BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
65TH AIR BASE GROUP (USAFE)

LAJES FIELD INSTRUCTION

15-101

12 DECEMBER 2017

Weather

WEATHER SUPPORT PLAN

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the e-Publishing website at **www.e-publishing.af.mil** for downloading or ordering

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: 65 OSS/OSW

Certified by: 65 ABG/CC
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Supersedes: LFI15-101, 2 April 2012

Pages: 32

This instruction implements AFMAN 15-129 Volume 2, *Air and Space Weather Operations – Exploitation*. Its purpose is to document weather services provided by the 65th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight (65 OSS/OSW), the 21st Operational Weather Squadron in Kapaun, Germany as well as reciprocal support from other group agencies. This instruction applies to all 65th Air Base Group (65 ABG) units, as well as Lajes Field tenant units. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the OPR using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publications*; route AF Form 847s from the field through the Lajes Field publications/forms manager. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at **https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm**.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. Operational changes and dissemination methods to include deletions, additions and updates were included in this revision: Concept of Operations (1.2);Duty Priorities (1.3); Removed Meteorological Sensing Equipment, WSR-88D,(**Chapter 2**); revised **Chapter**s 3,4 and 5.

Chapter 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. General. This stand-alone document provides a consolidated source of weather support capabilities, procedures and responsibilities at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal. This document does not eliminate the need for specialized weather support to be included in base/command operational plans. Air Force Weather concepts and procedures are outlined in various USAF and MAJCOM publications. This instruction does not cover weather support agreements made between the Portuguese Air Force (PoAF) and the 65 ABG. The details of combined weather support provided by the 65th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) Weather Section (WS) and the PoAF Air Base 4 Center for Meteorology (CMETEO) are outlined in the USAF/PoAF Weather Implementation Arrangement between Commander, Headquarters Azorean Air Zone (HAAZ) and Commander, 65th Air Base Group, regarding the operation of Meteorological Services. Due to civilian manning restrictions some services may not be locally available at all times. Any changes to this Weather Support Plan document need to be coordinated with the WS.

1.2. Concept of Operations. The WS acts as the "eyes forward" for the 21st Operational Weather Squadron (21 OWS), at Kapaun AS, Germany. In concert with the 21 OWS, the WS provides mission tailored weather support to worldwide Department of Defense (DoD) operations conducted at and through Lajes Field. The WS's primary focus is to provide meteorological information that enhances transient and home station mission execution as well as DoD Resource Protection (RP) for the base. The resources protected include aircraft, military hardware, and human resources, people who depend on accurate, up-to-date weather information to plan and carry out missions.

1.3. Duty Priorities. WS personnel must ensure the highest priority tasks are completed first while adhering to Operational Risk Management (ORM) principles outlined in section 2.2.1, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and applicable USAF Guidance. The following WS priorities are completed in order of precedence during station operating hours:

1.3.1. Perform Emergency War Order (EWO) Taskings.

1.3.2. Execute WS Evacuation.

1.3.3. Provide information in response to Aircraft/Ground Emergencies and real world Emergency Management weather support as outlined in section 4.3.

1.3.4. Respond to Pilot to Metro Service (PMSV) radio or phone-patch contacts.

1.3.5. Provide "Eyes Forward" capabilities and collaborate with the 21 OWS.

1.3.6. Implement Severe Weather Action Procedures (SWAP).

1.3.7. Provide 21 OWS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) support (section 1.7).

1.3.8. Relay Urgent PIREPs to the 21 OWS.

1.3.9. Disseminate PIREPs.

1.3.10. Perform Mission Execution Forecast (MEF) and associated Meteorological Watch (METWATCH) activities.

1.3.11. Provide routine local or transient Mission Weather Products (MWPs) during normal operating hours.

1.3.12. Aid CMETEO with Joint Environment Toolkit (JET) and AFWEBS access.

1.3.13. Accomplish weather functional training.

1.3.14. Accomplish administrative tasks.

1.4. Duty Location and Normal Operations. The WS is located in the Portuguese Passenger Terminal, Building 713. It is collocated with the PoAF CMETEO in the combined Weather Station. Long-term deviations to operating location or hours will be updated in the latest applicable Flight Information Publication (FLIP). Changes to the FLIP will be made through the 65 OSS Airfield Manager or designated representative.

1.4.1. The station is normally manned from 0700L-1700L M-F, except for Portuguese Holidays. Local Standard Time is Zulu. Daylight Savings Time is Zulu minus 1 hour.

1.4.2. For weather information during normal operating hours, contact the WS at DSN 535-4169. Outside of normal operating hours, contact the 21 OWS at DSN 489-2136.

1.5. Release of Weather Information. Release of any weather information to non-DoD agencies and the general public will not be provided until the base Public Affairs Office has given permission. However, exchange of weather information between CMETEO personnel and the WS is appropriate and highly encouraged in the interest of RP and airfield safety.

1.6. Alternate Operating Location (AOL). The AOL for the WS is located in the 65 OSS Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) Center, building T-810; the primary phone number is DSN 535-3205/9532/3160, but normal station phones will be forwarded to the AOL during AOL operations. The AOL must be able to sustain continuity of operations to the maximum extent possible.

1.6.1. The AOL provides an adequate location for conducting weather station operations as outlined in this document.

1.6.2. PMSV service is not available at the AOL. Phone-patch contact is still available.

1.6.3. 21 OWS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The 21 OWS is responsible for preparing and disseminating all forecast Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWAs) as well as providing aircrew briefs when required. In emergency situations, if all communication is cut off from the mainland, the WS provides back-up capabilities at Lajes for the 21 OWS during implementation of their COOP. The WS assumes all applicable flight weather briefing support as well as WWA responsibilities to the fullest extent possible.

Chapter 2

METEOROLOGICAL SENSING EQUIPMENT

2.1. General. This **Chapter** identifies the meteorological sensing equipment operated by or accountable to the 65 OSS WS. The equipment provides necessary or mission enhancing data for weather operations here at Lajes Field.

2.2. Weather Observation Equipment.

2.2.1. FMQ-19 Weather Sensor Suite. The FMQ-19 consists of a suite of weather sensors positioned at three locations: approach end, departure end, and midfield along the runway complex. The FMQ-19 Automated Meteorological Station continuously reports, displays, and disseminates full element surface weather observations through a server located at the combined weather station. It is designed to operate in a fully automatic mode or be augmented by a human observer.

2.2.1.1. The primary sensor suite (consisting of wind, cloud, visibility, lightning, temperature, dew point, precipitation, and barometric pressure sensors) is located at the approach end of Runway 33 and reads current weather conditions. A 10-meter wind sensor stands at the midfield location. Should the system fail or become unreliable, CMETEO personnel will initiate back-up procedures and notify the WS to schedule maintenance for the malfunction.

