TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ OFFICES  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CUSTOMERS  
FAMILY OF SERVICES SUBSCRIBERS  
OTHER CUSTOMERS OF NWS AVIATION FORECASTS  

FROM: MARK ANDREWS  
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH  

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY AVIATION BACKUP TEST PLANNED SCHEDULED FROM 2000 UTC ON OCTOBER 16 2002 UNTIL 0400 UTC ON OCTOBER 17 2002  

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE NO IMPACT ON NOAA WEATHER WIRE SUBSCRIBERS...  

ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 2002...THE AVIATION WEATHER CENTER /AWC/ KANSAS CITY MISSOURI WILL CONDUCT ITS QUARTERLY SERVICE BACKUP TEST FROM 2000 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/ OCTOBER 16 UNTIL 0400 UTC OCTOBER 17 2002.  

THE AIR FORCE WEATHER AGENCY /AFWA/ AT OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE WILL ASSUME FORECAST AND WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SIGMETS AND AIRMETS /SIERRA...ZULU...TANGO/ IN THE BOSTON...MIAMI...FORT WORTH...CHICAGO...SALT LAKE CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO FA AREAS...WHICH ARE NORMALLY PREPARED BY THE AWC. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLISHED BACKUP PROCEDURES...CONVETITIVE SIGMETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD THAT AFWA IS PROVIDING AWC BACKUP. INFORMATION FOR AREAS OF ACTIVE THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE ISSUED AS SIGMETS FOR CONVECTION IN NON-CONVETITIVE SIGMET FORMAT. NO AREA FORECASTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR THE BOSTON...MIAMI...FORT WORTH...CHICAGO...SALT LAKE CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO FA AREAS BETWEEN 2000 UTC AND 0400 UTC. EVENING FAS WILL BE ISSUED AT 0400 UTC.  

A REMINDER MESSAGE WILL BE APPENDED TO ALL AWC ALPHANUMERIC PRODUCTS ON THE EVENING AND MIDNIGHT SHIFT THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BACKUP TEST BEGINS.  


THE AVIATION WEATHER CENTER WILL ASSUME FORECAST AND WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SIGMETS...AIRMETS...AREA FORECAST AND
ROFORS FOR THE HONOLULU FORECAST OFFICE MWO AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

THE AVIATION WEATHER CENTER WILL ASSUME WARNING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ALASKAN AVIATION WEATHER UNIT MWO AREA FOR VOLCANIC ASH SIGMETS AT ALL ALTITUDES AND ROUTINE SIGMETS AT ALTITUDES ABOVE FLIGHT LEVEL 20000 FT.

THE TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER TROPICAL ANALYSIS AND FORECAST BRANCH WILL ASSUME FORECAST AND WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SIGMETS AND WEATHER WATCH OF FACA20 KKCI AND FAGX20 KKCI OVER THE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS OF THE NEW YORK OCEANIC FIR...THE SAN JUAN OCEANIC FIR...THE MIAMI ATLANTIC FIR...THE MIAMI GULF OF MEXICO FIR...AND THE HOUSTON OCEANIC FIR.  THE FACA FOR 2130 UTC WILL BE ISSUED AT 2000 UTC FROM AVIATION WEATHER CENTER.

THE HONOLULU HAWAII FORECAST OFFICE WILL ASSUME WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIGMETS FOR THE TWO OAKLAND OCEANIC FIRS THAT ARE NORMALLY UNDER THE WEATHER WATCH OF THE AVIATION WEATHER CENTER IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AVIATION BACKUP TEST...

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THIS AND OTHER NWS TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm

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