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Public Information Statement 19-34
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From: Bruce Entwistle
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Subject: NWS is Soliciting Comments/Feedback on a New Experimental Product, Alaskan Aviation Guidance (AAG) from October 17, 2019 through October 16, 2020

NWS is soliciting comments from October 17, 2019 through October 16, 2020 on the experimental AAG. The AAG is a completely automated aviation plain language forecast driven by the Localized Aviation Model Output Statistics (MOS) Program (LAMP). This product seeks to provide additional aviation guidance products to selected Alaskan airports that do not get Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs).

The new product stems from a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) determination several years ago that Area Forecasts (FA) did not meet the Part 121 regulatory requirement. The FAA formally requested the NWS "provide the meteorological information necessary" to fulfill the forecast requirement, e.g., specific forecast for a location, citing the unique challenges of Alaska's operational environment and the reliance of many remote communities on aviation for access to goods and services.

Based on this request, the NWS is providing AAG at 61 locations on an experimental basis. Due to the experimental nature of this product, its 24/7 availability cannot be guaranteed; system failures and maintenance may result in outages, which can only be addressed during regular business hours.

The AAG is a decoded plain language forecast derived from the Localized Aviation MOS product, or LAMP. The AAG is valid for 6 hours and updated hourly. See the example below:

Guidance for: PXXX (Someplace, AK) issued at 0900 UTC 12 Jun 2019

Forecast period: 0900 to 1000 UTC 12 June 2019
Forecast type: FROM: standard forecast or significant change
Winds: from the E (90 degrees) at 21 MPH (18 knots; 9.3 m/s) gusting to 28 MPH (24 knots; 12.3 m/s)
Visibility: 2.00 sm (3.22 km)
Ceiling: 1500 feet AGL
Clouds: overcast cloud deck at 1500 feet AGL

Weather: -RA BR (light rain, mist)

Forecast period: 1000 to 1200 UTC 12 June 2019
Forecast type: FROM: standard forecast or significant change
Winds: from the E (90 degrees) at 17 MPH (15 knots; 7.7 m/s) gusting to 25 MPH (22 knots; 11.3 m/s)
Visibility: 2.00 sm (3.22 km)
Ceiling: 700 feet AGL
Clouds: overcast cloud deck at 700 feet AGL
Weather: -RA BR (light rain, mist)

Forecast period: 1200 to 1500 UTC 12 June 2019
Forecast type: FROM: standard forecast or significant change
Winds: from the E (90 degrees) at 13 MPH (11 knots; 5.7 m/s)
Visibility: 1.50 sm (2.41 km)
Ceiling: 700 feet AGL
Clouds: overcast cloud deck at 700 feet AGL
Weather: -RA BR (light rain, mist)

Observations of this new product: The AAG is typically more pessimistic than a TAF during Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) conditions, particularly the first 0-3 hours of the forecast. The AAG is updated every hour for each location and incorporates the latest surface conditions. Thus, the forecast is weighted towards the latest hourly Meteorological Aerodrome Reports (METARs).

The AAG does not include forecasts for thunderstorms, nor does it forecast reductions in visibility due to blowing snow or smoke. Upgrades in 2020-21 are expected to add thunderstorms to the AAG forecast. Lastly, the AAG is a completely automated product and no manual changes by NWS forecasters are possible.

Usage: The AAG is a forecast tool and may be used in locations (generally Visual Flight Rule (VFR) Airports) where a TAF is not available at the intended destination in the state of Alaska. It is intended for use under VFR conditions and within the next six hours.

The AAG cannot be used at the alternate airport for 121 and 135 operators and is limited for flight times of two hours or less in duration. This guidance product may be used by part 91 operators without restriction. The operator is required to use the AAG in conjunction with METARs, Pilot Reports (PIREPs), the FA, Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET) and Airmen's Meteorological Information (AIRMET) to ensure the weather conditions at the estimated time of arrival will be at or above the minimums.

It is also important to reiterate that the AAG will not indicate blowing snow, smoke or convective activity. If precipitation is forecast, the operator should review SIGMETs and Next-Generation Radar (NEXRAD) weather radar, where available, to determine if hazardous convective weather will be present when the aircraft arrives and plan appropriately.

