SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 09-41
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
925 AM EDT MON JUL 27 2009

TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ OFFICES
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ USERS
FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER USERS OF NWS AVIATION FORECASTS
NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: CYNDIE ABELMAN
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: DISCONTINUATION OF INTERNATIONAL ROUTE FORECASTS: EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2 2009

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2 2009 AT 0001 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...THE NWS WILL DISCONTINUE THE ROUTE FORECASTS /ROFOR/ FOR KWAJALEIN TO MAJURO /RFRKWA/ AND FOR MAJURO TO TARAWA /RFRFFN/.

AWIPS IDENTIFIER WMO HEADING GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTOR
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RFRKWA FROC32 PHFO KWAJALEIN TO MAJURO
RFRFFN FROC33 PHFO MAJURO TO TARAWA

THE FINAL RFRKWA WILL BE ISSUED AT 1900 UTC ON SEPTEMBER 1 2009. THE FINAL RFRFFN WILL BE ISSUED AT 1730 UTC ON AUGUST 28 2009.

THE ROFOR FOR SAN FRANCISCO/SANTA BARBARA TO HONOLULU /RFRKSF/ IS UNAFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE AND WILL CONTINUE.

WFO HONOLULU...IN ITS CAPACITY AS A METEOROLOGICAL WATCH OFFICE DESIGNATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION /ICAO/... ISSUES ROFORS DAILY FOR A ROUTE FROM KWAJALEIN TO MAJURO AND WEEKLY FOR A ROUTE FROM MAJURO TO TARAWA. THESE ROFORS PROVIDE FLIGHT LEVEL WIND AND TEMPERATURE INFORMATION. WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE WINDS AND TEMPERATURES ALOFT PRODUCTS /FB BULLETINS/...IMPLEMENTED IN ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ CHANGE NOTICE #AB943 IN SEPTEMBER 2004...THESE TWO ROFORS PROVIDE DUPLICATE INFORMATION AND ARE NO LONGER NEEDED. IN ADDITION...THE ICAO...IN AMENDMENT 74 TO ANNEX III...REMOVED THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ROFORS.

FB BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/PRODUCTS/NWS/WINDS/

WFO HONOLULU SOLICITED COMMENTS OVER A TWO-MONTH PERIOD IN 2008...SEEKING FEEDBACK FROM ANYONE WHO MAY STILL USE THESE ROFORS. ONLY ONE COMMENT WAS RECEIVED FROM AN AIRLINE STATING THAT IT NO LONGER USES THE KWAJALEIN TO MAJURO ROFOR. NO COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED REGARDING THE MAJURO TO TARAWA ROFOR.
COMMENTS WERE ALSO SOLICITED REGARDING THE SAN FRANCISCO/SANTA BARBARA TO HONOLULU ROFOR. THERE WAS OVERWHELMING FEEDBACK THAT THIS ROFOR WAS VITAL AND SHOULD CONTINUE. THEREFORE...NO CHANGES ARE BEING MADE TO RFRKSF.

NWS INSTRUCTION 10-811 /ENROUTE FORECASTS AND ADVISORIES/ WILL BE UPDATED TO REMOVE RFRKWA AND RFRFFN DURING THE NEXT ROUTINE DIRECTIVE REVIEW CYCLE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE

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