



# Thoughts on Research-to-Operations (R20... and O2R20)

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#### Long-term Programs

- Requirement Vetting
- Formal Program of Record

#### Research & Development

- Formal R&D Program
  - Successful R&D > Transition to Lifecycle Management Program of Record work

#### Operational Changes at "Building Level"

GALWEM deterministic NWP model (contractor maintains baseline)

#### Operational Changes at "Local Level"

Air Force Weather Ensemble Prediction Suite (AFWEPS; 16 WS maintenance)





### #1 R2O Success Story: Forecasting Mentality Paradigm Shift

### Movement from Deterministic to Probabilistic Thinking

- Fully incorporating Operational Risk Management ORM
- The move from YES/NO ...and Red-Yellow-Green ...to probability-based
- It's not over. It's an ongoing learning process for users and developers

#### Research --

Leveraged ensemble research that was taking place at NCAR, Universities (and we continue to do so)

#### Development --

- In the beginning we had to be the developers and the salespersons
- \*Local development\* ultimately resulted in AFWEPS



### Why Should We Run Ensembles?



- Running a deterministic weather model produces one possible outcome...
  - ...but it is wrong! What do you mean it's wrong?
    - Models simply can't start with a perfect initial analysis; they're "flawed from the start"!
    - Various physics equations are applied to estimate multiple intricate and complex processes in the atmosphere (physics parameterizations)
      - They're all estimates and they're all not perfect
  - One model run may do well in certain areas, for certain variables/times, but not all
- One solution? Run the model many times to produce probability of outcomes
  - Use slightly perturbed analyses, different boundary conditions, and/or model physics
  - Each different "ensemble member" produces a different solution.
- Running multiple ensemble members for mult. solutions; probabilities calculated
  - Increased solution spread increases chance what will occur is sampled
  - Repeatability of a solution (higher probability) => gives higher forecaster confidence







- 16 WS runs the Air Force Weather Ensemble Prediction Suite (AFWEPS)
  - AFWEPS produces global and mesoscale ensemble products
- The Global Ensemble Prediction System (GEPS)
  - GEPS derives probability products from 63 global ensemble forecast solutions
    - 21 global ensemble solutions (called members) from 3 centers: (1) U.S. National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), (2) the U.S. Navy (FNMOC), and (3) Environment Canada
  - GEPS Probability products are available out to 10 days, 6-hr temporal resolution
  - GEPS Four-Panel products show deterministic GALWEM, GFS from NCEP, NAVGEM from FNMOC, and GEM from EC in one product
    - 4-panel products go out 7 days with 3-hr temporal resolution
  - Point Ensemble Probability (PEP) products display probability for 20+ parameters and thresholds in a convenient table for the entire forecast projection at a selected point
    - Data in GEPS PEPs goes out 15 days with 6hr temporal resolution





- The Mesoscale Ensemble Prediction System (MEPS)
  - The Weather Research Forecast Model Advanced Research WRF (WRF-ARW) is the base model for MEPS, and is run by the 16th Weather Squadron
  - I6 members with diverse initial conditions and varied physics packages are cycled, with a distinct run every 2 hours.
  - Macroscale Synoptic Scale: 20 km resolution; 144hr fcst, 2hr time step
    Currently 20 domains covering much of the world (and almost all land area)
  - Mesoscale Microscale: 4 km resolution; 72hr fcst, 1hr time step
    - Currently 7 domains plus 8 relocatable theaters, created for specific users/requirements
  - Small, localized 1 km resolution MEPS for significant local terrain challenges
    - Currently 6 theaters, 30hr forecast, 1hr time step; computationally expensive
    - Developed for user requirements to better resolve local convection, wind, marine lyrs
- PEPs are produced for 20km, 4km, and 1km ensemble data (28 parameters)

