To protect life and property and to enhance the economic well being of the Nation, the National Weather Service (NWS) is recognized as the U.S. Federal agency responsible for weather and water forecasts and warnings.

The purpose of this policy is to define the mission and organizational structure of the NWS.

The mission of the NWS is to provide weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information data base and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public and the global community.

The NWS is a Federal organization under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is an agency of the Department of Commerce. The organizational structure of the NWS supports the organization’s mission. (See Attachment 1, NWS Organizational Chart.)

NWS Silver Spring, Maryland, Headquarters is comprised of the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and four program offices. The four program offices are the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services; the Office of Operational Systems; the Office of Science and Technology; and the Office of Hydrologic Development.
4.2 The National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is located in Camp Springs, Maryland, and includes the Climate Prediction Center, Environmental Modeling Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, NCEP Central Operations, Ocean Prediction Center, Aviation Weather Center (located in Kansas City, Missouri), Storm Prediction Center (located in Norman, Oklahoma), and Tropical Prediction Center (located in Miami, Florida).

4.3 NWS has six regional offices as well as operating offices. The regional offices are:

   a. Eastern Region located in Bohemia, New York;
   b. Central Region located in Kansas City, Missouri;
   c. Southern Region located in Fort Worth, Texas;
   d. Western Region located in Salt Lake City, Utah;
   e. Alaska Region located in Anchorage, Alaska; and
   f. Pacific Region located in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Operating offices provide products and services across their area of responsibility and include:

   a. Weather Forecast Offices;
   b. River Forecast Centers;
   c. Center Weather Service Units;
   d. Tsunami Warning Centers;
   e. Data Collection Offices;
   f. Weather Service Offices; and
   g. Spaceflight Meteorology Group.

5. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

5.1 The NWS is headed by the Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services, also known as the Director. The AA is responsible for leading an integrated weather services program for the Nation and for directing and managing the NWS.

5.2 Authority for the day-to-day operations of the NWS is delegated by the AA to Headquarters Office and Regional Office Directors. (See NWSPD 1-2 on “Delegation of Authority”).

6. This policy directive is supported by the legal authorities, supporting information, and procedural directive listed in Attachment 2.

Signed by John E. Jones, Jr.                                   June 1, 2004
Brigadier General David L. Johnson, USAF (Ret.)       Date
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services
Note: Organization Chart depicts the components of NWS.
GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Legal Authorities:
Meteorological Services to Aviation, 49 U.S.C. 44720
NWS Modernization, 15 CFR Part 946

Supporting Information:
NWSPD 1-2, Delegation of Authority
Department Organization Order 25-5, Section 8, effective April 19, 2002
NOAA Circular 00-13, dated September 25, 2000, NOAA Organization Handbook

Procedural Directive:
NWSI 90-201, Procedures for Organizational Change