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From: Mark Tew
Acting Chief, Meteorological Services Division

Subject: Soliciting Comments by October 31, 2015 on the Experimental Collaborative Aviation Weather Statement (CAWS)

Effective 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on March 3, 2015, the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, MO, will implement the experimental Collaborative Aviation Weather Statement (CAWS). The CAWS is a new product collaborated by NWS meteorologists, airline meteorologists, and other airline and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) personnel. CAWS focuses on specific, convective impacts to the Core 29 airports and high traffic en-route corridors. The product is event-driven, supporting the ability of the FAA to more effectively initiate, adjust or terminate planned or active Traffic Management Initiatives (TMI) to balance traffic demand in the constraint locations.

The CAWS product is a step towards the FAA operational use of probabilistic weather information and is an output of a collaborative Operational Bridging (OB) process. The OB concept is a set of weather forecasting processes, communication tools and engagement protocols between meteorologists and Air Traffic Management (ATM) decision makers. The intent is to accelerate the transition of aviation weather forecasts from probabilistic (e.g., 50 percent probability, 70 percent probability, etc.) to operationally relevant (e.g., event-driven) and enable more timely ATM decisions based on improved precision (e.g., location, duration, magnitude of weather) and National Airspace System predictability.

NWSChat (password protected) will be a web-based platform for
CAWS continuous collaboration. Only authorized users may participate in the CAWS chat. The AWC meteorologists, National Aviation Meteorologists, Center Weather Service Unit meteorologists, ATM decision makers, and others will collaborate on CAWS before issuance. An example of the CAWS guidance in ASCII coded text is shown below:

Collaborative Aviation Weather Statement 001
NWS Aviation Weather Center Kansas City MO
1345 UTC Wed 03 Aug 2014

Weather: Thunderstorms Valid: 1600-1900Z
ARTCCs affected: ZJX, ZMA Terminals affected: MCO, TPA

SUMMARY: Thunderstorms along the W coast of FL are expected to move inland and become numerous throughout the central FL peninsula during the early afternoon hours.

DISCUSSION: Scattered thunderstorms primarily overwater along the W coast of FL are expected to move inland and increase to numerous across the center of the FL peninsula through the early afternoon, more quickly and with greater coverage than shown by CCFP. Thunderstorm tops will reach FL450. Terminal impact at TPA probable after 1600Z but ending no later than 1730Z. Terminal impact at MCO probable after 1730Z. Expect another CAWS covering FL thunderstorms to be issued after 1600Z.

An example of the graphic can be found at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/aviation/res/caws_pns.png

CAWS dissemination:
Posted on the Aviation Weather Center website:

www.aviationweather.gov/caws

NWS Telecommunications Gateway:
FAA Command Center will issue an advisory when CAWS is issued.

The experimental CAWS product will be available seven days a week from March 3, 2015, through October 31, 2015. This product is event driven.

The CAWS will be available at:

https://www.aviationweather.gov/caws
The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) header for the text product is FAUS11 KKCI. The Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) ID is AWSTS. The .png graphic WMO ID is PMNC00 KKCI.

NWS is accepting comments from March 3–October 31, 2015, via the online survey below:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=CAWS

or email: ncep.awc.avwx@noaa.gov

In addition, there may be opportunities for face-to-face responses at media workshops, public outreach events, etc.

For further information, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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