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AIR FORCE WEATHER AGENCY

Air Force Weather Agency is a field operating agency of the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations, Weather Directorate (AF/XOW). It was formed October 15, 1997, and is located at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. The agency is the Department of Defense's Meteorological Satellite Center of Excellence.

Mission

The Air Force Weather Agency mission is to maximize our nation's aerospace and ground combat effectiveness by providing accurate, relevant and timely air and space weather information to Department of Defense, coalition, and national users, and by providing standardized training and equipment to Air Force Weather.

Personnel and Resources

AFWA manning consists of more than 900 active-duty, reserve, civilian and contract personnel and is headquartered on Offutt AFB, Neb. AFWA serves as lead command executing a \$200 million annual budget.

Organization

AFWA is organized into a headquarters element, consisting of staff agencies, four directorates, two subordinate centers and five observatories.

The **Operations Directorate** directs agency scheduling and production of quality, worldwide, mission-tailored, terrestrial and space weather products 24-hours a day to meet the requirements of the President, Department of Defense, unified commands, combat forces of the Air Force and Army, and the national intelligence community.

The directorate oversees the agency's back-up of five national centers: Aviation Weather Center, Kansas City, Mo.; Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Okla.; Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center, Camp Springs, Md.; Space Environmental Center, Boulder, Colo.; and the National Center for Environmental Prediction, Asheville, N.C.

The **Communications and Information Directorate** manages worldwide weather communications systems for Air Force Weather, ensures operational control and information assurance through the Network Operations and Security Center and manages the Information Assurance Awareness Program analyzing computer, communications and emissions security standards. The directorate assesses network activities and Time Compliance Network Orders. The directorate also operates headquarters data processing resources, develops and maintains software running on headquarters computer systems, and establishes and oversees information management policies and practices across AFWA.

The **Plans and Programs Directorate** directs the planning, programming, budgeting,


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development, acquisition, engineering, configuration management, installation, integration, logistics and life cycle support of all standard weather systems and computer processing equipment.

The **Air and Space Sciences Directorate** directs efforts to improve terrestrial and space weather information provided to Air Force, Army, and joint operations through exploitation of science and technology. The directorate also implements new capabilities and products based on operational shortfalls and directs and coordinates Air Force Weather training initiatives and programs.

Subordinate Units

Air Force Combat Climatology Center, located at Asheville N.C., uses historical weather data to develop and produce special weather-impact information used in planning and executing worldwide military operations of DOD allied nations, and in engineering weapon system design and employment.

Air Force Combat Weather Center, located at Hurlburt Field, Fla., develops, evaluates, exploits and implements new tactics, techniques, procedures and technologies across Air Force Weather to enhance the effectiveness of Air Force, Army, special forces, joint and combined operations.

History

AFWA traces its heritage to the organization of the Meteorological Service of the Signal Corps during World War I. On July 1, 1937, the Secretary of War transferred responsibility for weather services to the Army Air Corps. The official lineage of AFWA began April 14, 1943, when the Army Air Forces organized and activated the Weather Wing, which quickly established itself at Asheville, N.C. In 1945, the Army Air Forces redesignated the Weather Wing the Army Air Forces Weather Service and in early 1946, the service moved to Langley Field, Va. On March 13, 1946, it was redesignated the Air Weather Service and assigned to the Air Transport Command, followed soon thereafter with a move to Gravelly Point, Va.

With the formation of the United States Air Force in 1947, Air Weather Service assumed the responsibility of worldwide weather reporting and forecasting for both the Air Force and the Army. In 1948, Air Weather Service moved to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and was assigned to the newly activated Military Air Transport Service, which was later redesignated Military Airlift Command. Air Weather Service relocated to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., in 1958, where it remained for nearly four decades.

The Air Force designated Air Weather Service a field operating agency and re-assigned it to Headquarters United States Air Force in 1991. On Oct. 15, 1997, Air Weather Service was redesignated the Air Force Weather Agency and relocated to Offutt AFB, Neb.

Point of Contact

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Contact Us

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