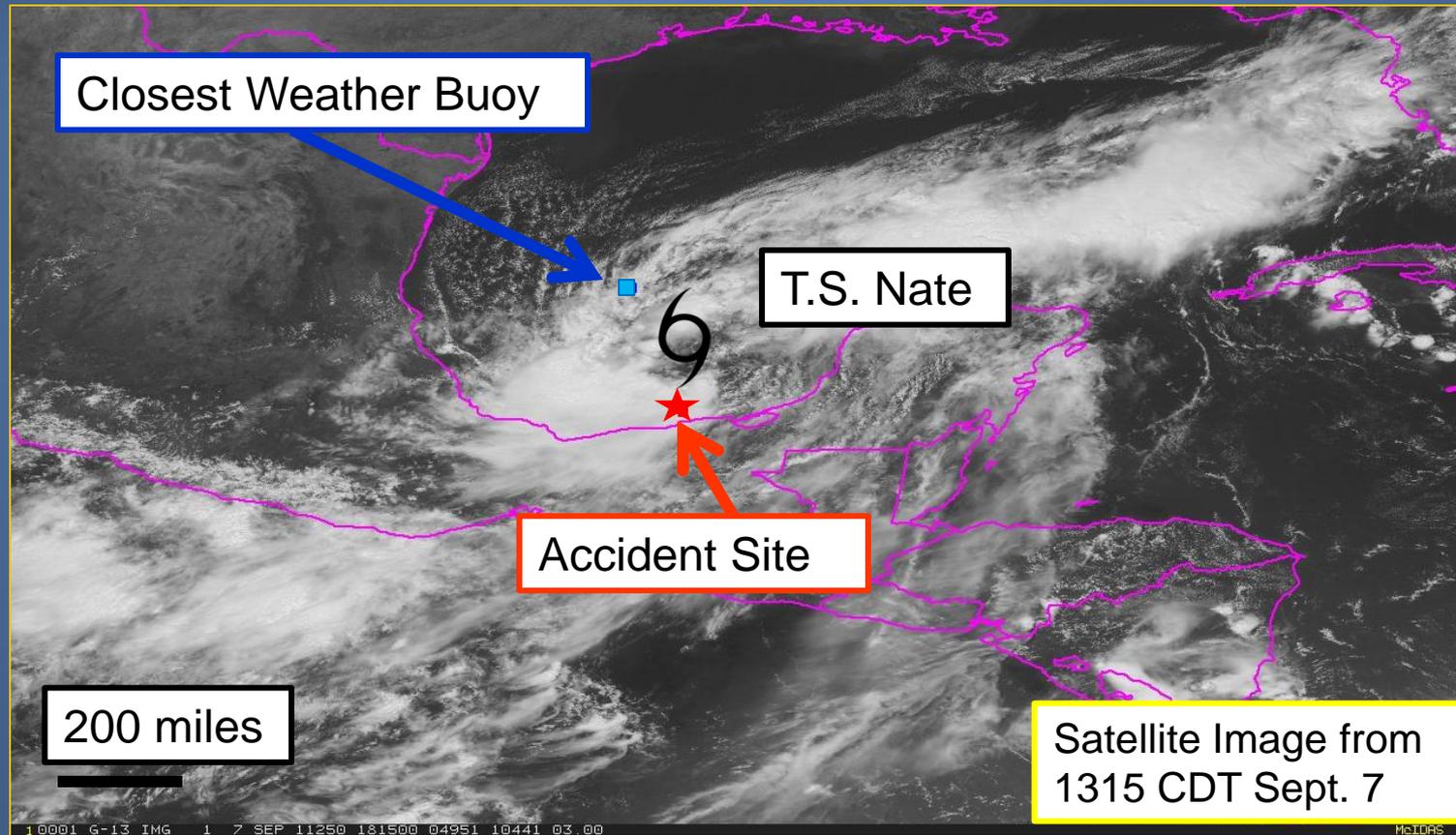
Cold Front Moves Southward