How to Access the AAG Product:
On or about October 8, 2019, the specific AAG forecast product will be available at the following link:

https://www.weather.gov/arh/aag

Airports with the proposed AAG are listed below:

PAAK Atka	AK	52.22N	174.21W
PABA Barter Island	AK	70.13N	143.63W
PABL Buckland	AK	65.99N	161.12W
PABV Birchwood	AK	61.42N	149.52W
PACZ Cape Romanzof	AK	61.78N	166.03W
PADE Deering	AK	66.07N	162.77W
PADK Adak	AK	51.88N	176.65W
PAEG Eagle	AK	64.78N	141.16W
PAEH Cape Newenham	AK	58.65N	162.07W
PAEM Emmonak	AK	62.77N	164.50W
PAFE Kake	AK	56.97N	133.95W
PAFM Ambler	AK	67.10N	157.85W
PAGL Golovin	AK	64.55N	163.03W
PAGM Gambell	AK	63.78N	171.75W
PAHL Huslia	AK	65.69N	156.35W
PAHP Hooper Bay	AK	61.52N	166.15W
PAHY Hydaburg	AK	55.20N	132.83W
PAII Egegik	AK	58.42N	157.37W
PAIM Indian Mountain	AK	66.00N	153.70W
PAIN McKinley Park	AK	63.72N	148.97W
PAJC Chignik	AK	56.32N	158.36W
PAKK Koyuk	AK	64.93N	161.15W
PAKP Anakttvuk Pass	AK	68.17N	151.77W
PAKU Kuparuk	AK	70.32N	149.58W
PAKV Kaltag	AK	64.32N	158.73W
PALH Lake Hood	AK	61.18N	149.97W
PALJ Port Alsworth	AK	60.20N	154.30W
PALU Cape Lisburne	AK	68.88N	166.13W
PAMD Middleton	AK	59.43N	146.33W
PAMH Minchumina	AK	63.88N	152.28W
PAMM Metlakatla	AK	55.08N	131.58W
PAMR Merrill Field	AK	61.22N	149.83W
PAMY Mekoryuk	AK	60.37N	166.27W
PANI Aniak	AK	61.58N	159.53W
PANN Nenana	AK	64.55N	149.08W
PANV Anvik	AK	62.65N	160.18W
PAOH Hoonah	AK	58.10N	135.41W
PAPB St. George Island	AK	56.58N	169.67W
PAPH Port Heiden	AK	56.95N	158.62W
PAPO Point Hope	AK	68.35N	166.80W
PARC Arctic Village	AK	68.12N	145.57W
PASA Savoonga	AK	63.68N	170.50W
PASH Shismaref	AK	66.27N	166.05W
PASK Selanik	AK	66.62N	160.00W
PASL Sleetmute	AK	61.72N	157.15W
PASM Saint Mary's	AK	62.07N	163.30W

PASO Seldovia	AK	59.45N	151.70W
PASV Sparrevohn	AK	61.10N	155.57W
PASX Soldotna	AK	60.48N	151.03W
PATC Tin City	AK	65.57N	167.92W
PATG Togiak Village	AK	59.05N	160.40W
PATL Tatalina	AK	62.90N	155.97W
PATO Portage Glacier	AK	60.79N	148.83W
PAVL Kivalina	AK	67.73N	164.55W
PAWD Seward	AK	60.12N	149.45W
PAWI Wainwright	AK	70.64N	159.99W
PAWN Noatak	AK	67.57N	162.98W
PAWS Wasilla	AK	61.57N	149.54W
PAZK Eureka	AK	61.93N	147.17W
PFYU Fort Yukon	AK	66.55N	145.20W
PPIZ Point Lay	AK	69.73N	163.02W

Recommended Action: All pilots, aircraft dispatchers and operators interested in reviewing information on AAG should access the information via the web address provided above.

The NWS is soliciting comments and feedback on the usability of this product. This feedback can be submitted via the following online survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlaskanAvnGuidance

For more information or questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

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