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

NOAA's National Weather Service has named James Meyer to serve as meteorologist-in-charge of the Bismarck, N.D., forecast office. Meyer 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 Jim Meyer serve in this important role."

A veteran of more than 27 years with NOAA's National Weather Service, Meyer has held a variety of forecast and management positions in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Idaho. He joined the National Weather Service as a meteorologist intern at the North Platte, Neb., forecast office in 1982, following a four-year term as an Aviation Forecaster with the U.S. Navy in such locales as Keflavick, Iceland, and Sicily. Meyer worked his way through various positions with increasing responsibility. He served as warning coordination meteorologist at the Davenport, Iowa, forecast office for 12 years before becoming meteorologist-in-charge of the Pocatello, Idaho, office in October 2002.

"With his years of experience with the National Weather Service and the Navy, James Meyer possesses a wealth of weather forecasting knowledge that will continue to well serve the people of North Dakota," 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 Bismarck community. 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 Bismarck staff."

Meyer earned his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology at San Jose State University, San Jose, Calif., in 1988. He also studied meteorology at the Naval Post Graduate School in 1989. Meyer has received numerous unit and personal awards during his National Weather Service career. He has also published several articles, primarily dealing with bringing science and weather into local schools and has helped develop working and training relationships with local school districts, colleges and universities in his National Weather Service locations.

“I’m looking forward to directing our staff’s work with emergency managers, our partners, customers, media and residents of the Bismarck and western North Dakota area,” Meyer said. “We have a very talented and professional staff at the forecast office and they are experts in North Dakota weather. I fully appreciate how important accurate weather information is to the area and state economies and to the daily decision making of both urban and rural users of our products.”

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 James Meyer may contact the Bismarck forecast office at (701) 250-4494.

On the Web:

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

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

National Weather Service in Bismarck: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis>