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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-71  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1240 PM EDT Wed Aug 14 2019

TO:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPORT  
              Other NWS partners and NWS employees

FROM:         Bruce Entwistle  
              Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT:      Operational Implementation of Graphical Forecasts for  
              Aviation (GFA) for the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and  
              western North Atlantic Ocean Effective August 14, 2019

Effective August 14, 2019 at 1900 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), the experimental GFA Expansion for the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Atlantic Ocean produced by the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will transition to operational status.

The GFA expansion is designed to provide meteorological information equivalent to the textual Area Forecast (FA) for the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea in a graphical format. The GFA expansion also expands this graphically depicted information into the western North Atlantic Ocean, and includes the domain of the operational Graphical Forecasts for Aviation over the conterminous United States. This product includes observations and forecasts valid for the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the New York Oceanic Flight Information Region that provide data critical for aviation safety, overlaid on high-resolution base maps. AWC continues to provide text Area Forecasts for the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, and portions of the Atlantic Ocean. The expansion of the GFA to these regions is intended to replace the text FAs upon completion of a formal product termination review and notification process.

The GFA provides the meteorological information necessary to meet the needs of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720.

The GFA is available at:  
<https://www.aviationweather.gov/gfa>

In the near future, the Product Description Document will be posted at:  
[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD\\_GFA\\_Expansion\\_Gulf\\_Caribbean\\_Atlantic.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_GFA_Expansion_Gulf_Caribbean_Atlantic.pdf)

For questions regarding the GFA, please contact:

Jonathan Leffler  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
Aviation Weather Center  
Kansas City, MO 64153  
Phone: 816-584-7239  
Email: [Jonathan.Leffler@noaa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Leffler@noaa.gov)

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<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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