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Service Change Notice 25-01
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Bruce Entwistle, Chief
 Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Retirement of Select Aviation Area Forecasts (FAs): Effective
January 27, 2025

Effective January 27, 2025 at 1900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the
Aviation Area Forecasts (FAs) for the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and
Hawaii will be retired.

The FA is an abbreviated, plain-language forecast of specified weather
phenomena, covering a geographical area designated by the Federal
Aviation Administration (FAA) and produced by NWS. The FA is used to
help determine en-route weather for aviation. The Aviation Weather
Center (AWC) provides equivalent or better information to the FA via the
Graphical Area Forecast (GFA) at <https://aviationweather.gov>.

An FAA-NWS joint-agency working group recommended the outside the
contiguous U.S. (OCONUS) FAs be transitioned to the more-modern GFA that
provides improved weather information to decision-makers. The FAA
recently convened a Safety Risk Management Panel (SRMP) to evaluate the
proposed transition. Based on the working group recommendation and the
SRMP results, the FAA requested the NWS to retire the three (3) OCONUS
FAs listed below:

FACA20 (OFAMKC) for Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico,
FAGX20 (OFAGX) for Gulf of Mexico,
FAHW31 PHFO (FAOHI) for Hawaii.

The FAs for Alaska will not be affected at this time.

For questions regarding the OCONUS FA retirements, please contact:

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