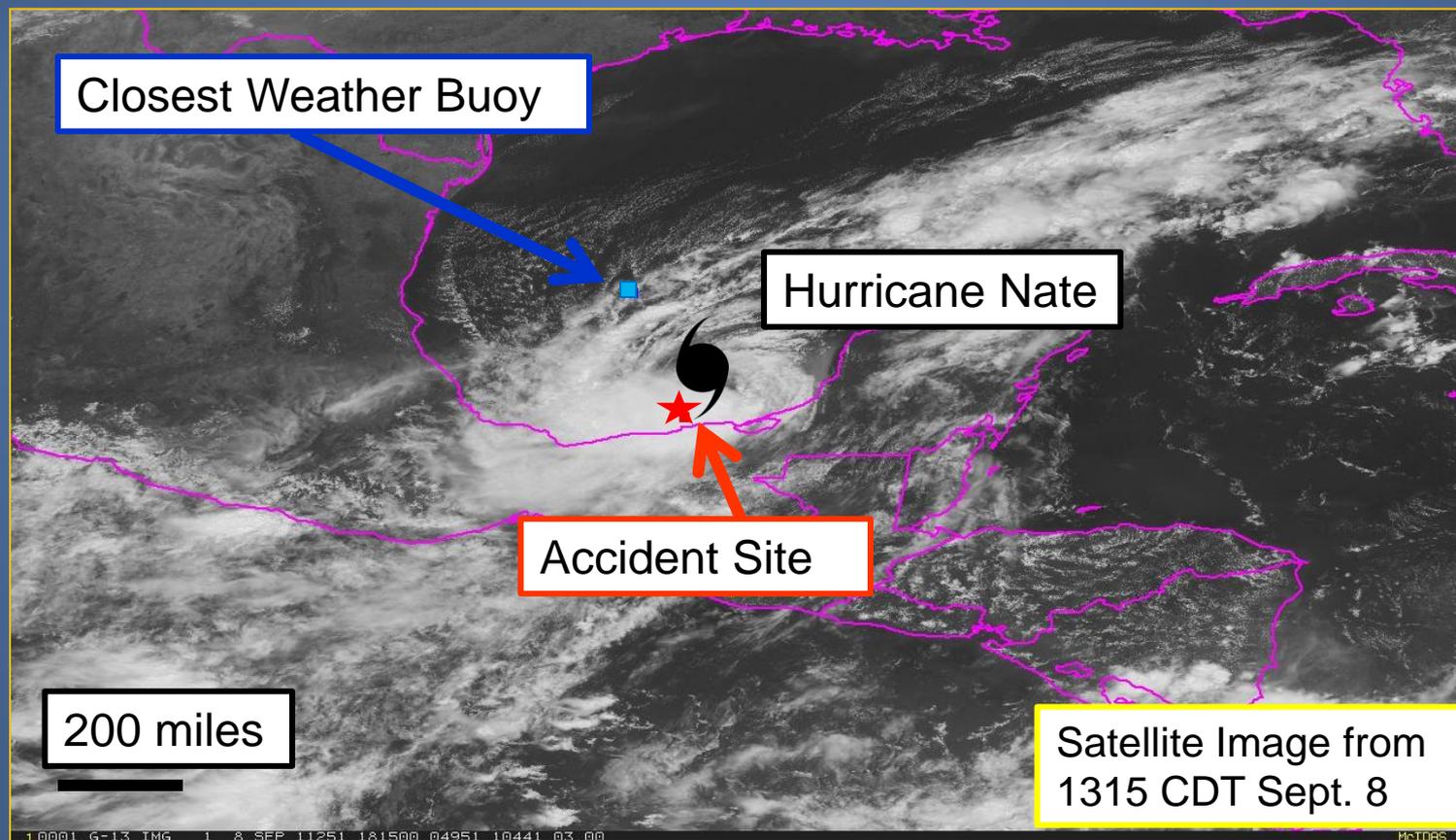
Surface Low Formation



Tropical Storm Nate

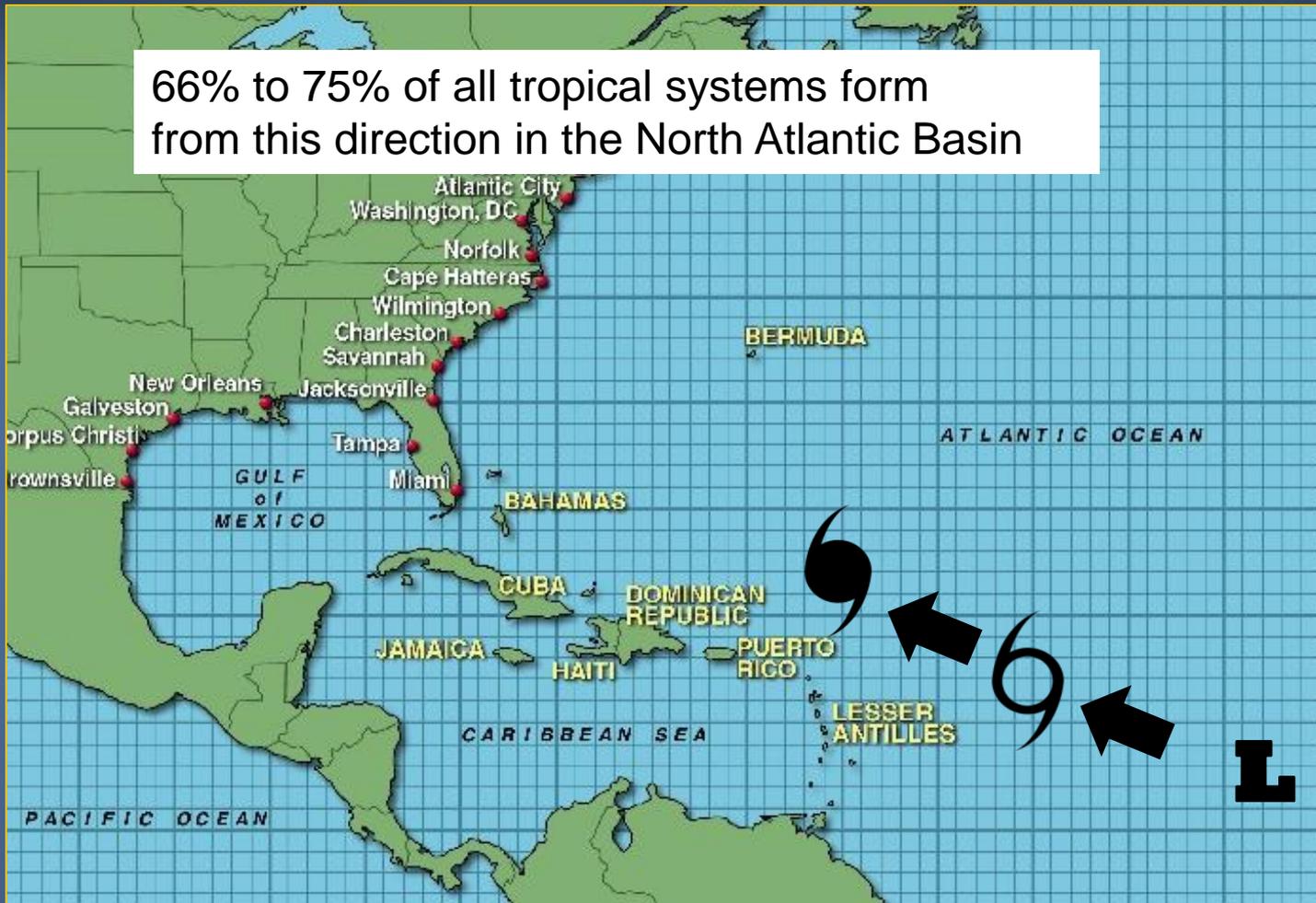


