



INTRODUCTION TO THE NTC



For an Army Weather Support Team, NTC provides a realistic environment both climatologically and geographically comparable to current real-world contingency operations. The scenarios developed at the NTC represent realistic situations where deployment tactics are put to practical use. NTC presents an excellent opportunity for motivated weather teams to test knowledge and capabilities, establish strong ties with their supported Army units, and train on exploiting the weather for combat operations.





DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE



This is a rough guideline. Every rotation is slightly different.

- **2-3 Months Prior to NTC Rotation (Up to 6 months prior)**
 - Pre-deployment preparation/coordination at home station with supported units.
- **Week before NTC Rotation**
 - Arrival to NTC with Army customer (Usually weekend prior to 1st week of the rotation).
- **1st Week of Rotation: Reception, Staging, Onward-Movement, and Integration (RSOI) (Mon-Fri)**
 - RSOI 1 (Mon): Plan to have the entire team meet with the OC/Ts for the in brief (usually held at the Raven's nest ~0800-0830L, transportation can be provided).
 - RSOI 1-4 (Mon-Thur): Deployment preparation/coordination. Flight Weather briefs for AVN.
 - RSOI 5 (Fri): Deployment into training area/ TOC set-up.
- **2nd-3rd Week of Rotation**
 - Training Days (TD) 1-14 (starts on Saturday): training, weather OC/T(s) reviews
 - TD 7-8 (Friday): Mid-rotation AAR: OC/T discussion over STX/ preparation for FoF operations
 - TD 14 (Friday): ENDEX (CTM) **DO NOT stop operations or tear down early!** Final Raven AAR
- **4th Week of Rotation**
 - BRD 1-5: Return to Home Station with Army customer.
 - Within 2-3 weeks of returning to home station, provide the Wx OC/Ts with AAR/feedback comments.

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W
RSOI 1	RSOI 2	RSOI 3	RSOI 4	RSOI 5	TD 1	TD 2	TD 3	TD 4	TD 5	TD 6	TD 7	TD 8	TD 9	TD 10	TD 11	TD 12	TD 13	TD 14	BRD 1	BRD 2	BRD 3	BRD 4	BRD 5



ACTIONABLE ITEMS

(Pre-arrival to the NTC)



1. Prepare a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) or an annex to customer's OPORD with a detailed description of weather support. You should be fully involved in the Army's planning and coordination process.

Start producing this document 90-180 days prior to deployment to the NTC. This document is the agreement between the AWST and Army unit, including the support, communication procedures, special NTC Weather Watch, Warning, and Advisory criteria, logistics and equipment, etc.

Emphasis should be placed on how your customer will receive support beginning upon arrival at the Rotational Unit Bivouac Area (RUBA), en route to the FOB and during the exercise (as well as weather support to/from NTC from your home station). In the event a weather team will not be deploying with them, coordinate how support will be provided. Detail courses of action in the event the AWST is unable to provide support (reach-back support from home station/25th OWS).

12th Combat Training Squadron
Combat Weather Team (12th CTS/CWT)
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 05-03



[Eagle Team Aviation Observer and Controllers](#)
Fort Irwin and US Army National Training Center (NTC)



ACTIONABLE ITEMS (Pre-arrival to the NTC)



2. Ensure AWST members are placed on official travel orders. Orders may include Army group orders or through DTS. Remember, travel back to home station for any reason during the exercise due to emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, will be expedited by having orders created and annotated with your weapon serial numbers.

Defense Travel System
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Welcome to DTS

The Defense Travel System (DTS) is a fully integrated, automated, end-to-end travel management system that enables DoD travelers to create authorizations (TDY travel orders), prepare reservations, receive approvals, generate travel vouchers, and receive a split reimbursement between their bank accounts and the Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) vendor. DTS operates at over 9,500 total sites worldwide.

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Notable Policy Changes

TSA Pre
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System Status

- DTS Status**
DTS is available - [Click for more information](#)
Updated: 8 Nov 2017
- EWTS Status**
EWTS is Available - [Click here for more information](#)
Updated: 13 Nov 2017

Browser Compatibility Check

- Javascript.....✓
- Cookies.....✓

Live Chat
for CTO Submit & DTS Login Issues
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm EST

Notices



ACTIONABLE ITEMS

(Pre-arrival to the NTC)



3. Inform the 12th Combat Training Squadron Weather Flight (12 CTS/DOC) of your full travel itinerary as soon as possible. To include all of the following (if applicable):

- Deploying Weather Team Members Rank/Name
- Arrival & Departure Airport/Flight Information
- Full contact information (Cell Phone and Email addresses) of each deploying member
- KQ Identifier, if already setup/coordinated with AFWA (see next slide from more info)

4. Complete the pre-deployment survey document and NTC Roll Out Card (found on the 12 CTS webpage) and email it to the OC/T NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC.

