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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
contiguous 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_Atl
antic.pdf

For questions regarding the GFA, please contact:
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NWS Service Change Notices are online at:  
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

NNNN