Hurricane Nate

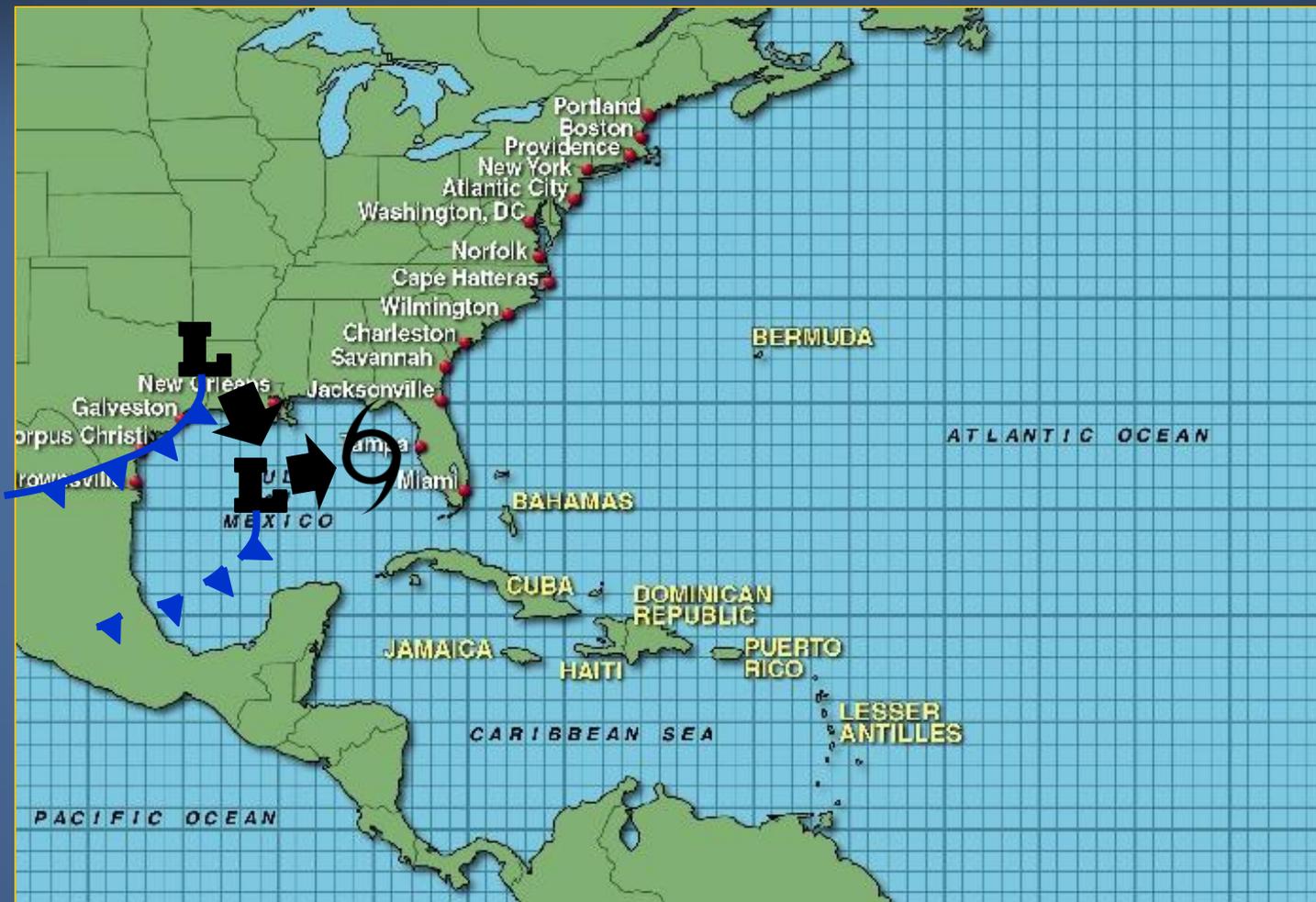


