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Service Change Notice 14-15
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Mark Tew
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Remarks Section of the Vortex Data Message for
Tropical Cyclones: Effective May 15, 2014

Effective May 15, 2014, the following format changes will take place with the Vortex Data Message (VDM) reported from Department of Defense (DoD) and NOAA aircraft conducting reconnaissance missions for tropical cyclones:

The overall MAX WIND at flight level, and the MAX outbound wind in the Remarks Section of the VDM will include a space on either side of the "/", and to include "NM" after the distance value.

The change in format will be consistent to the current Format for the MAX flight level temperature if it's not within five nautical miles (nm) of the flight level center in the Remarks Section.

Old Format:
MAX FL WIND 73 KT 081/25 23:30:30Z
MAX OUTBOUND FL WIND 55 KT 083/14 01:36:00Z

New Format:
MAX FL WIND 73 KT 081 / 25 NM 23:30:30Z
MAX OUTBOUND FL WIND 55 KT 083 / 14 NM 01:36:00Z

A new remark for wind direction and speed at the surface will be added to the Remarks Section.

Example:
CNTR DROPSONDE SFC WIND 265 / 12 KT

There are no changes to World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Headers or Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) identifiers (IDs) for the VDM. VDM formats are provided in the National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP), Chapter 5.

The 2013 NHOP, along with the 2013 VDM Message Format, is currently provided online at:

<http://www.ofcm.gov/nhop/13/nhop13.htm>

The 2014 NHOP will be posted online by June 1, 2014, along with the new VDM message format in Table 5-2. A new example VDM will be provided in Figure 5-4.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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