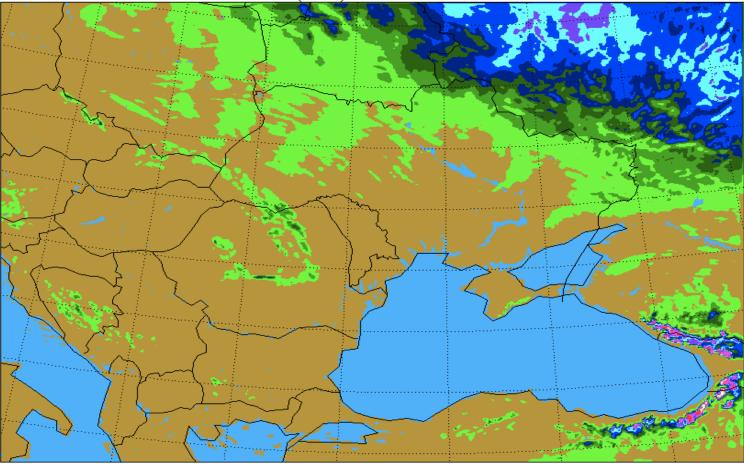


### R2O -- AFWEPS:

## REAL PROPERTY OF STREET

#### Black Sea Theater, 72-hr Snowfall Accumulation

72-hour Accumulated Snowfall (inches) Run: 2022122714 valid: 072 hrs at: 2022123014