Tropical System Formation from Westward-Moving Systems

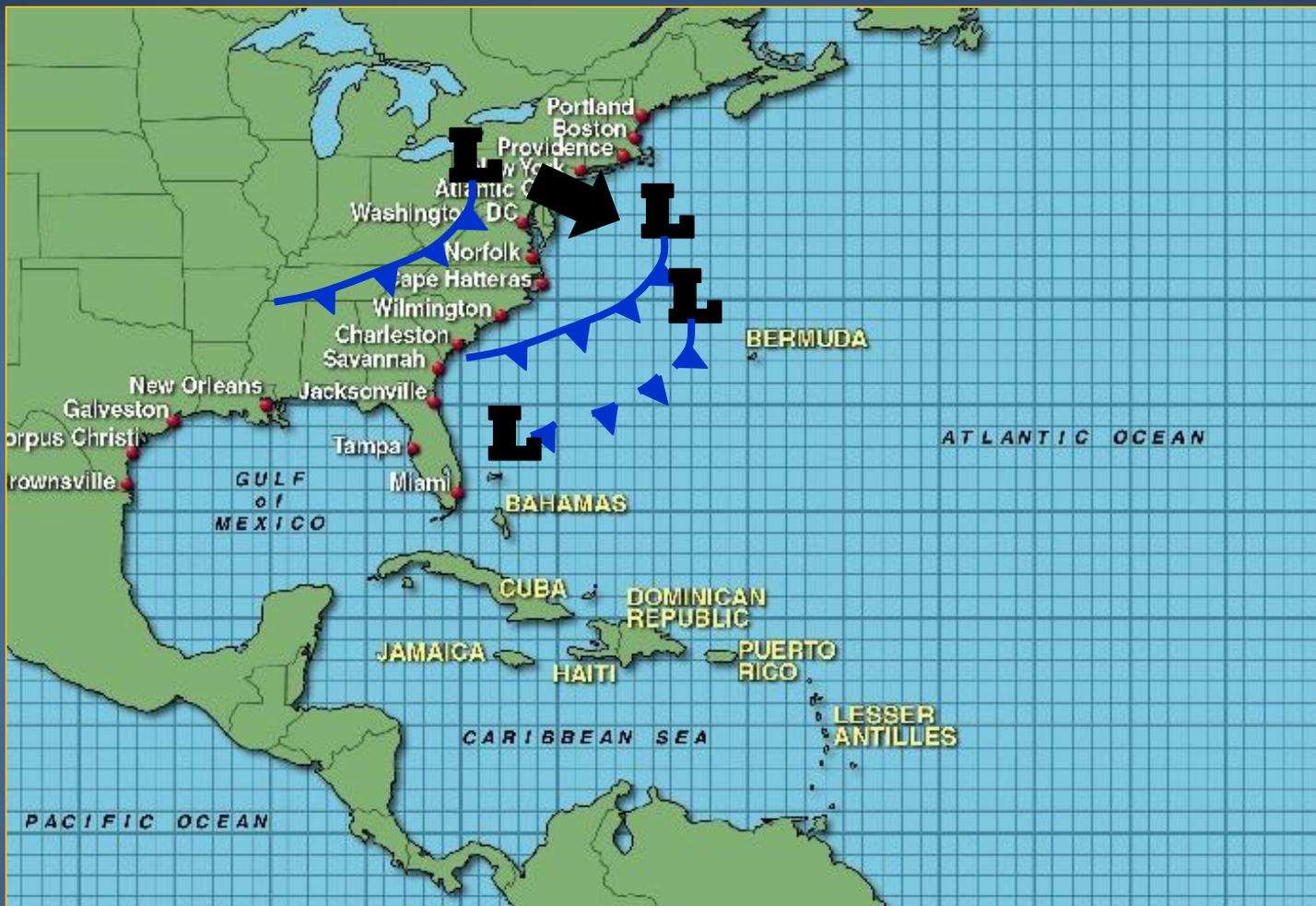
66% to 75% of all tropical systems form from this direction in the North Atlantic Basin



