

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7110.742

Effective Date:
October 10, 2017

Cancellation Date:
March 29, 2018

SUBJ: Graphical Forecast Images Replacing the Area Forecast for the CONUS

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** The Area Forecast for the CONUS has been retired. Static Graphical forecast images called the Aviation Surface Forecast and the Aviation Cloud Forecast are now supplied by the Aviation Weather Center (AWC) via NOAAPORT and Static URLs for en route forecast awareness.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: All facilities within the FSS directorate.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the air traffic publications Web site at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.
- 4. Cancellation.** This notice will cancel upon publication of FAA Order JO 7110.10Z Change 1, Flight Services, effective March 29, 2018.
- 5. Explanation of Policy Change.** This change retires the textual Area Forecast and adds information about the new static graphical forecast images (Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast).
- 6. Procedures/Responsibilities/Action.**
 - a.** Amend the Table of Content and following sections and paragraphs to read as follows:

Table of Contents

Section 5. Aviation Surface Forecast/Aviation Cloud Forecast/Area Forecast (FA)

9-5-2. AVIATION SURFACE FORECAST/ AVIATION CLOUD FORECAST/AREA FORECAST (FA) SCHEDULE

9-5-3. AVIATION SURFACE FORECAST AND AVIATION CLOUD FORECAST ISSUANCE TIMES

2-3-2. AREA/ROUTE BRIEFING PROCEDURES

Title thru f, No Change

g. En Route Forecast. Include forecast information from appropriate data; for example, area forecast (FA) synopsis for Hawaii and Alaska only, terminal aerodrome forecast (TAFs), and weather advisories.

No further changes to paragraph.

3-2-1. CONDUCT OF STANDARD BRIEFING

Title thru c4, No Change

5. *En Route Forecast.* Summarize forecast information that will affect the proposed flight; for example, area forecasts for the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Hawaii and Alaska, Static Graphical Forecast Images for the CONUS, TAFs, prognosis charts, weather advisories, etc. Provide the information in a logical order; for example, climb out, en route, and descent.

No further changes to paragraph.

Section 5. Aviation Surface Forecast/Aviation Cloud Forecast/Area Forecast (FA)

9-5-1. GENERAL

a. Area forecasts (FA) are available for the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Hawaii and Alaska through WMSCR and provide an overview of weather conditions which could impact aviation operations. FAs are issued by the Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, Missouri, the Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) in Anchorage, Alaska, and the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Honolulu, Hawaii. The delineation of the areas is specified in the National Weather Service Instruction 10-811. Canadian and Mexican FAs are also available through WMSCR.

b, No Change

c. The Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast are displayed as nine regional views and a CONUS view. These images are produced by the Aviation Weather Center and distributed by NOAAPORT and static URLs. See FIG 9-5-1, Graphical Forecast Images, for regional views.

TBL 9-5-1
Area Forecasts (FA)

	Gulf of Mexico	Caribbean	Hawaii	Alaska
Synopsis		X	X	X
Clouds and Weather	X	X	X	X (Includes AIRMETs)
Icing and Freezing Level	X	X		X
Turbulence	X	X		X

