

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Official Product  
DATE: January 30, 2003***

---

TERMINAL AERODROME FORECAST (TAF)

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The TAF is an operational forecast consisting of the expected meteorological conditions significant to a given airport or terminal. TAFs always include a forecast of surface wind speed and direction, visibility, and clouds. Weather type, obstructions to vision, and low level wind shear are included as needed. The National Weather Service (NWS) produces over 570 TAFs.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

NWS is responsible for providing terminal forecasts to commercial and general aviation pilots for the protection of life and property and in response to requirements levied by International Civil Aviation Organization via the Federal Aviation Administration in order to promote the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System.

**3. Audience:**

TAFs are intended for government, commercial and general aviation pilots and dispatchers.

**4. Presentation Format:**

The TAF is an alphanumeric weather forecast.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Comments regarding the TAF can be submitted through the local Weather Forecast Office homepage and/or the Regional Aviation Meteorologist. Comments and information should be sent to offices and forwarded to NWS Headquarters for review.

Technical comments or policy questions for the TAF may be addressed to:

National Weather Service Headquarters  
Aviation Services Branch, OS23  
Attn: Mike Graf, Rm #13324  
1325 E-W Highway, SSMC2  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
email: [Michael.Graf@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Graf@noaa.gov)  
Phone: 301-713-1726, ext 117

**Part 2 - Technical**

**1. Format and Science Basis:**

The TAF format and content are described in detail in the NWS Instruction 10-813, Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts, found at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/pd01008013b.pdf>.

**2. Availability:**

TAFs are issued routinely, every six hours, four times a day and updated when conditions change and meet amendment criteria. TAFs are available via normal NWS dissemination circuits including the internet.

**3. Additional Information:**

An example of the TAF can be found at:

<http://adds.aviationweather.gov/projects/adds/tafs/>.