2.2.2. Kestrel 4500 hand-held weather sensor. The WS maintains a small inventory of Kestrel 4500 pocket weather sensors capable of measuring wind speed and direction, atmospheric pressure, temperature, dew point, relative humidity, heat stress index, and density altitude. Hand-receipt sign out for Lajes USAF needs are available on a first come, first serve and sensor availability basis. The WS will conduct a semi-annual barometer comparison with all operating Kestrel sensors and the calibrated pressure sensor of the FMQ-19. There is no maintenance contract for hand-held sensors.

Chapter 3

WEATHER STATION OBSERVATION & FORECASTING SERVICES

3.1. General. Combined Weather Operations. Full spectrum operational and RP forecasting services provided for or through Lajes Field are provided by the combined effort of the WS, 21 OWS, and CMETEO. The products and services outlined in this **Chapter** are focused on supporting ground and aviation operations. Details on specific actions and definitions are outlined in **Chapter** 5 and Attachment 2.

3.1.1. CMETEO provides the airfield's official observation and Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF). CMETEO also provides flight weather briefings for Portuguese and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, to include DoD assets operating under NATO orders. CMETEO operates IAW World Meteorological Organization (WMO) rules.

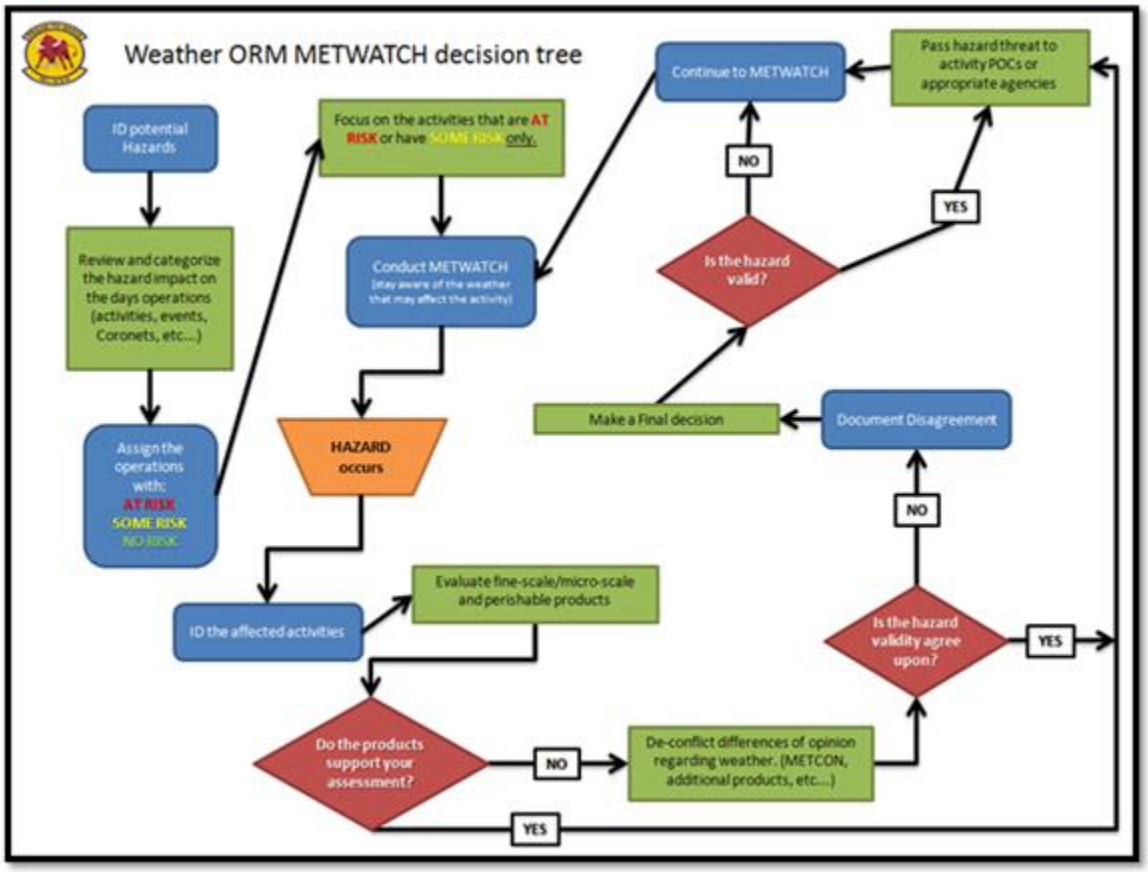
3.1.2. The WS and 21 OWS work together to provide 24/7 weather support and products for all DoD aviation assets under DoD command along with local weather warnings, watches, and advisory for RP. The WS and 21 OWS operate IAW applicable DoD and USAF rules tailored to DoD airframes and operations. Due to differences between DoD and WMO standards, the WS and 21 OWS may tailor the official airfield weather services and hours to meet manning constraints, the requirement for SWAP, and the needs of the customer.

3.2. Airfield Observations. The official airfield observation is created and disseminated by CMETEO under the "LPLA" International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) airport identifier code. Per Letter of Agreement with the PoAF, CMETEO produces the TAF for LPLA. Additionally, the WS provides limited observing capabilities under the "EQYL" identifier in support of the "Eyes Forward" function for the 21 OWS. The primary function in utilizing the "EQYL" observation is to prepare and disseminate WWAs for DoD aircraft and personnel during aircrew weather briefs. The WS will also maintain vigilance for rapidly changing weather conditions and will coordinate with CMETEO to appropriately amend forecasts. Since the WS does not produce the TAF for the airfield, there is no criteria established for SPECI or LOCAL observations.

3.3. Eyes Forward Function. The WS will maintain METWATCH during operating hours. All available meteorological sensing capabilities will be used to ensure maximum operational effectiveness and RP. All pertinent RP forecasting information will be relayed to the 21 OWS and meteorological discussions will be conducted for all potentially significant weather events.

3.3.1. METWATCH and ORM. The WS will utilize the ORM METWATCH decision tree in performance of the "Eyes Forward" function and other RP or Mission Watch forecasting functions.

Figure 1.1. Operational Risk Management.



3.3.2. Off-Station METWATCH. The WS will maintain METWATCH or coordinate METWATCH support from the 21 OWS for the following off-station sites during visits by members of the 65 CS, 65 CES, and/or 65 OSS/OSAM (RAWS). The 65 CS, 65 CES, and/or 65 OSS/OSAM contacts the WS with expected mission start and end times, primary and alternate team or operations contact information, and weather sensitivities as outlined in Attachment 2, Weather Watch, Warning, or Advisory criteria. The site visit team must make every effort to provide 4 or more hours of advance notice and will contact the WS during duty hours or AM Ops after duty hours upon mission completion.