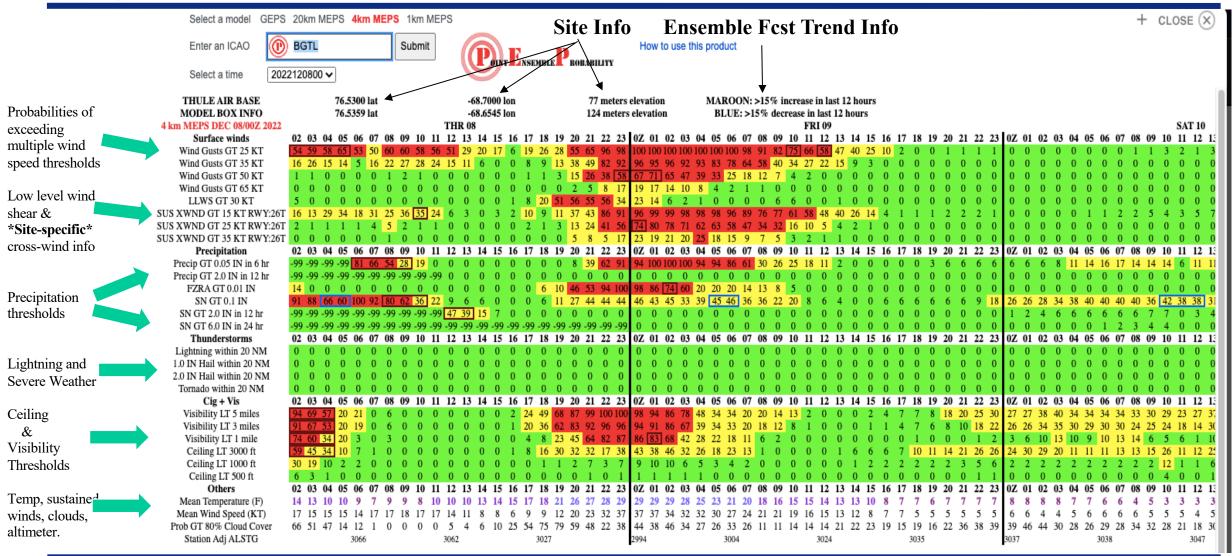






### **Example of 4km MEPS PEP**





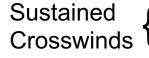
**UNCLASSIFIED** 



### "O2R2O": Add Crosswind Thresholds



Select a model GEPS 20km MEPS 4km MEPS 1km MEPS + CLOSE (X Enter an ICAO ര BGTL Submit How to use this product OINT NSEMBLE ROBABILITY 2022120800 ~ Select a time THULE AIR BASE 76.5300 lat 77 meters elevation MAROON: >15% increase in last 12 hours -68,7000 lon MODEL BOX INFO 76.5359 lat -68.6545 lon 124 meters elevation BLUE: >15% decrease in last 12 hours FRI 09 4 km MEPS DEC 08/00Z 2022 **THR 08** SAT 10 Surface winds 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 20 21 22 23 0Z 01 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 10 11 12 13 02 03 04 05 06 07 02 03 Wind Gusts GT 25 KT  $100\,100$ Wind Gusts GT 35 KT 16 26 15 16 22 27 28 24 49 96 95 96 92 93 83 78 64 58 40 34 27 22 Wind Gusts GT 50 KT 33 25 18 12 7 4 Wind Gusts GT 65 KT 5 8 17 19 17 14 10 8 4 LLWS GT 30 KT 23 14 6 2 SUS XWND GT 15 KT RWY:26T 16 13 29 37 43 SUS XWND GT 25 KT RWY:26T SUS XWND GT 35 KT RWY:26T 0 23 19 21 20 25 18 5 17 Precipitation 02 03 04 05 06 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 0Z 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 21 22 08 09 10 11 12 Precip GT 0.05 IN in 6 hr 30 26 25 Precip GT 2.0 IN in 12 hr 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 FZRA GT 0.01 IN SN GT 0.1 IN 36 27 44 44 44 46 43 45 33 39 45 46 SN GT 2.0 IN in 12 hr -99 -99 -99 -99 -99 -99 -9 SN GT 6.0 IN in 24 hr Thunderstorms 02 03 04 Lightning within 20 NM 1.0 IN Hail within 20 NM 2.0 IN Hail within 20 NM Tornado within 20 NM Cig + Vis 02 03 04 22 0Z 01 Visibility LT 5 miles Visibility LT 3 miles 94 91 86 Visibility LT 1 mile 60 34 Ceiling LT 3000 ft 9 45 34 32 17 43 38 46 11 12 24 Ceiling LT 1000 ft Ceiling LT 500 ft Others 22 02 03 0Z 01 02 Mean Temperature (F) Mean Wind Speed (KT) 17 15 23 32 37 37 32 19 15 19 16 22 36 38 39 39 46 44 30 28 26 29 28 34 32 28 21 18 30 Prob GT 80% Cloud Cover 66 51 47 14 12 6 10 25 54 75 79 59 48 22 38 44 38 46 34 27 26 33 26 11 11 14 14 14 21 22 23 0 0 5 Station Adj ALSTG 3066 3062 3027 2994 3024 3037 3004 3035 3038 3047







### **O2R2O: RYG Thresholds**



All parameter probabilities have Red, Yellow, Green thresholds.

*Predefined* for now, in the future there will be option for these to be *locally determined* and applied.

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Probabilistic Forecast Trends in the last 12 hours:

>15% increase

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>15% decrease

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Ceiling LT 3000 ft	3 5	3 2	0 2	2 7	19 4	0	2 2	2 0	4	9	10 3	6	18	21	26 35		-	34		5 46		59 69	77	79	79	67 7	8 64	74	72 7	1 63	3 62	49
Ceiling LT 1000 ft	0 0	0 0	0 2	2 7	15 4	0	0 (	) 0	0	1	1 0	0	2	6	9 8	10	18	_	32 2	_		46 5	5 66	_	48	38 4	_			7 29	) 22	14
Ceiling LT 500 ft	0 0	0 0	0 1	1 6	6 2	0	0 (	) 0	0		0 0	0	0	1	1 2	- 5	8		17 1			29 38			9	8 1		14		4 9	2	2
Others	0Z 02	04 06	08 1	0 12	14 16	5 18	20 2		_		06 08				16 18			0Z			08	10 12	2 14	16		20 2		02		6 08	8 10	12
Mean Temperature (F)	59 54	50 49	46 4	4 42	48 55	5 60	62 6				48 46	44	44	50	50 50	61	60	58	52 5		49	48 47	49	52	52	52 5	0 49		45 4	4 43	5 42	40
Mean Wind Speed (KT)	5 4	5 8	8 8	8 7	8 7	7	8 8	3 5	5	5	4 3	3	4	4	4 5	2	4	7	5 5	5 5	5	4 5	. 70	00	10		3 12			2 13		13
Prob GT 80% Cloud Cover	47 45		8 1	7 22			00 5	8 46			34 26		34	54	43 61				54 4				5 78		80	73 9	2 94					
Station Adj ALSTG	3005	301	2	3017		3016		300	9	3	010		3005		299	3	I	2979		2972		297	3		2977		298	1	29	83		2982

