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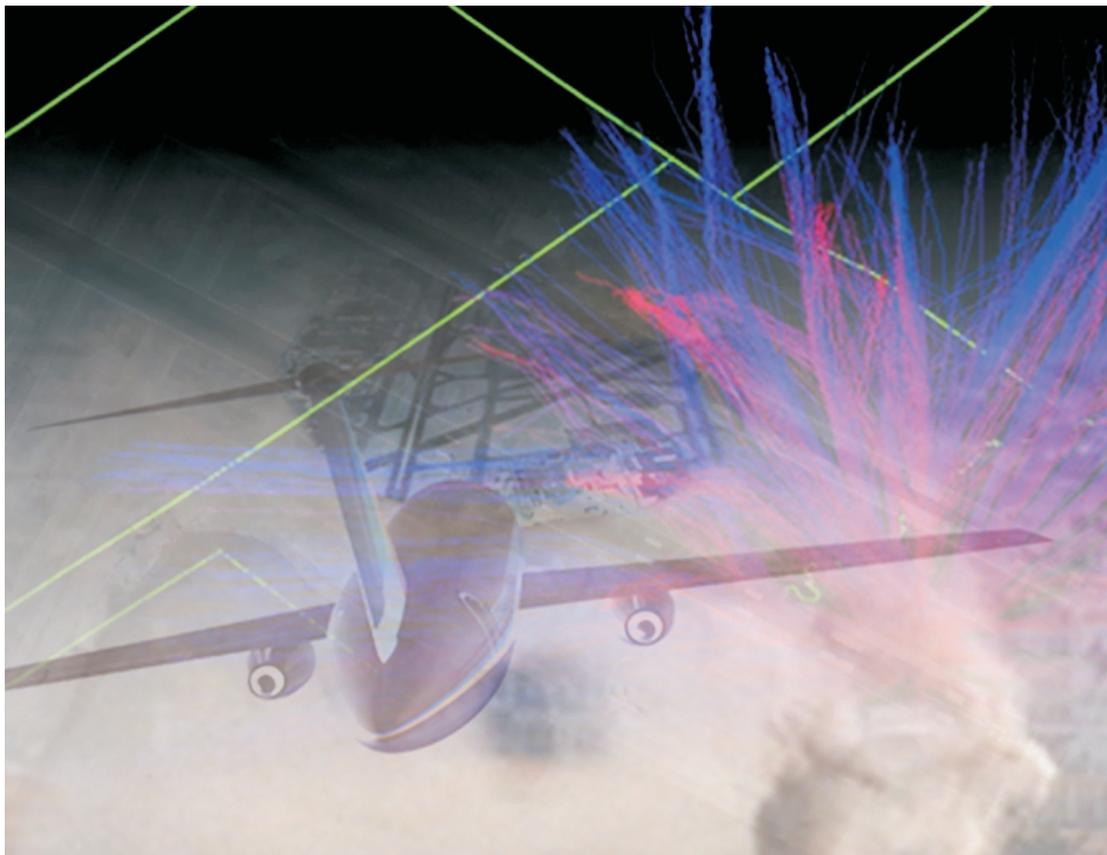


OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

Aviation Weather Training

A Report on Training for Emerging and Recently
Implemented Aviation Weather Programs

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FOREWORD

Weather can negatively impact both the safety and efficiency of aviation operations. In order to mitigate these impacts, improvements need to be made in both the provision of aviation weather services through new technology and in the understanding of how this technology can help the decision-maker make better decisions with respect to hazardous weather. Over the last few years several documents have called for improved aviation weather services. These include the *National Aviation Weather Program Plan* (1992), *Weather For Those Who Fly* (1994), *Aviation Weather Services: A Call for Federal Leadership and Action* (1995), the *National Aviation Weather Strategic Plan* (1997), the *Report of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security* (1997), the *National Aviation Weather Initiatives* (1999), and the *Proceedings of the Aviation Weather User Forum* (2000). As a result of this attention, agency research and development programs have been re-energized and new programs are focusing on those weather hazards contributing most to aircraft accidents and incidents.

Along with the need for new technology, improved training for both the providers and users of aviation weather information has been cited as a high priority item. New technology has improved the way weather is observed, processed, and displayed. However, weather continues to be a contributing factor in aircraft accidents. Quite often, an ingredient overlooked is training. This includes fundamental training on how weather impacts aviation operations, training on how to employ the capabilities of new technology, and training on the impacts of weather on aircraft and pilot capabilities. Perhaps with continued emphasis on training, the negative impacts of various weather hazards can be further mitigated.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate how well training is being addressed for the aviation weather programs/projects in the April 2001 *National Aviation Weather Initiatives Final Baseline Report*. Although the results appear favorable, more work needs to be done. The transition from development to operations is not complete without training and the combined efforts of all concerned are needed to ensure that training is an integral part of the development process.

I thank the agencies for assisting in this work and I ask for your continued support by ensuring that training receives the attention required so that the right decisions are made and accident rates are reduced.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research

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