3.3.2.1. Praia Ridge (Serra do Cume) - Altitude 1,700' MSL, 38°42'48.92"N 27°6'54.87"W

3.3.2.2. Cinco Picos - Altitude 1,150' MSL, 38°42'40.90"N 27° 9'2.54"W

3.3.2.3. Vila Nova - Altitude 350' MSL, 38°46'21.10"N 27° 8'58.91"W

3.3.2.4. Santa Barbara - Altitude 3,300' MSL, 38°43'48.25"N 27°19'14.66"W

3.4. Air Traffic Control Observation Training Program. The WS does not conduct tower observation training for USAF ATC personnel. A waiver has been approved by USAFE A3/ACA for this requirement.

3.5. WS/21 OWS Aviation Forecast Products:

3.5.1. Flight Weather Briefings. During WS duty hours, flight weather briefings for U.S. aircraft are provided by the WS, prioritized by departure time and mission type. After duty hours the 21 OWS or the aircraft's host unit weather station/center provides the flight weather briefings. Aircrews are advised to schedule briefings at least 2 hours prior to the desired brief time. Exceptions to the normal duty hours may be made for high priority (1A1, 1A2, 1A3), Coronet, and medical evacuation missions.

3.5.2. Coronet Missions. All briefing support requests should be coordinated through the Coronet Liaison Office or WS as soon as possible. The WS will update takeoff weather on the Coronet Mission Execution Forecast (CMEF) as needed and notify the TACC's Lead Weather Unit if the takeoff update includes any of the following criteria:

Table 3.1. CMEF Update Criteria.

Ceiling/visibility less than or equal to 200ft / ½ sm (or other published airfield limitations)
Dry runway crosswind (predominant wind) 25kts or greater
Wet runway crosswind (predominant wind) 20kts or greater
Forecast low-level wind shear for KC-10 operations
Observed low-level wind shear for all AMC aircraft
Predominant thunderstorms on station
Freezing precipitation
Moderate (or greater severity) turbulence or icing
Forecast or observed volcanic ash

3.6. WS Event Planning Forecast Products:

3.6.1. Lajes Five-day forecast. A tailored 5-day outlook published at least once daily by the WS for planning purposes for within 5nm of Lajes Field. The Lajes Field ops impact uses the following criteria:

Table 3.2. Lajes 5-day Ops Impact Criteria.

CIG/VIS	≥1500/3 "Green"; <1500/3 but ≥400/2 "Yellow"; <400/2 "Red"
PT Test	Temperature > or = to 20˚F, winds < 20 mph, visibility > than ¾ mile & no lightning w/in 5nm
X-Winds	Crosswinds 25-34kts "Yellow"; > or = to 35kts "Red"
AGE ops	Winds 25-45kts "Yellow"; Lightning w/in 5nm or winds > 45kts "Red"
TA Ops	Removing or Securing equipment winds 25-45kts "Yellow"; Lightning w/in 5nm or winds > 45kts "Red" (Mooring aircraft winds: See Aircraft Specific Technical Data for Mooring Weather Conditions)

3.6.2. Mission Execution Forecast Process (MEFP). The MEFP is an organized and systematic approach used to temporally and spatially refine all weather products to provide decision-quality environmental information for an operational decision-making process. The MEFP is a continuous cycle that adapts as parent/host unit needs change.

3.6.2.1. The WS utilizes a modified, locally developed MEF to maintain forecasting proficiency and to support local flying in the event transient/staged aircraft fly local training missions.

Chapter 4

ADDITIONAL WEATHER STATION SERVICES

4.1. Pilot-to-Metro Service (PMSV).

4.1.1. PMSV coverage is provided only while WS personnel are on duty at the primary weather station and only on assigned NATO frequency 284.425 Mhz. Only qualified forecasters are permitted to relay weather observations, forecasts, and weather advisories/watches/warnings.

4.1.2. PMSV radio coverage is not available at the AOL. Only qualified forecasters are permitted to relay weather observations, forecasts, and weather advisories/watches/warnings.

4.2. Space Weather Support and Service.

4.2.1. The WS monitors space weather impacts on HF radio, UHF SATCOM, and single frequency GPS performance using products from the 2d Weather Squadron (2 WS), co-located with the 557th Weather Wing (557 WW).

4.2.2. The Global High Frequency/VIP communications mission at Lajes may be impacted by space weather; however, the Networked Control Station at Andrews AFB is responsible for monitoring any potential space weather impacts to its worldwide operations.

4.2.3. The WS receives space weather alerts and warnings directly from 2 WS and utilizes them in all applicable forecast products.

4.2.4. The WS is the focal point for any suspected local space weather impact reports and will disseminate the information to the 2 WS at Offutt AFB.

4.3. Staff Meteorological Functions. The WS provides:

4.3.1. Emergency Management (EM) Weather Support. The WS is an integral part of the installation's EM program. The WS in conjunction with the 21 OWS will provide decision grade EM weather support IAW AFMAN 15-129v2, paragraph 2.15, and AFMAN 15-129v1, paragraph 2.9.

4.3.1.1. The WS will act as liaison for the 21 OWS 24-hour RP and EM support capabilities.

4.3.1.2. The WS and/or the 21 OWS will provide applicable weather or station information from ICAO, WMO, or DoD observations, forecasts, climatological data, and approved computer models for input into EM programs or decision making processes.

4.3.1.3. The WS will respond with detailed weather information and/or data for any applicable emergency situation. Forecasters will complete the latest approved installation Emergency Actions Checklist and use it as a guide to initiate actions for crisis response.

4.3.1.4. The WS and/or the 21 OWS will be the subject matter experts (SME) on all aspects of EM concerning weather requirements.

4.3.1.5. Forecasters are poised to provide weather information during Crisis Action Team (CAT) activation and other contingency operations.

4.3.2. The WS provides climatology services for any globally available site upon request.

4.3.3. The WS provides SME, space, terrestrial, and EM weather information at staff briefings as determined by command leadership.

Chapter 5

RESOURCE PROTECTION

5.1. General. Resource Protection (RP) weather products refer to forecasted WWAs that are aimed to warn base agencies and the general populace of approaching weather conditions. The WS and 21 OWS will notify supported agencies when conditions are expected that may endanger life, property, or adversely affect supported agency operations. Dissemination of RP products will follow instructions outlined in Attachments 2, 3 and 4. Most RP products are issued via an Automated Dissemination System (ADS) and accompanied by a call to Airfield Management Operations to ensure receipt. Units that receive weather WWAs are encouraged to maintain checklists or quick reaction procedures that support this instruction and ensure protective actions are taken after notification. RP products try to address both common and extreme operational weather threats. The two most common at Lajes Field are:

5.1.1. Mission impacting winds and wind-induced hazards typically occur from November through May, but have the potential of occurring at any time of the year. Strong crosswinds are the most prevalent mission limiting factor for our military aviation assets, with Low Level Wind Shear (LLWS) and moderate to severe turbulence as common byproducts of the strong winds. The dangers to aviation are compounded by the limited and possible lack of divert options available to the majority of our military assets.

