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**NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SELECTS NEW LEADER  
OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., FORECAST OFFICE**

NOAA's National Weather Service has named Daniel K. Cobb Jr. to serve as meteorologist-in-charge of the Grand Rapids, Mich., forecast office. Cobb began his new duties on March 19.

"A meteorologist-in-charge is the front line officer carrying out the National Weather Service's mission of serving the American public by helping protect lives and property," said Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "We are honored to have Daniel Cobb serve in this important role."

A veteran of more than 12 years with NOAA's National Weather Service, Cobb has held a variety of forecast and management positions in Alaska, Virginia and Maine. He joined the Weather Service as a meteorologist intern at the Anchorage, Alaska, forecast office in May 1994, also working at offices in Kodiak and Fairbanks until 1998. He became a general forecaster at the Blacksburg, Va., office in September 1998 and was selected to be the science and operations officer at the Caribou, Maine, office in May 1999. He served as acting meteorologist-in-charge at the Caribou office from June through October 2005. Cobb follows former meteorologist-in-charge Dan Houser, who retired after a 35-year Federal service career.

"With his years of experience in a variety of National Weather Service locations, Daniel Cobb possesses a wealth of weather forecasting knowledge that will well serve the people of west-central Lower Michigan," said Gary S. Foltz, acting director, National Weather Service Central Region in Kansas City, Mo. "I know Dan's experience and leadership will be assets to the staff and the people of Michigan. He will continue to promote the excellent coordination with local governments and the business community, as well as supporting public outreach that has been a strong point of the Grand Rapids office."

Cobb earned his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology at Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, Vt., in 1992. He earned his Masters in Meteorology at Florida State University in 1994. Cobb has received numerous unit and personal awards during his weather service career and has served as a member and leader of several agency teams exploring concepts of operations and training. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society.

"I am very excited about moving to Grand Rapids, a beautiful place with great weather challenges," Cobb said. "The dedicated Grand Rapids staff exemplifies the National Weather Service tradition of service above self and I look forward to leading and working with this group of conscientious professionals in providing the most accurate forecasts and the most timely warnings to the people of Lower Michigan."

The National Weather Service is part of Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department. NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather- and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

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Note: Media interested in arranging interviews with Daniel Cobb may contact the Grand Rapids forecast office at (616) 949-0640.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service in Grand Rapids: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/grr>