Oceanic Cloud Top Height (OCTH) Product

PROGRAM/PROJECT: Aviation Weather Research Program, Oceanic Weather Product Development Team [http://www.rap.ucar.edu/projects/owpdt/]
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:***
  2: 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.:*** *graphic showing height of clouds relative to flight level derived from infrared satellite imagery and corrected for non-standard atmospheric lapse rate.*
- ***How operations will be changed/improved:*** *Enhanced safety over oceanic and remote regions through high-resolution (space and time) alerting of 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 D3 (R&D experimental) FY04.
- ***Program becomes operational:*** AWTT D4 (operational) FY06.
- ***Plans for further improvements:*** integrate diagnostics and/or cloud classification algorithms that will more precisely sort the convection from non-convective clouds.