

Volcanic Ash (VA) Product

PROGRAM/PROJECT: Aviation Weather Research Program, Oceanic Weather Product Development Team
[<http://www.rap.ucar.edu/projects/owpdt/description.html>]

LEAD AGENCY/COLLABORATING AGENCIES: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

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SERVICE AREA(S)/INITIATIVE(S)

- *National Aviation Weather Initiatives:*
8: 1

FUNDING

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

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION:

R&D/Product Development

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- *What's being developed, procured, etc.:* a web-based graphical depiction of current volcanic ash advisories and SIGMETs. Ultimately, an expert system framework that merges oceanic wind fields, data sets, satellite imagery, dispersion model output, and other algorithms to produce diagnoses and forecasts of volcanic ash hazards relative to flight level in remote/oceanic regions.
- *How operations will be changed/improved:* Enhanced safety over oceanic and remote regions through high-resolution (space and time) alerting of volcanic ash hazard areas.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- *Basic guidance document for this program:* Oceanic Weather Product Development Team (OWPDT) 7-year Plan.
- *Program/Project verification process:* Aviation Weather Technology Transfer (AWTT) process.
- *Method used for end product validation:* Human (pilot) reporting; comparison to other satellite imagery; verification of algorithms over data-rich regions such as the Gulf of Mexico and CONUS.
- *Operational training for the user:* Text, hands-on, distance learning (web-based).

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- *Next major program milestone:* AWTT D2 (R&D, test) FY04.
- *Program becomes operational:* AWTT D4 (operational) FY09.
- *Plans for further improvements:* Merge additional diagnostics (e.g., satellite imagery feature detectors) and data sets as they are identified and tested.