9-5-2. AVIATION SURFACE FORECAST/ AVIATION CLOUD FORECAST/AREA FORECAST (FA) SCHEDULE

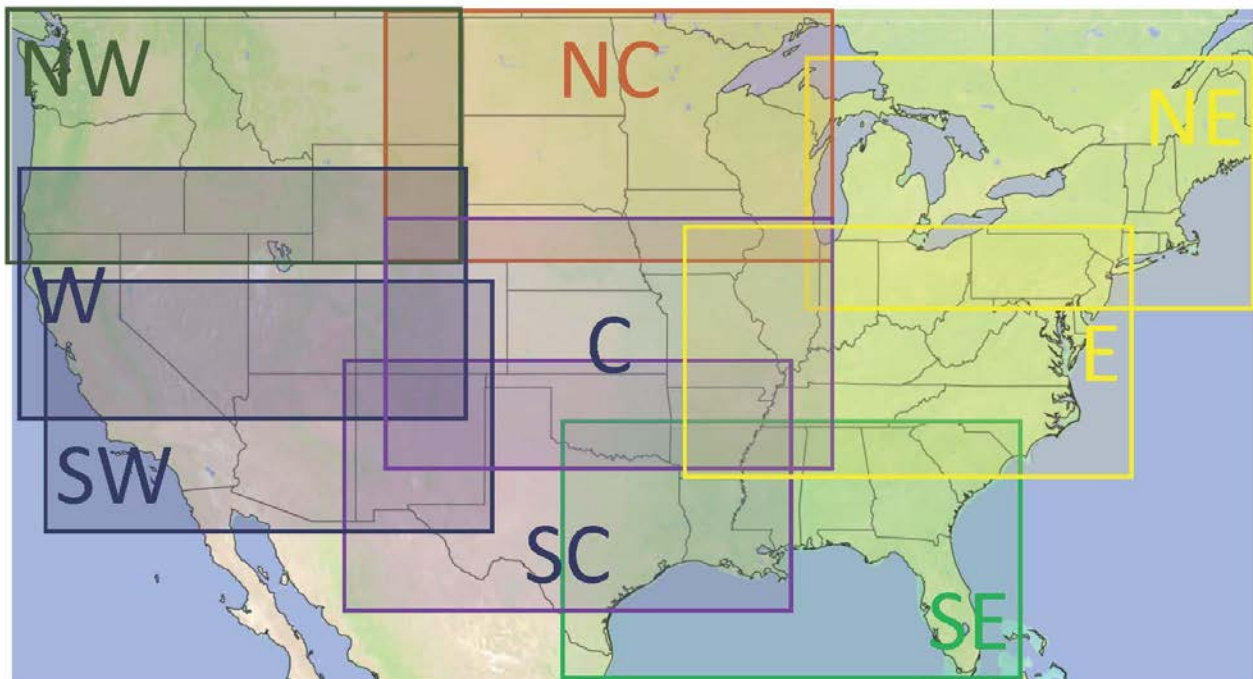
FAs are issued three times a day in the contiguous U.S., Alaska, and the Gulf of Mexico; and four times a day in Hawaii and the Caribbean. The issuance times are in TBL 9-5-2.

*TBL 9-5-2***AVIATION SURFACE FORECAST/ AVIATION CLOUD FORECAST/AREA FORECAST (FA) SCHEDULE**

	Gulf of Mexico	Caribbean	Hawaii	Alaska
1 st Issuance	0130	0330	0430	0415 DT 0515 ST
2 nd Issuance	1030	0930	0940	1215 DT 1315 ST
3 rd Issuance	1830	1530	1540	2015 DT 2115 ST
4 th Issuance		2130	2140	
Note: DT – Daylight Time, ST – Standard Time, UTC – Coordinated Universal Time				

9–5–3. AVIATION SURFACE FORECAST AND AVIATION CLOUD FORECAST ISSUANCE TIMES

a. The Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast are issued 8 times a day and are composed of 6 snapshots that are valid for up to 18 hours. The images are based on forecast model run times of 00Z, 03Z, 06Z, 09Z, 12Z, 15Z, 18Z and 21Z. The actual issuance time will be 1-2 hours after the model run. The delays are due to latency.

*Fig 9-5-1***Graphic Forecast Images**

7. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Terminal, En Route and Oceanic, Technical Operations, and System Operations Services; ATO Safety; Mission Support Services; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service (AOV); the William J. Hughes Technical Center; the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center; National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA); Professional Airway Systems Specialists (PASS); National Association of Government Employees: (NAGE) and to interested aviation public.

8. Background. The Area Forecast for the CONUS has been retired. The Aviation Surface Forecast and the Aviation Cloud Forecast are static graphical forecast images and are now supplied by the AWC via NOAAPORT and Static URLs for en route forecast awareness.

Original signed by Steven Villanueva

Steven Villanueva
Director, Flight Service
Air Traffic Organization

8/16/2017

Date Signed