

Web-based TRACON Briefings (Southern Region)

Part 1 - Mission Connection:

- a. **Product Description:** The National Weather Service-Southern Region Center Weather Service Units (CWSU) may produce operational web-based briefings for Terminal Radar Approach CONtrol (TRACON) that aviation customers may use for tactical and strategic planning for operations. Maps and other graphics used in the web-based TRACON briefings are culled from various maps, models and charts available on the web. Variations in the presentation and depiction are authorized based on the needs and requirements of the specific ARTCC TMU and TRACON.

For example, CWSU Atlanta (ZTL) at the Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) has an operational TRACON web-based briefing for operations Charlotte (CLT) and Atlanta (ATL) terminals. Separate web-based TRACON briefings with recorded audio are prepared for ATL and CLT. The briefings include TAF explanations with the TDA, hourly wind forecasts up to 12,000ft out 9 hours, arrival and departure gate TS forecast and any forecasted en route and hub airport issues.

- b. **Purpose/Intended Use:** The purpose of the web-based TRACON briefings is to make weather briefings available to TRACON customers up to three times per day. These web-based TRACON briefings serve a similar purpose to the twice per day stand-up briefings required at the ARTCC. Issuance times vary by local policy. Generally, issuance times take into account planning for morning pushes, afternoon and evening pushes, and to cover overnight operations. Generally the product will not be updated outside of the established issuance times.

For example, ZTL updates their TRACON web-based briefing around 0730L covering morning pushes, 1430L which will cover the afternoon and evening pushes, and 2000L covering the overnight operations.

- c. **Audience: Users include:** personnel at the Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC), the ARTCC, TRACONs, airline dispatchers, flight service specialists, CWSU meteorologists, airline, corporate, and general aviation pilots.
- d. **Presentation Format:** The product is in a flash format compressed by Camtasia™ viewed via a web page with audio. Using a Power Point™ briefing format allows the forecaster to use the cursor for annotation and verbally discuss details of the forecast which may cause meteorological impacts to aviation customers. Other presentation software may be employed.

e. Points of Contact:

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Part 2 – Technical:

- a. **Format and Science Basis:** The CWSU forecaster manually builds the weather briefing utilizing Power Point™ and then records a verbal briefing through a Power Point™ “add in” to Camtasia™ software. Camtasia™ compresses the file in a Flash format that is then sent to the web. To meet 508 requirements, all Power Point™ slides contain written text to supplement the verbal brief.
- b. **Availability:** Product is updated up to three times daily, seven days per week during operational hours of the CWSU. Specific times and frequency of issuance will vary based on local needs and requests. A web browser is required to view the brief and speakers are required to hear the audio. A government IP address and password are not required to access the site.
- c. The site(s) currently producing the web-based TRACON briefing can be found at:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/msd/sram/aviation.htm> .
As additional Southern Region Sites begin producing the web-based TRACON briefing they will be added to the above web site.