

Charles Hugh Paxton

(Science and Operations Officer)



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As a scientist, Charlie Paxton is constantly exploring ways to improve forecast processes and communication. He became interested in weather growing up near the Kennedy Space Center after encountering Mother Nature's wrath first hand from tornadoes, waterspouts, tropical storms, and lightning. Charlie also began surfing as a teenager and forecasting the waves and weather became a primary interest.

After graduating from Merritt Island High School, he joined the U.S. Navy and went to weather school in Lakehurst New Jersey. During his four years in the Navy he was stationed at Mayport Florida and Adak Alaska. After the Navy he earned an undergraduate degree in meteorology with a minor in math from the Florida State University (FSU). Charlie started working for the National Weather Service as an intern in Huntington, WV. Charlie then accepted an offer to work at the Tampa Bay Area National Weather Service office in 1986. He later went back to FSU for a master's degree in meteorology and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy at the University of South Florida.

Every day at work is a little bit different for Charlie. His work encompasses a blend of weather forecasting, weather research, computer programming and numerical modeling, public speaking and teaching. His research has explored ocean processes including rip currents and rogue waves, lightning, hail, and tornadoes. His current dissertation research is delving into seasonal hurricane forecasting.

During his career at the NWS office Charlie has experience massive rainfall and flooding during 1988, record cold in 1989, deadly tornadoes in Pinellas County in 1992, the Storm of the Century during March of 1993, countless severe thunderstorms, the 2004 hurricane season, and other events. Charlie likes to travel and his work has taken him to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Charlie is a member of the American Meteorological Society (since 1979), the National Weather Association, the American Geophysical Union, and the West Central Florida Chapter of the AMS. Charlie still loves to surf and has taken up competitive surfing during the past couple of years.