5.1.2. Mission impacting precipitation hazards (flooding) are most common from November through May, but have the potential of occurring at any time of the year. Steady, long-lasting, or heavy precipitation inundates the drainage capacity of our volcanic and often steep island landscape. Stream and creek overflow can cause significant damage to infrastructure and facilities and make island ground travel hazardous. Extreme soil saturation adds the additional hazard potential for land or mud slides that could pose a danger away from common flood threat locations.

5.2. Weather Watch, Warning, and Advisories (WWAs). Refer to Attachments 3, 4, and 5 for notification procedures.

5.2.1. General Information. WWAs are issued, as directed in AFMAN 15-129V1, **Chapter** 4, to protect vital resources from hazardous conditions and to maximize flight safety. Each watch, warning, or advisory is assigned a number following the two-digit number of the current month (e.g. 08-001 would be the first WWA issued in August). Only one watch or warning will be in effect at one time for a given location, excluding the tornado warning and lightning watch or warning. Although only one watch or warning may be in effect at one time for a given location, multiple-criteria WWAs may be in effect at the same time for a single location. All WWAs are valid for an area within a 5 NM radius from the airfield.

5.2.1.1. Weather Warning. A special notice to notify installation personnel when an established weather condition of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property is occurring or is expected to occur. Weather warnings provide concise information outlining environmental threats and are used by operational commanders to make resource protection decisions.

5.2.1.2. Weather Watch. A special notice to notify installation personnel/supported units of a potential for environmental conditions of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or

property. Weather Watches indicate a potential for environmental threats and are used by installation personnel/supported units to make force protection and risk management decisions.

5.2.1.3. Weather Advisory. A special product notifying an end user when an established environmental condition effecting operations is occurring or is expected to occur.

5.3. Severe Weather Action Procedures (SWAP). SWAP are put in place by a weather unit to enhance severe weather event response capability. The actions performed are dictated by the principles of ORM and the Unit Duty-Priority List. Though they are limited due to manning shortfalls, WS personnel are available when required to provide weather information during CAT activation and other contingency operations.

5.3.1. The WS will implement SWAP for the following criteria:

Table 5.1. Mandatory SWAP Criteria.

Weather Event	SWAP Implementation Criteria
Tornadoes	Watch/Warning issued
Hurricane	Watch/Warning issued
Note: The WS will function as "Eyes Forward" for the 21 OWS and as the installation EM Weather SMEs to enhance local RP. If a duty priority conflict arises, mission needs will determine exact role.	

Table 5.2. Optional SWAP Criteria.

Weather Event	SWAP Implementation Criteria
Winds Greater than 45kts	Watch/Warning issued
Hail Greater than ½ inch	Watch issued
Lightning within 5nm	Watch issued
Rain accumulation Greater than 2 inches in 12hrs	Watch/Warning issued
Note 1: The duty forecaster or weather standby will evaluate the need to implement SWAP, and will discuss the situation with the OSS/CC or ABG/CD if OSS/CC is unavailable. Note 2: If implemented the WS will function as "Eyes Forward" for the 21 OWS and as the installation EM Weather SMEs to enhance local RP. If a duty priority conflict arises, mission needs will determine exact role.	

5.3.2. SWAP forecaster functions performed by the on-duty or standby forecaster:

5.3.2.1. Acts as lead meteorologist and determines need to recall additional personnel and duty requirements of recalled members.

5.3.2.2. Provides crisis response weather services and responds to Installation Control Center response requests.

5.3.2.3. Ensures applicable OPREP-3 severe weather reporting criteria are disseminated up the chain, beginning with the 65 OSS/CC courtesy copied to the 21 OWS and HQ USAFE/A3W IAW AFI guidance.

5.3.2.4. Maintains situational awareness and open communication with the 21 OWS and CMETEO teams to enhance the performance of the "Eyes Forward" mission component.

5.3.2.5. Relays all pertinent information to the 21 OWS in a timely and professional manner. If communications are lost with the mainland, the Lajes Field forecaster is the only person qualified to provide RP for the base.

5.4. High Wind Flightline Operations. The 65 OSS WS and 21 OWS will provide wind observations for USAF operations, based on the official readings from the FMQ-19 and CMETEO. The Operations Supervisors will use the 21 OWS JET Weather Server for added situational awareness. The 65 OSS WS and 21 OWS will publish all Advisories, Watches, and Warnings. Advisories have a desired lead time of 60 minutes and identify winds from 25-45 kts with a "valid time". Watches have a desired lead time of 4 hours and identify forecast winds greater than 45 kts. Warnings have a desired lead time of 2 hours and identify winds greater than 45 kts that may pose a hazard to life or property that are occurring or expected to occur. When a unit is notified of a WWA, the valid time of the condition drives the flightline response, not the time that the message is received.

5.4.1. Notification:

5.4.1.1. A. Normal Operations (Peak Winds < 25 kts): When winds are < 25 kts, normal notification procedures will be applied per LFI 15-101. When a watch, advisory, or warning expires, units will revert to Normal Operations.

5.4.1.2. B. Weather Advisory (Peak Winds 25-45 kts): When a Weather Advisory is issued for winds between 25-45 kts, normal notification procedures will be applied per LFI 15-101.

5.4.1.3. C. Weather Watch (Peak Winds > 45 kts Forecasted): Weather capable of impacting operations is possible/likely. Personnel will review procedures for Weather Warnings and maintain weather awareness with the WS.

5.4.1.4. D. Weather Warning (Peak Winds > 45 kts): In addition to normal notification processes, Lajes WS will ensure positive notification to airfield managment.

5.4.1.5. E. Unit Commanders will ensure that notification is passed to affected personnel in their squadrons. A physical indication of the "Wind Status" (Normal, Advisory/Watch, or Warning) will be posted in the operations control center of each affected shop (see Attachment 6). A standardized stoplight chart will be used as a visual indication of the wind status:

5.4.1.5.1. -1. GREEN: Normal Operations. No weather advisories, watches, or warnings.

5.4.1.5.2. -2. YELLOW: A Weather Watch has been issued for Warning level impact in the near future; OR a Weather Advisory is currently in effect for winds from 25-45 kts.

5.4.1.5.3. -3. RED: A Weather Warning is currently in effect (valid time) for winds greater than 45 kts.

5.4.1.6. c Execution:

5.4.1.6.1. A. Normal Operations (GREEN): Weather forecasts will be reviewed as part of daily operations and shift changes using the 65 OSS WS product located at the following web address:

https://ice.usafe.af.mil/sites/65abw/OSS/OSS/Weather%20Flight.aspx?PageView=Shared.

5.4.1.6.2. B. Weather Advisory/Watch (YELLOW): These are not normal operations. Operations checklists will be posted for easy review in work centers and vehicles. Daily shift-change briefings in each affected shop will brief impacts of increased winds on operations. Functional supervision will be notified of all flightline operations before they occur. Measures will be taken to reduce flightline operations and excess equipment will be secured. Plans for cessation of operations and immediate evacuation of the flightline will be reviewed.

