



# FY 2005 Budget Highlights

## National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) requests \$836.8 million (M) in FY05 President's Budget, a net increase of \$12.0M or 1.4% over the FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The FY 05 President's Budget maintains current operations and services for NWS and continues investments in technology infusion and service improvements, including expanding the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) in the Southeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic States. The request also sustains funding for critical Homeland Security initiatives, including maintaining All Hazards Capability for NOAA Weather Radio and continuing operation of critical backup systems for the NWS Weather and Climate Supercomputer and Telecommunications Gateway. During FY 2003 NWS met or exceeded 11 out of 14 performance measure targets for weather forecasts and warnings. Of note, NWS improved the average tornado warning lead time from 12 to 13 minutes, reduced the hurricane track forecast error from 130 to 107 nautical miles, and extended the average winter storm warning lead time from 13 to 14 hours.

### FY 2005 Program Increases:

**Adjustments to Base \$20.1M:** Provides funding to cover inflationary costs in FY 2005, including the Federal Pay Raise of 1.5% and non-labor inflation. ATBs are critical for sustaining operations and represent the number one budget priority for NWS and NOAA.

**NWS Telecommunications Gateway \$0.9M:** Completes a 2-year project to replace the NWS Telecommunication Gateway in Silver Spring, Maryland. Modernizing this international telecommunications center will allow NWS to meet user demand and eliminate transmission delays for critical weather forecasts and warnings.

**Space Environment Center (SEC) \$2.2M:** The SEC provides real-time monitoring, assessment, and prediction of the Earth's space environment, including solar phenomenon that impact our planet. This increase will allow the NWS to maintain space forecasts and warnings in support of the Nation's energy and telecommunications industries as well as support NASA and DOD operations.

**Cooperative Observer Network Modernization (COOP) \$1.4M:** Supports operation and maintenance costs for 460 modernized COOP sites in the Northeast U.S. deployed in FY03/04. The NWS COOP Modernization I improves 24-hour temperature forecasts by 1.5 degrees, improve river flood forecasts by over 20%, and enhance the Nation's drought monitoring capability. A one degree improvement in daily temperature forecasts will save the U.S. energy industry over \$1 billion per year.

**Air Quality Pilot Forecasts \$5.5M:** Poor air quality leads to health problems (\$147B/year) and significant loss of life nationwide (40,000 fatalities/year). These losses can be mitigated with accurate and timely air quality forecasts. Request allows the NWS to sustain 24 hour ozone forecasts for the Northeast US in FY 2005 and expand forecasts nationwide (CONUS) by FY 2008.

**Facilities - Physical Security \$2.0M:** Allows the NWS to improve physical security at NWS field offices including Weather Forecast Offices and National Prediction Centers, providing a safe and secure workplace for NWS employees and mitigating future security incidences.

**Coastal Global Ocean Observing System (C-GOOS) \$2.0M:** Begins a multi-year investment to add ocean sensors to NWS marine buoys and address gaps in the current marine observing network. C-GOOS will help improve coastal marine weather forecasts and warnings and help NOAA address global ecosystem and ocean monitoring needs.

**U.S. Weather Research Program (USWRP)/ Hemispheric Observing System Research & Predictability Experiment (THORPEX) \$1.0M:** Accelerates improvements of the Nation's 7-14 day extended weather forecasts through a interagency and international weather research initiative. The overarching goal is to make these extended forecasts as accurate and useful as current 2-3 day forecasts.

**Program Transfers \$10.5M:** Transfers the U.S. Weather Research Program \$5.2M and Space Environment Center \$5.3M from the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) to NWS. Places near-term research closer to operations and transfers space weather warning & forecast functions into operations at NWS.

**Procurement, Acquisition, & Construction (PAC):** The PAC decrease of \$15.3M reflects the completion of one time projects in FY 04 such as the All Hazards Capability for NOAA Weather Radio and the planned funding profile decrease for the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction. The request also sustains weather office construction in Alaska.

| NOAA's FY 2005 Budget                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                         | Net Change (\$M) |
| <b>National Weather Service</b>         |                  |
| Operations, Research & Facilities       | 27.2             |
| Procurement, Acquisition & Construction | -15.3            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>12.0</b>      |

