

Terminal Area Forecast (TAF) Improvement

PROGRAM/PROJECT: NWS Aviation Initiative

LEAD AGENCY/COLLABORATING AGENCIES National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Weather Service (NWS)

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SERVICE AREA(S)/INITIATIVE (S)

- *National Aviation Weather Initiatives:*

FUNDING

- *Programmed/Planned (\$'s/FY):* /FY04 /FY05

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

Product Development

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- *What's being developed, procured, etc:* an upgrade to the Aviation Forecast Preparation System (AvnFPS) to improve Terminal Area Forecasts with the application of new forecasting tools and verification techniques.
- *How will operations be changed/improved:* improve short-term (1-4 hrs) accuracy by use of conditional climatology. Reduce the time required to develop TAFs and upgrade the monitoring function to aid in more timely amendments for changing weather conditions.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- *Basic guidance document for this program:* AvnFPS 1.0 User's Guide, July 17, 2003.
- *Program/Project verification process:* Field testing.
- *Method used for product validation:* Field evaluation.
- *Operational training for the user:* On line.

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- *Next major program milestone:* AvnFPS 3.0.
- *Program becomes operational:* September 2005.
- *Plans for further improvements:* Continue to refine smart tools and introduce ceiling grids.