

New-Tactical Forecast System (N-TFS)

PROGRAM/PROJECT:

LEAD AGENCY: Headquarters United States Air Force, Directorate of Weather (HQ USAF/XOW)

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SERVICE AREA(S)/INITIATIVE(S)

- *National Aviation Weather Initiatives:*
1: 9 2: 8 5: 7 6: 5 7: 6

FUNDING

- *Programmed/Planned (\$'s/FY):* /FY03 /FY04

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

Product Development

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- *What's being developed, procured, etc.:* a tactical weather workstation for receiving, tailoring, and producing weather products. The New-Tactical Forecast System (N-TFS) is being procured in 4 increments. N-TFS 1.0 was fielded at 168 Air Force weather units worldwide for use in preparing weather products supporting Army and Air Force ground and air operations. N-TFS 2.0 will be a client/server replacement with a significant software upgrade to improve the graphical user interface. N-TFS 3.1 will replace in-garrison servers, implement deployable servers and client hardware, and includes a minor software upgrade. N-TFS 4.0 will be a major software upgrade with open architecture compliant modules improving commonality and interoperability with similar weather information production systems.
- *How operations will be changed/improved:* provides a capability to obtain, analyze, tailor and disseminate mission specific weather information (focused on service unique mission areas) using web-enabled technologies. Provides a capability to receive products from both strategic and operational levels and transmit information to supported locations and other N-TFS sites.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- *Basic guidance document for this program:* Operational Requirements Document USAF 001-94-I/II/III-B, Forecast System – 21st Century, 25 Mar 99; USAF Mission Need Statement (MNS) 001-94.
- *Program's verification process:* Acquisition is via a spiral development strategy. Each spiral consists of a 12-month period when the government and contractor test against identified requirements. N-TFS 3.1 Force Development Evaluation (FDE) occurred in Sep 2002.
- *Method used for end product validation:* Products received from other production systems are assumed to be valid. Units conduct periodic review of mission execution forecasts and collect metrics on relevancy and accuracy to mission accomplishment.
- *Operational training for the user:* Trained government personnel will perform hands-on training of the users while the contractor will supply text formatted training materials.

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- *Next major program milestone:* Fielding of N-TFS 3.1, Oct 02-Jul 03.
- *Program becomes operational:* N-TFS is an operational system.
- *Plans for further product improvements:* Periodic hardware and software refresh will occur throughout the life of N-TFS.