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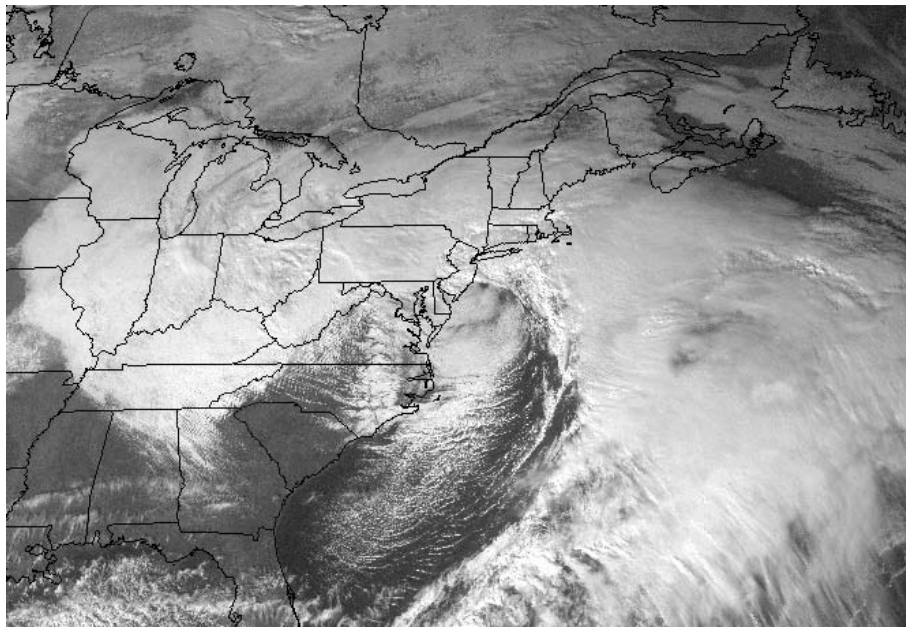
OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

# National Winter Storms Operations Plan

FCM-P13-2003



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**NATIONAL WINTER STORMS  
OPERATIONS PLAN**

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December 2003

## CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

Change Number	Page Numbers	Date Posted	Initial
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Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change.

Review Date	Comments	Initial

## FOREWORD

This is the 26th edition of the *National Winter Storms Operations Plan* (NWSOP). The purpose of the plan is to coordinate the efforts of the Federal meteorological community to provide enhanced weather observations of severe winter storms that impact the coastal regions of the United States. The goal is to improve the accuracy and timeliness of severe winter storm forecast and warning services provided by the Nation's weather service organizations. These forecast and warning responsibilities are shared by the National Weather Service, within the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the weather services of the United States Air Force and the United States Navy, within the Department of Defense. While the plan documents requirements for surface, upper air, and satellite observations of all types, it focuses on the coordination of requirements for aircraft weather reconnaissance observations provided by the Air Force Reserve Command's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center.

Within the organizational infrastructure of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM), the Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research (WG/HWSOR) is responsible for maintaining the plan. Most of the chapters in this edition have minor updates or changes. The information on satellite and data buoy observations in Chapter 3 has been extensively updated.

During January and February of 1998, winter storm missions were flown in the Northeast Pacific Ocean in support of an adaptive observing strategy experiment called NORPEX 98. Similar missions were successfully flown during 1999 and 2000 seasons and have resulted in a continuing requirement to conduct winter storm missions in the North Pacific Ocean east of the international date line. One of the primary reasons for publishing this new NWSOP edition is to document the current Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, Alaskan, and Hawaiian winter storm flight tracks in Appendices F, G, and H, respectively.

Samuel P. Williamson  
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological  
Services and Supporting Research



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