



Contact: Patrick Slattery
(816) 891-7734, Ext. 621

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**NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SELECTS NEW LEADER
OF ABERDEEN, S.D., FORECAST OFFICE**

NOAA's National Weather Service has selected James Scarlett to serve as meteorologist-in-charge of the Aberdeen, S. D., forecast office. Scarlett began his new assignment 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 James Scarlett serve in this important role."

A veteran of more than 12 years with NOAA's National Weather Service, Scarlett has held a variety of forecast and management positions in North Dakota and Montana. From beginnings as a meteorologist intern at the Williston, N.D., weather office in 1993, Scarlett worked his way through various positions with increasing responsibility to lead forecaster and warning coordination meteorologist at the Billings, Mont., office in August 2002.

"With his years of experience at Williston and Billings, James Scarlett has a wealth of experience in High Plains meteorology that will continue to well serve the people of South Dakota and western Minnesota," said Gary S. Foltz, acting director, National Weather Service Central Region in Kansas City, Mo. "I know Jim's experience and leadership will be assets to the staff and the community. He will continue to promote the excellent coordination with local governments and the business community, as well as supporting far reaching public outreach that has been a strong point of the Aberdeen forecast office."

Scarlett earned his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology at the University of North Dakota in December 1990. He has received numerous unit and personal awards during his weather service career.

"I am very excited to join the outstanding teams of weather professionals at Aberdeen and Central Region," Scarlett said. "I look forward to working with the forecast staff and sharing new thoughts and ideas."

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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.

Note: Media interested in arranging interviews with James Scarlett may contact the Aberdeen weather forecast office at (605) 225-0519.

On the Web:

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

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

National Weather Service in Aberdeen: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/abr>