



U.S. AIR FORCE

# *Thunderstorms*



## ◆ Ingredients:

### ◆ Moisture

- ◆ Typically fueled by the Gulf of Mexico

### ◆ Instability

- ◆ Warm air rising rapidly

### ◆ Lift (Trigger)

- ◆ Fronts, Dry-line
- ◆ Old Thunderstorms
- ◆ Daytime heating

### ◆ Exhaust

- ◆ Jet stream
- ◆ Upper level high pressure



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# Thunderstorms



## ♦ Common Elements:

### ♦ Lightning

- ♦ Can strike up to 20 miles away

### ♦ Straight-Line Winds

- ♦ Microburst

### ♦ Hail

- ♦  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (penny) or greater is severe

### ♦ Heavy Rains

- ♦ Flash flooding