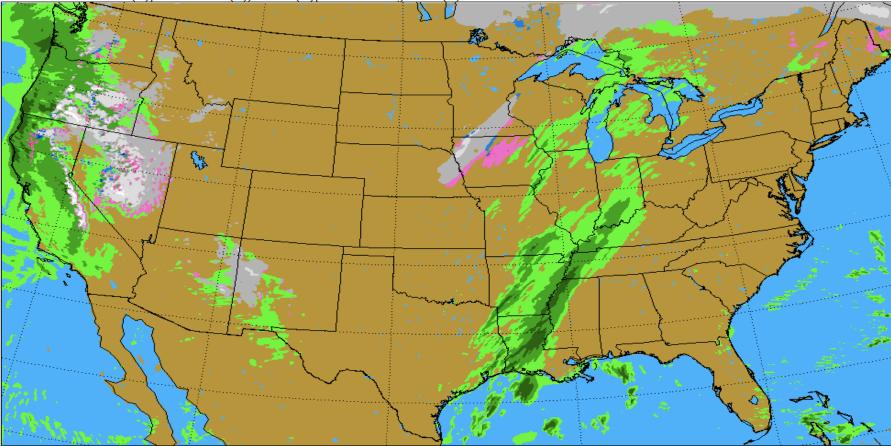




### **Example of 4km MEPS:** CONUS Theater, Precipitation Type at T+59hr



03-hour Rain (G), Ice Pellets (B), Snow (W), and Freezing Rain (R) in inches Run: 2022122720 valid: 059 hrs at: 2022123007













- These are examples of improvements directly from stakeholder engagement
- R2O should involve O back to the R...
  - Operators feedback to the Researchers, or "Users to the Developers"
- 16 WS proactively stood up SE Team to formalize this process O2R
  - Began with surveys, over 100 organizations contacted now...
    - What do you use, where are shortcomings, what do you need?
  - Visits to bases and airfield OPS in-person if possible, or via zoom as nec.
  - Get to true users at "pointy tip of the spear" -- weather and non-weather operators
- Process went beyond "what" is needed & into the "why" it is needed
  - Researchers and developers need to understand operations and wx impacts
    - Learn about use-cases and how forecast data applied
  - Operators may not know what to ask for, nor what we have the capability to provide







- Researchers and developers receive a solid understanding of:
  - How we can help
  - How our products are used
  - Downfield Intel and use-cases; more complete case studies
- Users too gain a better understanding of:
  - What we and the models can provide
  - The current limitations of the model data
  - What the products they receive really mean
  - Guidance on how forecast data can be applied to their use-cases

"O2R2O" -- user feedback > development > OPS <u>loop</u> - "continuous R2O"





- New AFWERX (SPACEWERX) agile innovation construct
  - Technology directorate of the AFRL, innovation arm of USAF
  - Teaming across academia, industry, interagency/int'l partners
    - Help w/ networking (SBIR/STTR), funding (STRATFI/TACFI), problem solving, transition
    - Foster collaboration & innovation for faster and affordable capability transition
    - 4 cores of AFWERX: AFVentures, Spark, Prime, SpaceWERX (learn more: https://afwerx.com)
- R2O Lessons Learned from various types of programs include...
  - Enable continuous feedback with users, keep progressing forward toward real need
    - Include weather piece and SME(s) right from the start
    - Consider weather impacts on mission success from very beginning of design
    - Test in adverse weather; Avoid expensive and/or difficult retrofitting

### O2R2O is a continuous process & needed to provide best actionable support





Thank you for the opportunity to provide some thoughts from this middle and lower level perspective. We call it "grass roots" at times...

Please contact me with any questions!

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