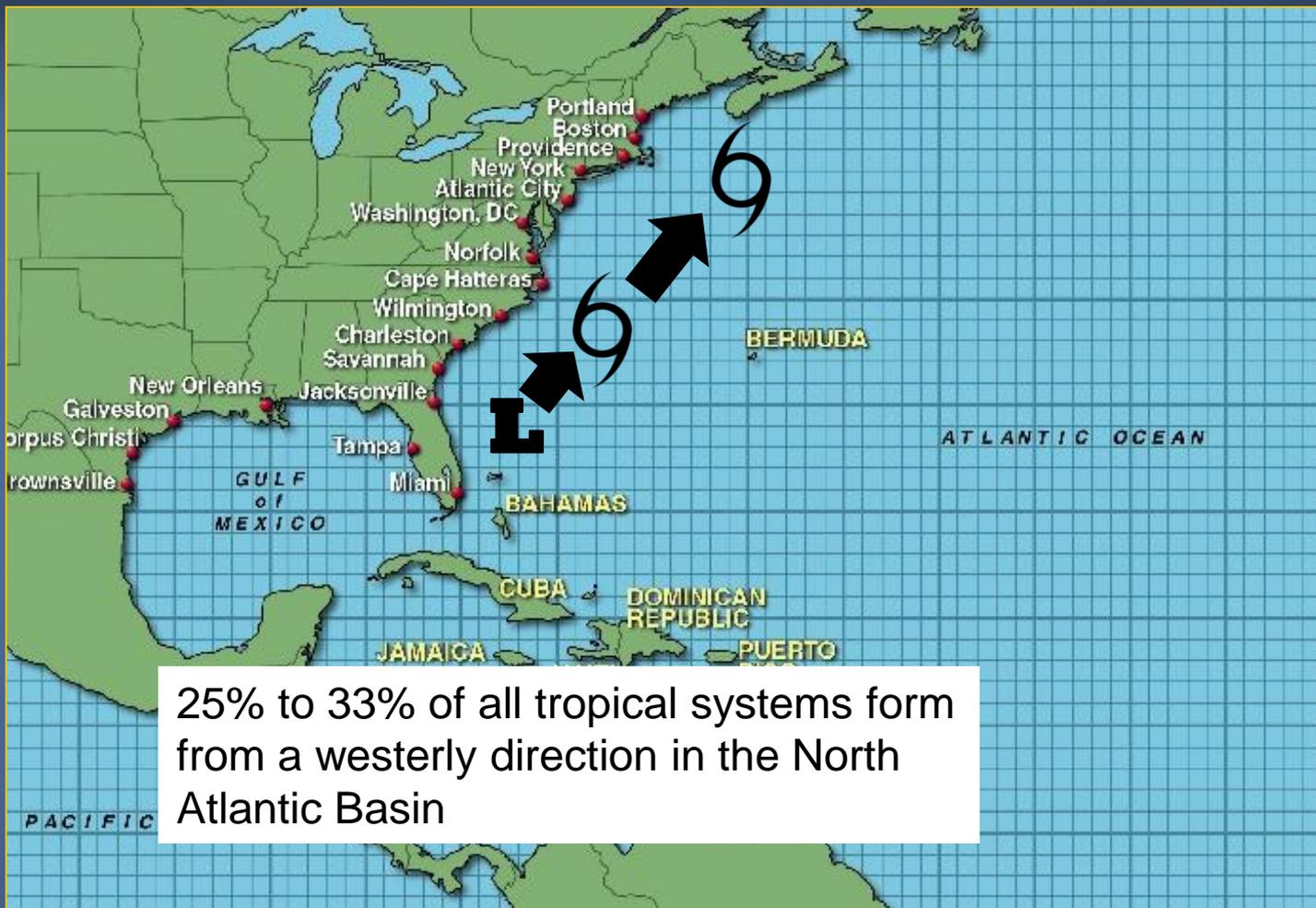
Tropical System Formation from Non-Westward-Moving Systems



Tropical System Formation from Non-Westward-Moving Systems



Tropical System Formation from Non-Westward-Moving Systems



Weather Preparedness

- Geokinetics and Trinity Liftboats had hurricane plans
- Neither addressed
 - Surface low pressure systems
 - Locally forming storms

Weather Preparedness

- Plans should consider
 - Time required to move
 - Ability to evacuate personnel
- Plans should not assume that storms will approach from one direction
- Plans did not adequately address
 - Rapidly developing low pressure systems
 - Nontropical storms
 - Operational limitations of vessel

Personnel Abandonment



Mexican Navy

Personnel Abandonment

- Staying on board was best option
- Rationale for abandonment
 - Close to shore
 - Known position
 - Close to other facilities
 - Mild water and air temperatures



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