5.4.1.6.3. C. Weather Warning (RED): Routine flightline operations, airfield maintenance, and construction will cease. Emergency response operations can continue using sound ORM based decisions. Squadrons will contact the airfield managment to resume/continue working on the flightline or when flightline services (e.g. fuel, transportation, cargo loading/unloading) are requested or expected.

5.5. Hurricanes and Tropical Storms. Hurricane and tropical storm activity can have significant impact to DoD operations on Terceira due to strong winds and prolonged, heavy rainfall. The WS and 21 OWS provide weather information for the 65 ABG/CC. The 65 ABG/CC uses the information to help determine or declare a Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR) and Hurricane Condition (HURCON). It is important to note the WS does not declare HURCON changes, only installation commanders have that authority. The WS will leverage the 21 OWS "TC-TAP" product for planning purposes and will not deviate from the National Hurricane Center Forecasts, where applicable. Tropical forecasts greater than 48 hours out contain a high degree of uncertainty, are for planning purposes only, and are subject to change.

5.5.1. The WS will perform a meteorological discussion with the 21 OWS when severe weather associated with Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions are possible within 72 hours at Lajes Field.

5.5.2. The WS or 21 OWS will relay all tropical storm warnings and/or advisories through the 65 OSS/CC for further dissemination up the chain of command. The 65 OSS/CC will make recommendations to the 65 ABG/CC on whether or not to convene a CAT meeting to determine the appropriate response.

5.6. Dissemination of Weather Information. Information dissemination procedures ensure those who need the information receive the information. They also ensure that weather personnel do not spend more time communicating than monitoring weather conditions. Units in need of RP weather notifications are responsible for coordinating with the WS. The WS and/or 21 OWS will enter weather advisories, watches, and warnings into the base weather information network. Airfield Management Operations will further disseminate this information to customers without access to the weather information network IAW Attachments 3 and 4. When the weather information network is down, weather information will be delivered via phone, fax, or E-mail. The WS and/or 21 OWS will confirm receipt of all weather advisories, watches, and warnings.

Chapter 6

RECIPROCAL SUPPORT

6.1. General. The WS requires reciprocal support from various base agencies to provide timely and accurate weather information.

6.2. 65 ABG, Public Affairs (65 ABG/PA) will:

6.2.1. Act as a liaison between the WS and all non-DoD agencies or individuals.

6.3. Work with the WS in educating the base populace on weather conditions that may impact members across the island.

6.3.1. 65th Civil Engineer Squadron (65 CES)

6.3.2. Coordinate with the WS prior to conducting facility or airfield equipment power outages.

6.3.3. Assist in the installation of non-standard weather equipment.

6.4. 65 OSS, Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (65 OSS/OSAM) will:

6.4.1. Provide maintenance for all USAF standard meteorological equipment, communications devices, and circuits in support of WS operations. Apply appropriate resources to the FMQ-19 as "instrumental to safety of flight" equipment.

6.4.2. Perform an annual inspection of all applicable meteorological equipment on the airfield with a member of the WS. (WS member will document inspection accordingly.)

6.4.3. Provide system connectivity (data lines), limited preliminary fault diagnosis, and technical assistance and expertise in maintenance contract development for weather systems. The 65 OSS/OSAM recognizes the importance of these weather systems, but does not have the training or manpower authorizations to provide comprehensive maintenance for these systems.

6.4.4. Establish maintenance response and equipment priorities in coordination with the WS.

6.4.5. Obtain approval from the WS prior to rendering any equipment inoperative for scheduled maintenance.

6.5. 65 OSS, Airfield Management (65 OSS/OSAA) will:

6.5.1. Disseminate weather advisory, watch, and warning notifications as outlined in Attachment 3.

6.5.2. Submit WS input to FLIPs to ensure currency and accuracy of meteorological service information.

6.5.3. Notify the WS of any change/impending change to airfield approach minima, including temporary changes due to loss of approach equipment and supply a copy of updated DoD FLIPs as soon as possible after release date.

6.6. 65 OSS, Air Traffic Control (65 OSS/OSAC) will:

6.6.1. Notify the WS when communication outages occur between the ATC tower and PoAF weather.

6.6.2. The 65 OSS shall fund the 86 OSS/OSW temporary duty (TDY) to Lajes Field supporting the 65 OSS WS.

PETER P. FENG, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 65th Air Base Group

ATTACHMENT 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

AFMAN 15-124, Meteorological Codes, 28 Feb 2013

AFI 15-127, Weather Training, 20 Jan 2016

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABG—Air Base Group

ACFT MSHP—Aircraft Mishap

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

AFWA—Air Force Weather Agency

AOL—Alternate Operating Location

CAT—Crisis Action Team

CES—Civil Engineer Squadron

CMEF—Coronet Mission Execution Forecast

CMETEO—Portuguese Air Force Air Base 4 Center for Meteorology

DoD—Department of Defense

EOC—Emergency Operations Center

FLIP—Flight Information Publication

FMQ—19– Fixed Meteorological Equipment-19

HAAZ—Headquarters Azorean Air Zone

IAW—In accordance with

IFE—In-flight emergency

ILS—Instrument Landing System

LFI—Lajes Field Instruction

MAJCOM—Major Command

MEFP—Mission Execution Forecast Process

METAR—Aviation Routine Weather Report

METWATCH—Meteorological Watch

MHz—Megahertz (unit of measurement for frequency)

MISSIONWATCH—Mission Meteorological Watch

MSL—Mean Sea Level (height above the average sea level)

NM—Nautical Mile

ORM—Operational Risk Management

OSS—Operations Support Squadron

OWS—Operational Weather Squadron

PIREP—Pilot Report

PMSV—Pilot to Metro Service

PoAF—Portuguese Air Force

RAPCON—Radar Approach Control

SWAP—Severe Weather Action Procedures

TAF—Terminal Aerodrome Forecast

USAFE—United States Air Forces in Europe

UHF—Ultra High Frequency

UTC—Universal Time Coordinate, also known as Zulu

WS—Weather Section

WSR—**88D**– Weather Surveillance Radar-1988 Doppler

VC—Vicinity (between 5 and 10nm from Lajes Field)

VHF—Very High Frequency

Terms

557th Weather Wing— A strategic weather center at Offutt AFB NE, providing atmospheric data and analysis and forecast products required by the regional OWSs and the WSs worldwide. 557 WW provides the centralized repository for global observations and forecasts that are data based at 557 WW and, in turn, disseminated to DoD weather data users worldwide. In addition to global observations and forecasts collected from worldwide sources, 557 WW collects meteorological satellite data from multiple sources. Based on global analysis of available data, 557 WW creates global analysis and forecast products to meet the forecast requirements of its supported users.

Desired Lead-time—The amount of time a customer requires in order to prepare for a specific weather phenomenon.

