

FOREWORD

This report was prepared by the Working Group for Profiler Systems as a result of the Profiler Signal Processing Workshop held in Boulder, CO in April 1997. An objective which came from that workshop was to improve the quality and reliability of products produced by wind profiler systems. To accomplish this objective, the Working Group for Profiler Systems was asked to prepare a report on the state-of-the-technology with profiler systems and then to develop a plan to meet the quality objective. This document satisfies the first item and provides an excellent summary of the current state of profilers in the United States, of operational and research applications of profiler systems, and of challenges which remain in the processing of profiler signals.

As the report points out, the NOAA Profiler Network has demonstrated that profilers can have an operational impact but issues remain in developing an integrated observing system which takes observations from many sources and assimilates them into the end-to-end forecast system. These issues are being addressed by programs such as the North American Atmospheric Observing System (NAOS).

The editors are to be congratulated for a job well done. It remains for us, the readers of this report from both the research community and the operational community, to move forward and solve the technical problems and make optimum use of the information available from these systems.

Julian M. Wright, Jr.
Federal Coordinator for
Meteorological Services and
Supporting Research