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From: Bruce Entwistle, Chief
 Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Retirement of the Airmen's
Meteorological Information (AIRMET) over CONUS through November 20, 2022

The National Weather Service (NWS) is accepting comments through November 20, 2022 on the proposed retirement of the Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) AIRMET over the six regions of the Contiguous United States (CONUS). The NWS will continue to provide the Graphical AIRMET (G-AIRMET) over the CONUS.

The AIRMET is a description of the occurrence or expected occurrence of specified en-route aviation weather phenomena at intensities less than the issuance of a Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET) advisory would require.

In 2010, the Aviation Weather Center (AWC) began the operational production of the G-AIRMET over the CONUS. G-AIRMETs are issued based on the same criteria as TAC AIRMETs. The G-AIRMET is disseminated as a message in Binary Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data (BUFR) format and as graphics via <https://aviationweather.gov/gairmet>. In 2021, the NWS also began transmitting the G-AIRMET in extensible Markup Language (XML) format. The G-AIRMET format can be used to display graphical forecasts of en-route weather hazards and to generate a text message tailored to user needs.

Recently, a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) working group recommended the retirement of the TAC AIRMET and transition to the G-AIRMET. The FAA convened a Safety Risk Management Panel (SRMP) to evaluate any hazards associated with the retirement of the TAC AIRMET. Based on the working group recommendation and the SRMP results, the FAA has requested the NWS retire the TAC AIRMET and transition to only the G-AIRMET for the CONUS.

TAC AIRMETs for Alaska and Hawaii will not be affected at this time. The 18 CONUS TAC AIRMETs affected are listed below:

WAUS41 (BOS) Sierra, Tango, and Zulu
WAUS42 (MIA) Sierra, Tango, and Zulu

WAUS43 (CHI) Sierra, Tango, and Zulu
WAUS44 (DFW) Sierra, Tango, and Zulu
WAUS45 (SLC) Sierra, Tango, and Zulu
WAUS46 (SFO) Sierra, Tango, and Zulu

Examples of G-AIRMET XML messages can be found at:

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/lw/>

More information about XML G-AIRMETs can be found in the Product Description Document (PDD) at:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/ref/pdd_xml_g-airmet.pdf

Please send comments to:

Kevin Stone
Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9363
kevin.stone@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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