METAR—Aviation Routine Weather Report. A routine scheduled observation as well as the primary observation code used by the United States to satisfy requirements for reporting surface meteorological data. METAR contains a complete report of wind, visibility, runway visual range, present weather and obscurations, sky condition, temperature, dew point, and altimeter setting collectively referred to as "the body of the report". In addition, encoded and/or plain language information that elaborates on data in the body of the report may be appended to the METAR. The contents of the remarks will vary according to the mode of operation (i.e., manual, automated, or augmented).

Mission Execution Forecast (MEF)—Mission tailored environmental information describing a specific impact to an operational mission. WS personnel conduct deliberate forecast processes to develop, deliver, monitor and amend mission execution forecasts by fusing perishable data with operational and strategic level weather forecast products into decision quality information for an operational end user.

METWATCH (Meteorological Watch)—A deliberate process for monitoring terrestrial weather or the space environment in an area or region. The purpose of a METWATCH is to identify when and where observed conditions significantly diverge from forecast conditions and determining courses of action to update or amend a forecast product or group of products and designated agencies notified. Strategic and Operational level weather units typically conduct METWATCH activities.

MISSIONWATCH (Mission Meteorological Watch)—A deliberate process for monitoring terrestrial weather or the space environment for specific mission-limiting environmental factors. The MISSIONWATCH process identifies and alerts decision-makers to changes affecting mission success.

Operational Weather Squadron (OWS)—A characterization unit comprised of management, technician, and training personnel responsible for providing regional weather support. Their mission is to produce fine-scale tailored weather forecast products and services to supported users within their area of responsibility (AOR).

Pilot Report (PIREP)—A report of in-flight weather provided by an aircraft crewmember. PIREPs include location and altitude of the aircraft, time of the observation, type of aircraft, description, and extent of meteorological phenomena/elements and are disseminated via JET.

Pilot-to-Metro Service (PMSV)—A UHF radio through which pilots, crewmembers, or flightline maintenance personnel can request updated weather information from the weather station.

SPECI – Aviation Selected Special Weather Report— An unscheduled observation completed and transmitted when special criteria have been observed or sensed. SPECI will contain all data elements found in a METAR plus additional remarks that elaborate on data in the body of the report. All SPECI reports will be prepared and transmitted as soon as possible after the relevant criteria are observed.

Severe Weather Action Plan (SWAP)—Actions taken by a weather unit to enhance the unit's response capability during a severe weather event. Actions include, but are not limited to, recalling personnel or reallocating resources from other tasks to provide focused support during a severe weather event.

Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF)—The official weather forecast for a particular aerodrome or terminal covering a period of up to 24 hours. Forecast elements in the body of the forecast text refer to the area within 5 nautical miles of the center of the aerodrome complex. Operationally significant elements outside this area are related to geographical features whenever possible (i.e., TSTMS OVR MTNS, etc.). The term "VC" may be seen in the TAF and refers to the area between 5 and 10 nautical miles from the center of the aerodrome complex (i.e., VCSH means showers will occur between 5-10 nautical miles of the aerodrome).

Weather Advisory (WA)—A special product notifying an end user when an established environmental condition effecting operations is occurring or is expected to occur.

Weather Warning (WW)—A special notice to notify installation personnel when an established weather condition of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property is occurring or is expected to occur. Weather warnings provide concise information outlining environmental threats and are used by operational commanders to make resource protection decisions.

Weather Watch (WATCH)—A special notice to notify installation personnel/supported units of a potential for environmental conditions of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property. Weather Watches indicate a potential for environmental threats and are used by installation personnel/supported units to make force protection and risk management decisions.

ATTACHMENT 2

RESOURCE PROTECTION CRITERIA

Table A2.1. WEATHER ADVISORY CRITERIA

Runway surface wind of 25 knots or greater, but less than 45 knots

Table A2.2. WEATHER WATCH CRITERIA.

CRITERIA	VALID AREA	DESIRED LEAD TIME
Tornado, Funnel cloud, Waterspout	Within 5 NM of Lajes Field	4 hours
Surface winds of greater than 45 knots	Area of Lajes Field in the immediate vicinity of the runway complex	4 hours
Hail > ½ inch	Within 5 NM of Lajes Field	4 hours
Lightning potential	Within 5 NM of Lajes Field	30 minutes
Rain accumulation > 2 inches in 12 hours	Area of Lajes Field in the immediate vicinity of the runway complex	4 hours
Note: The local weather conditions at Lajes Field do not warrant the standard weather watches for heavy snow, freezing precipitation, blizzard conditions, duststorms, and sandstorms.		

Table A2.3. WEATHER WARNING CRITERIA.

	CRITERIA	VALID AREA	DESIRED
Tornado, Funnel cloud, Waterspout		Within 5 NM of Lajes Field	15 minutes
Surface winds of greater than 45 knots		Area of Lajes Field in the immediate vicinity of the runway complex	2 hours
Hail > ½ inch		Within 5 NM of Lajes Field	90 minutes
Lightning		Within 5 NM of Lajes Field	None (as observed)
Surface winds of 65 knots or greater		Area of Lajes Field in the immediate vicinity of the runway complex	None (as observed)

Rain accumulation > 2 inches in 12 hours	Area of Lajes Field in the immediate vicinity of the runway complex	90 minutes
Note: The local weather conditions at Lajes Field do not warrant the standard weather warnings for heavy snow, freezing precipitation, blizzard conditions, duststorms and sandstorms. Additionally, supported agencies do not require the standard weather warning for surface winds of 35 to 45 knots due to all necessary actions being completed with the issuance of weather advisories for surface winds of 25 to 45 knots.		

A2.1. Disseminating Agency Responsibilities.

A2.1.1. All advisories/watches/warnings will be disseminated immediately upon receipt.

A2.1.2. Disseminate all advisories/watches/warnings to the agency according to the notification tree hierarchy.

A2.1.3. Relay advisories/watches/warnings extensions, cancellations, and amendments to all originally notified agencies.

A2.2. Receiving Agency Responsibilities.

