



Plain Language Aviation Guidance for Alaska



Mike Graf

Meteorologist/International Liaison



Plain Language Aviation Guidance for Alaska



PANC (Anchorage Intl, AK, US) issued at 1525 UTC 02 Feb 2018

New product, Alaska Aviation Guidance (AAG), not a TAF, but plain language aviation guidance/information.

Text: PANC 021525Z 0215/0318 VRB04KT P6SM SKC

Forecast period: 1500 UTC 02 February 2018 to 1800 UTC 03 February 2018

Forecast type: FROM: standard forecast or significant change

Winds: variable direction winds at 5 MPH (4 knots; 2.1 m/s)

Visibility: 6 or more sm (10+ km)

Ceiling: at least 12,000 feet AGL

Clouds: clear skies

- **What's the problem?**
 - Lack of aviation forecasts across Alaska.
 - Just 39 TAFs across the state, versus 650 TAFs in the lower 48.
- **Why can't we add more TAFs?**
 - Lack of resources (staffing, etc.)
- But we can take advantage of the Localized Aviation MOS program (LAMP).



Plain Language Aviation Guidance for Alaska



- Instead we'll translate it...

PANC (Anchorage Intl,
AK, US) issued at 1525
UTC 02 Feb 2018

Text: PANC 021525Z 0215/0318 VRB04KT P6SM SKC

Forecast period: 1500 UTC 02 February 2018 to 1800 UTC 03 February 2018

Forecast type: FROM: standard forecast or significant change

Winds: variable direction winds at 5 MPH (4 knots; 2.1 m/s)

Visibility: 6 or more sm (10+ km)

Ceiling: at least 12,000 feet AGL

Clouds: clear skies

- **What is it?**
 - The AAG is an automated 0-6 hour product, issued every hour 24/7 for the state of Alaska.
 - The format is plain language text.
 - This product supplements the 39 TAFs done in Alaska.
- **How many?**
 - About a 100 locations, another 30 to be added later in the year.



Plain Language Aviation Guidance for Alaska



- **When does it start?**
 - Projected to begin in July 2018, depending on scheduling etc.
 - FAA provided a list of 157 airports for this specific product, and the NWS will continue to work toward that goal.
- **Strengths:**
 - AAG is updated every hour.
 - Plain language format.
 - 100 locations being added, another 30 or so later in the year.
- **Weaknesses:**
 - Entirely automated product, no human oversight, so pilots need to ensure they appraise all products to have a proper understanding on the hazards of the day.
 - No convection is forecasted in this product, so you will not see thunderstorms in the AAG, though there is ongoing work to add convection by 2021.



Plain Language Aviation Guidance for Alaska



Questions?

Contact info: Michael.Graf@noaa.gov

Phone: 301-427-9109