5. If you require 25 OWS (Davis Monthan AFB) tailored products (unique WWA criteria) or support, complete a SAR and also notify the NTC OC/T of your request.



ACTIONABLE ITEMS

(Pre-arrival to the NTC)



6. Setup a temporary KQ Identifier with 557th NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC in order to transmit observations long-line via AF-WEBS. Phone DSN: 271-1626 or (after hours) DSN: 271-2586 / Commercial (402) 294-1626/(402) 294-2586, or via email: afwakq@us.af.mil .

7. Secure a DCS (Defense Collaboration Services) account NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC. A SIPR JABBER account creation is also highly encouraged (coordinate through Army S6 office).

8. Secure weapons for all personnel (M4s & M9s). M4s must be used during Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) rotations. Blank firing muzzle adapters should be obtained if not already provided by the Army.



ACTIONABLE ITEMS (Upon Arrival to the NTC)



9. Contact the 12 CTS/DOC upon arrival to NTC at DSN: 470-4363 (or 9527) / Commercial (760) 380-5419 and provide a copy of your MOA/Annex-to OPORD.

10. Secure MILES gear for all personnel, vehicles and weapons from the NTC before the start of the exercise.





NTC BEST PRACTICES



1. **Coordinate acquisition of JLIST and Chem. Gear including masks, prior to drafting the MOA. Make sure that the CBRNE has enough gear for the SWO team. DATE rotations will include real CS gas attacks, and for safety and health reasons these items must be brought to the exercise.**
2. **Coordinate briefing support with the 25th OWS. The Bike Lake forecasters DO NOT brief rotational aircraft, at any time. In a real world scenario support for the assets must be in place until the AWST is prepared to assume support, this is part of the AWST training and will be used in the AAR.**
3. **If possible, the same AWST that supports the Army at NTC should participate in any pre-NTC field exercises in order to build a relationship with the unit. SWO's who have worked with their supported unit in the past have had an easier time than those who have not.**
4. **In the case that the SWO's will be using equipment from their home station that was left by the previous unit, be sure that rotation has performed an ops check and noted all items that are not operational. Communicate with your counterparts to ensure that all equipment is FMC for the inbound rotation. Be sure that the Army is accounting for what ever equipment they did not bring to Ft Irwin.**



NTC BEST PRACTICES



- 5. Ensure that all members of the team are within regulations for dress and appearance in a Garrison environment. All tactical uniform changes/items allowed by the AFI can be used in the field, but not in the cantonment area during RSOI/BRD weeks. OCPs are allowed for wear at NTC, but all members of the AWST must be in the same uniform.**
- 6. The 12th CTS will not provide regular transportation around Ft. Irwin during RSOI/BRD. Be prepared to walk or catch the Rotational shuttle buses. Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis. Additionally transportation (to/from RUBA to airfield) should be coordinated with the Army customer.**
- 7. For DATE rotations, pack to be mobile. The Army may give less than 24 hours of notice before jumping to a new location. In addition, depending on the unit, sleep tents may or may not be set up.**
- 8. If the Army is bringing Gray Eagles, establish a support plan early. Usually the Gray Eagles will fly out of the Goldstone Airfield and do not have reliable NIPR communications. Lay out a plan for their support prior to coming to NTC.**
- 9. Ensure that your Mission Weather Product is tailored for a tactical exercise. If your home station MEF is location specific, create a tactical version that can accommodate NTC. This is better done at home station than during the training days.**



NTC RECENT TRENDS



- 1. Obtaining proper CBRNE gear: Be sure to acquire all MOPP gear (gas mask, gloves, suits and boots) from the Army or Home station supply chain. Actual and simulated gas attacks are employed at NTC.**
- 2. Acquiring and utilizing MTOE items: As early as possible, an MTOE review should be conducted to ensure all items allotted to the AWST are available for use at NTC.**
- 3. Verifying communication equipment: Ensure that a NIPR and/or SIPR workstation is available. Most Army TOC's will operate on SIPR for Jabber and SharePoint. Aviation teams should also work to obtain radios to serve as initial comms during jumps. BCT teams with UAS support should ensure a line of communication prior to TD1.**
- 4. Securing AWST workspace: As early as possible, plan the AWST placement in the TOC area. Aviation teams should make sure they are in the TOC in order to respond to PMSV contacts and to maintain situational awareness of the battlespace.**
- 5. Developing relationships: Integrating with the current operations and plans cells will emphasize the importance of weather effects in planning and executing the various missions conducted during NTC.**



RESPONSIBILITIES

25 OWS



The 25th Operational Weather Squadron will:

- Issue Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWA's) for the four NTC weather zones (link to WWAs is on the NTC webpage).
- Collaborate on all weather products via DCS (Defense Collaboration Services) with the BLAAF (Bicycle Lake Army Airfield) Weather Flight and the deployed AWST.
- Issue a Military Operations Area Forecast (MOAF) three times a day (23Z, 07Z and 15Z). The MOAF is the controlling forecast. The BLAAF Weather flight and the rotational AWST will collaborate on the MOAF (via DCS) and use it, along with the current WWAs, for horizontal consistency.