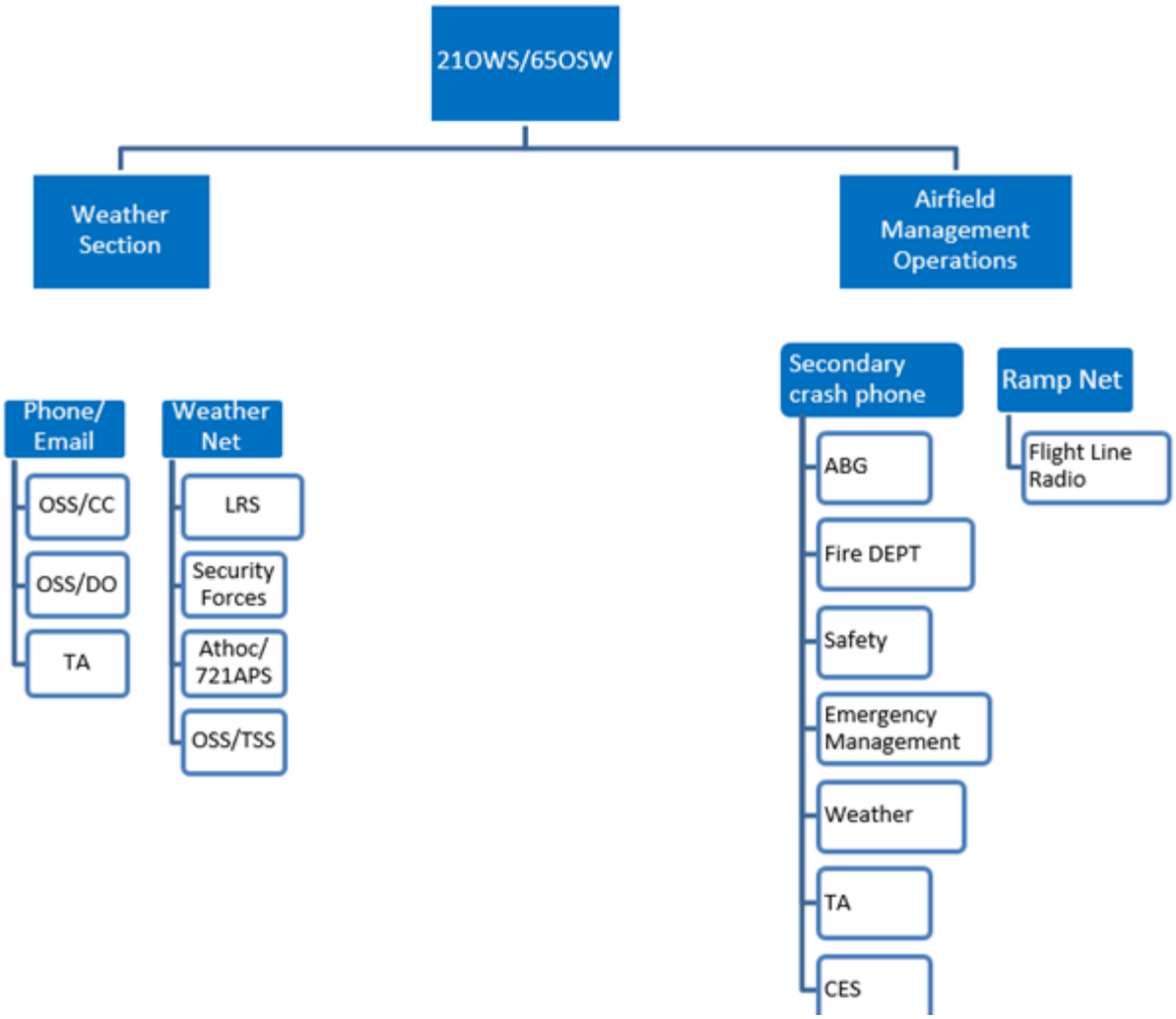
A2.2.1. Establish an internal plan for implementing advisories/watches/warnings response actions.

A2.2.2. Review requirements at least annually and negotiate needed changes in criteria, notification procedures, and desired lead-time with the WS.

ATTACHMENT 3

WEATHER NOTIFICATION TREE

Figure A3.1. WEATHER NOTIFICATION TREE.



ATTACHMENT 4

NOTIFICATION MATRIX

Table A4.1. NOTIFICATION MATRIX.

Person/Agency	A1	A2	A3	A4	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6
65 ABG/CC					X	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	X	E
65 ABG/CD					X	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	X	E
65 OSS/CC	E	E	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	X
65 OSS/DO	E	E	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	X
65 ABG/SE	E	E	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	X
65 LRS/CC					X	E		E		X	X		X	X	
65 CES/CC					X	E		E		X	X		X	X	
65 CS/CC					X					X	X			X	
65 SFS/CC					X			E		X	E		X	X	
721 APS/OL-A Chief	E	E	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	E	X	X	X	X
721 APS/OPS Manager	E	E	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	E	X	X	X	X
ATOC		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
UHF / VHF	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
X= Phone call E= Email F= Only if There is Flying in Local Area															
NOTIFICATION MATRIX CONTINUED															
ADVISORIES (A special product notifying the end user when an established environmental condition effecting operations is occurring or is expected to occur.)															
A1: Runway surface wind 25-45 knots.															
A2: Severe Turbulence															
A3: Crosswinds equal to or greater than 35 knots															
WATCHES (A special product notifying the end user of a potential for environmental conditions of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property.)															
X1: Tornado, Funnel Cloud, Waterspout															
X2: Surface winds greater than 45 knots, with or without thunderstorms															
X3: Hail equal to or greater than ½ inch															
X4: Lightning within 5 nautical miles of the base															
X5: Heavy rain accumulation equal to or greater than 2 inches in 12 hours															
WARNINGS (A special product notifying the end user when established weather conditions of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property is occurring or is expected to occur.)															
W1: Tornado, Funnel Cloud, Waterspout															
W2: Surface winds greater than 45 knots, with or without thunderstorms															
W3: Hail equal to or greater than ½ inch															
W4: Lightning within 5 nautical miles of the base															
W5: Surface winds 65 knots or greater															
W6: Heavy rain accumulation equal to or greater than 2 inches in 12 hours															

ATTACHMENT 5

REQUIREMENTS OF SUPPORTED AGENCIES

Table A5.1. Advisories.

Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Winds 25-45 knots	ALL	Park vehicles into wind, discontinue use of high lift vehicles. Be alert for flying debris and property damage.	
	Security Forces	Increase periodic checks of Protection level Resources; notify of unsecured loose objects.	Refer to SDCC QRC
	AGE	Ensure all doors and panels on AGE positioned on the ready-line are latched/secured. Close doors and lower platform on portable lighting units. Moor AGE on ready-line.	LCL 003
	APS OL-A	Notify Aerial Port Supervisor and all Section Supervisors. Secure building and small objects outdoors, ensure stair truck stabilizers are in down position.	
	TA	Notify transient air/maintenance crews of redicted winds and local checklist requirements. Secure all aircraft cowlings/doors/panels/radomes as applicable. Discontinue non-mission critical maintenance on aircraft wings and fuselages. Aircraft servicing operations may continue, at the discretion of MXZ supervision. Exception: Suspend all over-the-wing refueling operations.	LCL 003
	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line	QRC-11
	CS	Pull all technicians off poles/stop high-level	Refer to QRC-40
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Crosswinds 25-34kts and Crosswinds 35 knots or greater	FSF, CES/CEX, Fire Dept, SFS, APS OL-A Supt, Fuels, Vehicle Ops, RAPCON,	Refer to advisory/warning for strong SFC winds.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response

Severe Turbulence	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line radio.	QRC-40

Table A5.2. Watches.

