



NWS Aviation and Space Weather Services



Updates for the TAF Philosophy, and other Aviation topics

Mike Graf

Southwest Aviation Weather Safety
Workshop

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Topics



- PROB30 re-introduced in the first 9 hours of the TAF
- Reduction of VCTS
- Other topics



PROB30 in the first 9 hours of the TAF



Why?

- NWS can better address inconsistencies between its public and aviation products. Adding PROB30 in the first 9 hours of the TAF allows NWS to take advantage of the probability of precipitation NDFD grid.
- Better alignment at the Command Center with Airline TAFs that use PROB in the first 9 hours.
- When? NWS training and software adjustment needed. Targeting Spring 2024.



Reduction of VC usage

- With PROB30 allowed in the first 9 hours, we can minimize or in some cases eliminate the use of VCTS
- International definition for VC is “between approximately 5 and 10SM of the aerodrome reference point and used only in **METAR and SPECI with present weather.**” This inclusion of VC likely was introduced in 1995 when US transitioned for the AIRWAYS (SA) code to METAR
- NWS forecasters use it as a hedge to introduce the possibility of Convection in the first 9 hours since PROB30 was not allowed



Reduction of VC usage



- Usage of VCTS is inconsistent between offices and forecasters. Some offices use it to convey convection near a TRACON, some use it for different distances, and for areas with complex terrain.
- Frustrating to the airlines...whats VC really mean at Philly, New York, Dallas, Bismarck, Salt Lake City? We're all over the place....
- Try AFD etc
- Training and best practices being developed
- 10-813 TAF Directive being revised



Changes and additions

- Outreach and training for the Dispatch and Pilot community, see this link: <https://www.weather.gov/media/aviation/A%20Pilots%20Guide%20to%20Aviation%20Weather%20Services.pdf>
 - Contains every product and service related to aviation from the NWS, updated 2022. **POC Charles Ross, CTP**

- Our updated aviation page for the NWS: <https://www.weather.gov/aviation/>
POC Jason Frazier, PBZ

- New TAFs since 2022:
 - **KCIU** — Chippewa County International, in Chippewa County, Michigan
 - **KJKA** — Gulf Shores International Airport, Gulf Shores, AL



Changes and additions

- **KSRB** - Upper Cumberland Regional Airport , Sparta, TN
- **KHEZ** -Hardy-Anders Field/Natchez-Adams County Airport, Natchez, MS
- **KHRF** - Hamilton Airport in Montana

- Service provider changes for 2 TAFs:
 - WFO San Juan transferred TAF Responsibility for Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport (**TKPK**), Saint Kitts and Nevis, to the Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) of Antigua and Barbuda.

 - Also the transfer of TAF responsibility for Princess Juliana International Airport (**TNCM**) to the Meteorological Watch Office in Sint Maarten



End



- Questions?

Michael L. Graf (michael.graf@noaa.gov)

Meteorologist/International Liaison

National Weather Service

Phone 301-427-9109