

# Navy Forecasters Providing Weather Services Online

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**N**avy forecasters have predicted the weather for naval air operations for nearly 90 years. The forecasters in Norfolk have operated from the same building for nearly half that amount of time. However, change is the key word in today's weather forecasting, and the Norfolk office is just part of that effort.

The Naval Aviation Forecast Center Norfolk (NAFC) is a new command, with a new organizational structure and a new responsibility. For aviators, NAFC still is the place where the Navy weather forecasters work.

"We haven't stopped forecasting aviation weather," said Cdr. Nick Cipriano, NAFC commanding officer, "but, we have changed our request process and delivery method."

Pilots can request an en-route, flight-weather forecast (DD-175-1) from NAFC, using the web, via Flight Weather Briefer (FWB). The NATOPS 3710.7T fully supports FWB, and it is the preferred method to request and receive a DD-175-1. For pilots without computer or PKI access, NAFC and the Naval Aviation Forecast Detachments (NAFDs) accept phone and fax requests.

"We don't have an in-person, local forecaster's brief every flight, but formulation of the weather forecast has not changed," Cipriano said. "Also, we encourage pilots to call the forecasters at NAFC and the NAFDs for supplemental information and additional guidance as necessary."

In addition to these flight-weather forecasts, NAFC provides terminal-aerodrome forecasts (TAFs) and weather warnings to 22 continental United States (CONUS) naval air stations. The forecasters at NAFC issue weather warnings to notify airfields and bases of such things as thunderstorms, high winds, and severe winter weather that may affect operations.

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