Element	**Organization**	**Mission Impact/Action Taken**	**Response**
Tornado	ALL	Protect resources, terminate ops, and protect personnel.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Winds greater than 45 knots	SFS	Increase periodic checks of Protection level Resources; notify of unsecured loose objects.	Refer to SDCC QRC
	Fire Dept	Personnel put on alert.	
	CES/CEX	Advises commanders on severe weather actions/sheltering and is a member of the Emergency Operations Center (LCC).	
	AGE	Remove non-essential AGE from aircraft parking aprons. AGE personnel will remove all lightweight support equipment (stands and light carts) and place in designated storage areas. Secure mission essential AGE. Small and/or lightweight AGE remaining on flight line will be secured to mooring points.	LCL 003
	Vehicle Ops	Park nonessential vehicles indoors, secure buildings and equipment. Continuously disseminate warning information to operators and passengers.	
	APS OL-A Supt	Notify Aerial Port Supervisor and all Section Supervisors. Secure building and small objects outdoors, lock all doors and gates to warehouse. Park high profile vehicles indoors, and stop all flight line ops.	QRC-17A
	TA	Notify transient air/maintenance crews of predicted winds and local checklist requirements. Moor applicable fighter aircraft IAW specific aircraft techinal data. Suspend all servicing operations. Only MXZ supervision or the 65 OSS/CC or DO will authorize mission essential servicing when a Wind Warning is in effect.	LCL 003
	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line radio.	QRC-40
	LRS	Suspend all types of outdoor operations. Inform/implement unit evacuation plans.	

	CS	Pull all technicians off poles/stop high-level work.	
Element	**Organization**	**Mission Impact/Action Taken**	**Response**
Hail > ½ inch	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line radio.	
	TA, AGE	Stop all exterior maintenance, suspend refueling ops, park non-essential vehicles indoors.	
	TA	Prepare for aircrew recalls for aircraft dispersal/evacuation.	LCL 003
	RAWS	Shut down TACANs or other equipment with no lightning protection features.	
	SFS	Increase periodic checks of Protection level Resources; notify of unsecured loose objects.	Refer to SDCC Quick Reaction Checklist
	CES	Advises commanders on severe weather actions/sheltering and is a member of the EOC.	
	LRS	Suspend all types of outdoor operations. Inform/implement unit evacuation plans.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Lightning within 5NM	CES/CEX	Advises commanders on severe weather actions/sheltering and is a member of the EOC.	
	Fire Dept	Personnel put on alert/readiness notified.	
	Fuels	Stop all refueling, shut off pumps.	LCL-LGRFFR-
	TA, AGE	Immediately cease all outside servicing actions IAW TO 00-25-172. Personnel will seek shelter inside and not go outside unless absolutely necessary. Limit radio transmissions to mission essential traffic only. Notify MXZ supervision upon completion of checklist.	LCL 003
	TA	Initiate flight recall.	LCL 003
	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4.	QRC-40
	RAWS	Shut down TACANs or other equipment with no lightning protection features.	

	APS OL-A	Cease all outside operations and seek shelter.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Rain	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4.	
	LRS	Suspend all types of outdoor operations. Inform/implement unit evacuation plans.	

Table A5.3. Warnings.

Element	**Organization**	**Mission Impact/Action Taken**	**Response**
Tornado	ALL	Protect resources, terminate ops, and protect personnel.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Winds greater than 45 knots	SFS	Increase periodic checks of Protection level Resources; notify of unsecured loose objects	Refer to SDCC Quick Reaction Checklist
	Fire Dept	Personnel put on alert	
	CES/CEX	Advises commanders on severe weather actions/sheltering and is a member of the Emergency Operations Center (LCC)	
	APS OL-A, TA, AGE	Stop all exterior maintenance, suspend refueling ops, secure loose items, park non-essential vehicles indoors	LCL 003
	Fuels	Notify all personnel and stop refueling operations.	LCL-LGRFFR-01
	Vehicle Ops	Park nonessential vehicles indoors, secure buildings and equipment. Continuously disseminate warning information to operators and passengers.	
	APS OL-A	Notify Aerial Port Supervisor and all Section Supervisors. Secure building and small objects outdoors, lock all doors and gates to warehouse. Park high profile vehicles indoors, and stop all flight line ops.	QRC-17A
	TA	Prepare for aircrew recalls for aircraft dispersal/evacuation.	LCL 003
	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line	QRC-40
	LRS	Suspend all types of outdoor operations. Inform/implement unit evacuation plans.	
	CS	Pull all technicians off poles/stop high-level work	
Element	**Organization**	**Mission Impact/Action Taken**	**Response**

Hail > ½ inch	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line radio.	
	TA	Prepare for aircrew recalls for aircraft dispersal/evacuation.	LCL 003
	APS OL-A, TA, AGE	Stop all outside operations/maintenance, suspend refueling ops, park non-essential vehicles indoors	LCL 003
	RAWS	Shut down TACANs or other equipment with no lightning protection features	
	SFS	Increase periodic checks of Protection level Resources; notify of unsecured loose objects	Refer to SDCC Quick Reaction Checklist
	CES	Advises commanders on severe weather actions/sheltering and is a member of the EOC	
	LRS	Suspend all types of outdoor operations. Inform/implement unit evacuation plans.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Lightning within 5NM	CES/CEX	Advises commanders on severe weather actions/sheltering and is a member of the EOC.	
	Fire Dept	Personnel put on alert/readiness notified.	
	Fuels	Stop all refueling operations.	LCL-LGRFFR-
	APS OL-A	Cease all exterior maintenance and seek shelter.	LGQRC #2
	TA, AGE	Immediately cease all outside servicing actions IAW TO 00-25-172. Personnel will seek shelter inside and not go outside unless absolutely necessary. Limit radio transmissions to mission essential traffic only. Notify MXZ supervision upon completion of checklist.	LCL 003
	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line radio.	QRC-40
	RAWS	Shut down TACANs or other equipment with no lightning protection features.	
Element	**Organization**	**Mission Impact/Action Taken**	
Winds 65 knots or greater Hurricane Category 1	SFS	Only responds to incidents with SFS/CC approval.	
	ABG/CC	Direct grounding of all vehicle traffic.	

	OSS	Evacuate tower when winds are observed in excess of 106 knots.	
	Fuels	Notify all personnel and stop refueling operations. Shut off pumps and main electrical power at South Tank Farm and Cryogenics Plant and military service station.	LCL-LGRFFR-01
	APS OL-A, TA, AGE	Cease all outside operations, park all vehicles indoors.	
	FSF	Fitness center prepared to be used as shelter.	
Element	Organization	Mission Impact/Action Taken	Response
Rain accumulation of 2 inches within 2 hours	AM	Make notifications per Attachments 3 and 4. Airfield Ops, transmit message via flight line radio.	
	LRS	Suspend all types of outdoor operations. Inform/implement unit evacuation plans.	