North Pacific Jet Regimes Preceding Cool Season Tornado Events in the Lower Mississippi Valley

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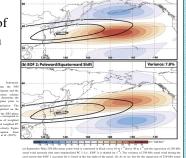
Web: https://inside.nssl.noaa.gov/tgalarneau/

Acknowledgments: NSF grant AGS-2039388

Introduction

- Previous studies have shown a relationship between large-scale teleconnection indices (e.g., PNA, AO, NAO, MJO, ENSO) and synoptic-scale flow patterns favorable for tornadoes in the southeast US (e.g., Brown and Nowotarski 2020)
- Winters et al. (2019) recently developed a phase diagram for the North Pacific jet (NPJ) stream similar to the phase diagram developed for the MJO (e.g., Wheeler and Hendon 2004)

 NPJ phases are defined by the two leading modes of variability of the NPJ exit region in the cool season



 We use the NPJ phase diagram to examine synopticscale flow evolution conducive to cool season tornado events in the lower Mississippi valley

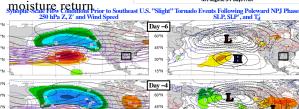
Data and Methods

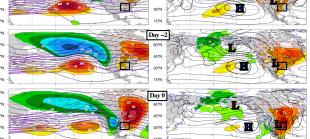
- Tornado events identified using practically perfect hindcasts (PPHs)
- Stratified by the NPJ phase 3–7 days prior
- Define cool season as Oct-Mar 1979-2019
- NPJ phase data from Winters and Attard (2022)
- NPJ regime defined as phase lasting ≥3 days
- ERA5 reanalysis used for composite analysis
- Statistical significance is tested for anomalies (t-test) and difference plots (bootstrap resampling)

Climatology of NPJ Phases and SE U.S. Tornado Events

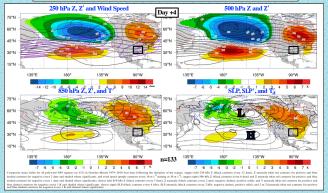
- Tornado events most frequent relative to climatology after poleward NPJ phases
- Favors W U.S. digging trough, S Plains cyclogenesis, and



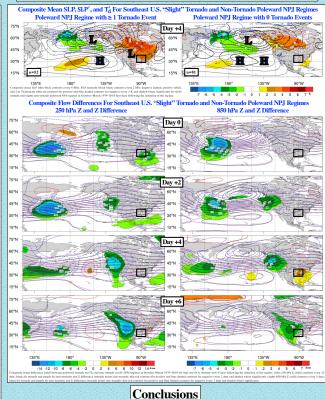




Synoptic-Scale Flow for Poleward NPJ Regimes



Poleward NPJ Regimes: Tornado vs Null Comparison



- Tornado events in lower Mississippi valley are most frequent relative to climatology 3–7 days after poleward NPJ phases
- Poleward NPJ regimes support an amplified flow pattern across North America and cyclogenesis in the southern Plains, in addition to high-latitude warming
- Tornado-producing poleward NPJ regimes initiate with a deeper trough in the west Pacific and more robust downstream development compared to null poleward regimes