

FPAW – 2006
Segment Four

Progress in Obstructions to Vision Information

Ernie R. Dash
FAA FISDL (Raytheon)

Forecast Accuracy - 2004

- Avoid ***over-forecasting*** VFR Not Recommended (VNR)

– Issued by Flight Service per 7110.10

“VFR Flight Not Recommended (VNR). Include this statement when VFR flight is proposed and sky conditions or visibilities are present or forecast, surface or aloft, that in your judgment would make flight under visual flight rules doubtful. Describe the conditions, affected locations, and times.

NOTE: This recommendation is advisory in nature. The decision as to whether the flight can be conducted safely rests solely with the pilot.”

– Based on approved sources:

“Use only weather forecasts, warnings, and advisories issued by an NWS office (including CWSUs), the U.S. military, foreign governments, or FAA owned or leased graphics systems.”

NWS Product Improvements – More Fidelity

- TAF:
 - BECMG group eliminated
 - PROB 30 – Not allowed during first nine (9) hours
 - TEMPO – No longer than four (4) hours
- AIRMET:
 - G-AIRMET –
 - Issued every three hours
 - One hour snap-shots
 - October 2007 – implement as supplemental

RVR Website Hosted by Volpe - 2005

- Add Summary Page with an “at a glance status”
 - Issue being worked through CDM.
 - Proposal submitted; coordinated with airlines
- RVR from all Level A Airports
 - No immediate solution
 - Preliminary options proposed
 - Requires engineering decision and funding

Aircraft Observations - 2005

- What can PIREPs provide that automets can't, and vice versa? What is the right mix?
 - Automet (AMDAR) best for model processing; more consistency; QA possible
 - PIREPs still important, especially from non-equipped aircraft
- Explain efforts to get PIREP information into the forecast models and to the forecasters for validation
 - AWC initiative to increase PIREP collection and post on web
 - Other – Floor inputs - ??

Aircraft Observations - 2005

- Explain improvements to controller automation to simplify PIREP entry
 - ERAM planning as function for Release 2 (2011-2012)

Elimination of ASOS Equipment by FAA - 2006

- What are FAA & NWS Plans

- No plans for elimination

- Business review - Who owns, how maintained

- No information available