

NOUS41 KWBC 171415
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-78
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
915 AM EST Mon Nov 17 2025

To: Subscribers:
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FROM: Kevin Stone
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Subject: Transfer of Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) Responsibility for Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport (KBAF) to the United States Air Force (USAF): Effective 1700 UTC December 16, 2025.

Effective at 1700 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) December 16, 2025, the National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Norton, MA, will transfer TAF responsibility for Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport (KBAF), located near Westfield in Hampden County, Massachusetts, to the USAF, specifically the 15th Operational Weather Squadron (15 OWS). The 15 OWS provides TAF services and resource protection for military installations in the northeastern United States.

The KBAF TAF will continue to be provided 24/7, with the following scheduled issuance and validity times:

- The 1200 UTC TAF will be issued at 1200 UTC, valid 30 hours
- The 2000 UTC TAF will be issued at 2000 UTC, valid 30 hours
- The 0400 UTC TAF will be issued at 0400 UTC, valid 30 hours

Testing by the 15 OWS and the NWS will occur up to the transfer date to ensure Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) routing between the USAF and the NWS Telecommunications Gateway/Washington International Regional OPMET Gateway is in place. These tests will happen under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) header FTXN70 KAWN.

Prior to December 9th, 2025, NWS offices and all users should add WMO IDs FTXN70 KAWN and FTZZ40 KAWN to receive the USAF KBAF TAF via Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS) and the Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN). In addition, on or around December 16th, the NWS KBAF TAF will be deleted from the existing collectives below.

FTUS80 KWBC Non-FAA Domestic and Family of Services
FTUS90 KWBC FAA Weather Message Switching Center and FAA
 Facilities
FTUS52 KWBC Global Telecommunication System Customers
FTUS21 KWBC Global distribution for ICAO

Some format and content differences exist between NWS and USAF

TAFs. Below are two examples that highlight the differences, along with a brief explanation.

Below is an example of the NWS TAF format:

```
TAF KBAF 201122Z 2012/2112 15011G20KT 4SM -SHRA BR OVC010
      WS020/17050KT
      TEMPO 2012/2015 15015G30KT 2SM +SHRA OVC008
      FM201600 18008G18KT P6SM BKN035
      FM202300 24008KT P6SM BKN050
```

The same TAF using the USAF format:

```
TAF KBAF 201122Z 2012/2118 15011G20KT 4SM -SHRA BR OVC010
      WS020/17050KT QNH2992INS
      TEMPO 2012/2015 15015G30KT 2SM +SHRA OVC008 510006
      BECMG 2015/2016 18008G18KT 7SM BKN035 640504 QNH2995INS
      BECMG 2022/2023 24008KT 7SM BKN050 QNH2999INS
      TX25/2320Z TN09/1120Z
```

- The fourth line is a Becoming (BECMG) group. NWS uses From (FM) groups instead of BECMG groups. The FM groups imply that the change will happen at the provided time. The BECMG groups indicate the change will happen over a gradual period of time. The example here indicates the weather will gradually change between 1500 and 1600 UTC, and the forecast values will take effect on or after 1600 UTC.

- A Lowest Altimeter group (QNH) indicates the forecasted lowest altimeter setting (in inches of mercury) during the initial forecast period and in each BECMG change group.

- The third line contains a Turbulence (5) group at the end and is only included if turbulence is forecasted below 10,000 feet.

- The fourth line includes an Icing (6) group and is only included if icing is forecasted below 10,000 feet.

- The fifth line is the last forecast period for this example TAF. All military TAFs will have a forecast Maximum (TX) and Minimum (TN) temperature in degrees Celsius, and the time follows in UTC.

The Air Force's authoritative document for meteorological codes is Air Force Manual 15-124. In the current version, Chapter 1 discusses TAF Codes with Icing and Turbulence described on pages 16-19 in para 1.3.10 - 1.3.11.4 and in tables 1.4-1.7. The current version of the manual can be found at the following links:

Department of the Air Force E-Publishing > Publications + Forms
at: <https://www.e-publishing.af.mil/Product-Index/#/?view=search&keyword=15-124&isObsolete=false&modID=449&tabID=131>

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE AIR FORCE MANUAL 15-
124 16 JANUARY 2019 Weather METEOROLOGICAL CODES COMPLIANCE WITH

at: https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a3/publication/afman15-124/afman15-124.pdf

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National Service Change Notices are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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