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

Subject: Updated: Operational Implementation of Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA) for Alaska: Effective March 1, 2022

Updated to delay transition to operational status until March 1, 2022 due to Critical Weather Day declaration on the previously planned date.

Effective March 1, 2022 at 1900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the GFA Expansion to Alaska produced by the National Weather Service (NWS) Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will transition to operational status.

The current operational GFA domain includes the conterminous United States, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Western Atlantic Ocean and the North Pacific Ocean including Hawaii. The GFA Expansion to Alaska provides meteorological information in a graphical format over Alaska, the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and portions of the Arctic Ocean. The GFA includes observations and forecasts valid for the Alaska Flight Information Regions critical for aviation safety overlaid on high-resolution maps. Where gridded NWS forecasts do not exist, GFA uses automated computer model guidance from the Rapid Update (RAP) and Global Forecast System (GFS) models.

The Alaska Aviation Weather Unit will continue to provide text Area Forecasts (FA) for Alaska to support Alaskan users. Both products may be used for planning purposes.

The GFA provides the meteorological information necessary to meet the needs of the Federal Aviation Administration, pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720.

The GFA is available at:
https://www.aviationweather.gov/gfa

The Product Description Document can be found at:

If you have any questions regarding the GFA, please contact:
Jennifer Stroozas  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
Aviation Weather Center  
Kansas City, MO  
816-584-7281  
jennifer.stroozas@noaa.gov

or

Kevin Stone  
Meteorologist  
Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch  
Silver Spring, MD  
301-427-9363  
kevin.stone@noaa.gov

or

David Kochevar  
Regional Aviation Meteorologist  
Alaska Region Headquarters  
Anchorage, AK  
907-271-3352  
david.kochevar@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are available at:

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

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