Volcanic Ash Graphic (VAG)

PROGRAM/PROJECT:
LEAD AGENCY/COLLABORATING AGENCIES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)
LEAD AGENCY POINT OF CONTACT: Grace Swanson, NESIDS/SAB, 301-763-8444, grace.swanson@noaa.gov, Davida Streett, NESDIS/SAB, 301-763-8444, davida.streett@noaa.gov
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SERVICE AREA (S)/INITIATIVE (S)

- ***National Aviation Weather Initiatives:***
  8: 1

FUNDING

- ***Programmed/Planned ($'s/FY):*** $193K /FY 03; $199K/FY 04

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

Product Development

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- ***What's being developed, procured, etc.:*** *a man-machine product that will combine separate graphic and text products into one product depicting ash dispersion in accordance with ICAO required Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) standards.*
- ***How will operations be changed/improved:*** *will provide the Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center with an improved graphical analysis and forecast of volcanic ash dispersion out to 18 hours.*

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ***Basic guidance document for this program:*** The ICAO Annex 3 and the Washington VAAC requirements document.
- ***Program/Project verification process:*** There are bi-monthly reviews within NCEP/NCO of all new products under development by the Computer Development Branch
- ***Method used for end product validation:*** Establish an objective verification process using imagery, surface observations, and PIREPS to verify ash forecast area coverage, direction and duration.
- ***Operational training for the user:*** User training is planned through outreach educational programs to Met Watch Offices within the Washington VAAC region.

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- ***Next major program milestone:*** Experimental VAG in the 2QFY04 timeframe.
- ***Program becomes operational:*** End of FY04.
- ***Plans for further improvements:*** N/A