RESPONSIBILITIES

12 CTS Weather Flight (12 CTS/DOC)

The 12 CTS Weather Flight located at Bicycle Lake Army Airfield (BLAAF) will:

- Issue 5-Day Weather Planning Outlook/Forecast once a day posted to the Fort Irwin/NTC webpage.
- Issue Mission Weather Products (MWP)/Flimsy's three times daily.
- Provide local area or 175-1 pilot weather briefs to indigenous NTC aviators assigned to the NTC/KDAG. **Note: The 12 CTS/DOC will only provide flight weather briefings to rotational units during emergencies!**
- Provide division-level support to NTC personnel/Garrison units/Opposing Forces (OPFOR) in the form of: CG updates, planning weather, and operational weather updates.
- Relay current and forecast weather data (as required) to 52d ID TOC (Division) and 12 CTS OCTs in the field.
- Collaborate on all weather products via DCS with the 25 OWS and the deployed AWSTs.



RESPONSIBILITIES

12 CTS Observer-Coach/Trainers (OC/Ts)



The 12 CTS Wx OC/Ts will:

- Provide EXROE (Exercise Rules of Engagement) briefs to rotational AWSTs and ensure it is followed.
- Ensure all AWST safety concerns are addressed. If needed, the OC/T will intervene to ensure correct weather information is relayed.
- Observe AWSTs under field conditions and offer recommended sustains and improvements to AWSTs through AAR inputs.
- Provide liaison support between rotational AWSTs, NTC Army OC/Ts, and Army rotational customers (as required).





RESPONSIBILITIES

Deploying AWSTs



The deploying AWSTs will:

- Coordinate required weather support with Army customers before deploying to the NTC.
- Ensure all pre-deployment actionable items are sent to the OC/Ts on-time.
- Ensure all AWST members obtain basic field skills BEFORE deploying to the NTC. AWSTs are also encouraged to read the NTC EXROE prior to arrival at NTC.
- **Bring all required equipment, as determined by MTOE/home unit.** For training purposes, it is suggested to also bring non-standard equipment. All equipment should be ops checked prior to deploying and immediately after arriving at NTC.
- Deploy with Army unit, providing weather support IAW regulations, TSOPs, and customer requirements (as applicable): staff briefings, tactical weather observations, operational/planning forecasts and products, etc.
- Brief all rotational aircraft to include UAS and coordinate post-rotation support to home station.
Note: The 12 CTS/DOC will not be tasked to provide flight weather briefings to rotational aviation units!
- Coordinate WWAs with both the 25 OWS and 12 CTS/DOC. If your customers require unique WWA criteria, these special WWAs must be pre-coordinated with the 25 OWS (via SAR) prior to arrival at the NTC.



“Bike Lake” ROEs

- **BLAAF products are not authorized for rotational use**
 - **Brief from your own products**
- **Clean up after yourself – take out the trash**
 - **MRE heaters MUST stay outside**
- **760-380-5662 is the rotational weather number – briefs, admin, etc**
 - **Do NOT touch the other two lines in the office**
 - **Do NOT touch the TMOS laptop**
- **Bring your own drinks/cups/food/utensils**
 - **We have a Kuerig/Coffee pot if you bring your own/chip in**
- **Secure the office behind you IAW SF 701 (don't sign off)**
- **Use of BLAAF office is a privilege not a right. Don't screw it up for the next team**



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



- **The 12 CTS/DOC does not support rotational aircraft or ground units. Be sure the units are aware before deploying to the NTC. If AWSTs do not arrive at the NTC with their aviation and/or ground units, the Army units will be referred to the 25 OWS to receive necessary weather support (flight weather briefings, 175-1's, etc.) Rotational AWSTs are responsible for informing their supported units of this requirement.**
- **12 CTS/DOC (i.e., Division) and deployed AWSTs (i.e., Brigade/Battalion) will use the forecast funnel and METCON with the 25 OWS to collaborate forecasts via DCS.**
- **The 25 OWS will issue all Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories for the NTC and Barstow-Daggett (KDAG); thus, the 25 OWS is the final authority on all WWA matters.**
- **Due to the lack of robust communications on the NTC, AWSTs must have multiple backup communication methods (phone, HF, Iridium, etc). Ensure these methods allow for contact with the 25 OWS and the 12 CTS/DOC.**
- **To alleviate the problem of operational control (i.e. Army Commanders/Sergeant Majors) tasking AWST members to perform tasks outside of the AWSTs responsibility (guard duty), it is the AWST OIC/NCOIC's responsibility to educate the Command Staff on additional tasking according to doctrine and regulations. This should be included in your MOA.**