Climatic, Hydrological, and Topographic Services

WEATHER DATA

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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History. This publication has major revisions.

Summary. This regulation establishes policies and procedures for requesting and obtaining weather support for Fort Leonard Wood.

Applicability. This regulation applies to all units assigned or attached to and facilities within the Fort Leonard Wood area.

Proponent and execution authority. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS).

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation is prohibited without prior approval by Headquarters, United States Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE).

Suggested improvements. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, MSCoE, IMLD-PL, Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-5000.

Distribution. Electronic medium only and posted on the FLW Web Site.

*This regulation supersedes FLW Reg 115-1, 12 December 2005.
FLW Reg 115-1 has undergone major revisions. The revised regulation includes the updated guidance from FLW Reg 115-15, 12 December 2005.

- Updates the operating hours (Chapter 1).
- Updates weather warning criteria-desired lead times (Chapter 2).
- Adds weather warning criteria-desired lead time prior to warning (Chapter 2).
- Updates general dissemination procedures (Chapter 3).
- Updates dissemination responsibilities. (Chapter 3)
- Updates weather warning plans (Chapter 3).
- Updates aviation weather support (Chapter 3).
- Updates Appendix A, Special Observation Criteria.
- Deletes Appendix B, Local Observation Criteria.

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Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

1-1. Purpose

This regulation establishes policies, procedures, and responsibilities for requesting, obtaining, and disseminating weather data, as provided by Air Force weather agencies, for Headquarters, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

1-2. Required references


b. AR 115-10/Air Force Joint Instruction (AFJI) 15-157 (weather support for the US Army). Cited in paragraph 3-4c.


1-3. Explanation of acronyms, abbreviations, and special terms

Acronyms, abbreviations, and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

1-4. Weather support concept

Weather support to Fort Leonard Wood is provided by Operating Location C (OL-C), 3d Weather Squadron (3 WS), located at Forney Field, and the 26 Operational Weather Squadron (OWS), located at Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB), LA. OL-C, 3 WS, is operated and manned by Air Force weather civil service personnel. Locally produced surface weather observations and centrally produced weather warnings are used to satisfy supported units requirements.

1-5. Operating hours

a. OL-C, 3 WS, is a limited-duty weather observing unit and is operational Monday through Friday 0800L-2300L, Saturday 0800L-1600L, and Sunday 0800L-1600L. During periods that Fort Leonard Wood is not open, automated observations will be transmitted and the 26 OWS will issue observed warnings and advisories based on these observations.

b. The 26 OWS is operational 24 hours per day, year-round, and maintains a continuous weather watch for Fort Leonard Wood, issuing weather watches and warnings as necessary.

Chapter 2
WEATHER WARNINGS

2-1. Warnings

a. The 26 OWS issues weather warnings for Fort Leonard Wood (Missouri 7) for the following criteria:
### CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>DESIRED LEAD TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tornado or funnel cloud</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe thunderstorms (Winds 50 knots or greater and/or hail (\frac{3}{4}) inch or greater)</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate thunderstorms (Winds 35 knots or greater but less than 50 knots and/or hail (\frac{1}{4}) inch or greater but less than (\frac{3}{4}) inch)</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaging winds equal to or greater than 50 knots not associated with thunderstorms</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong winds equal to or greater than 35 knots not associated with thunderstorms</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy rain or snow 2 inches or more within 12 hours</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freezing precipitation any intensity</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falling and/or blowing snow and visibility less than or equal to (\frac{1}{4}) mile and winds greater than or equal to 30 knots lasting 3 hours or longer</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning observed within 15 and 5 nautical miles (NM) of Fort Leonard Wood (NOTE: The 26 OWS will issue when OL-C, 3 WS, is closed)</td>
<td>Observed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Weather warnings are currently disseminated, via weather dissemination system, directly from 26 OWS to the Installation Operations Center (IOC), Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) during duty hours and to the Post Staff Duty Officer (SDO) during nonduty hours. Any changes to the IOC/SDO telephone numbers must be promptly reported to OL-C, 3 WS. Fort Leonard Wood internal dissemination procedures are detailed in paragraph 2-5.

c. Weather warnings are valid for the entire Fort Leonard Wood military reservation.

d. The 26 OWS uses automated observation, radar, and lightning display systems to issue and cancel lightning warnings. This technology may not be as timely or as accurate as local weather observations or local lightning detection systems.

e. OL-C, 3 WS, will issue an observed weather warning for the occurrence of lightning within 5 and 15 nautical miles of Waynesville Regional Airport at Forney Field (WRAFF) during duty hours.

f. Emergency alert and notification systems are installed in the post SDO and the IOC offices, which provide instantaneous 24 hours a day coverage of severe weather posing an imminent danger and threat. The IOC during duty hours and the SDO after duty hours will initiate either, sirens, cable TV, or the automated notification system to facilitate the protection of personnel and assets located on the installation. The Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Military Police (MP) station also has redundant siren/mass notification capabilities for emergency situations.

### 2-2. Weather watches

The 26 OWS issues weather watches for Fort Leonard Wood (Missouri 7) for the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>DESIRED LEAD TIME PRIOR TO WARNING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tornado or funnel cloud</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe thunderstorms (winds 50 knots or greater and/or hail (\frac{3}{4}) inch or greater)</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenomenon</td>
<td>Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate thunderstorms (winds 35 knots or greater but less than 50 knots and/or hail ¼ inch or greater but less than ¾ inch)</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaging winds equal to or greater than 50 knots not associated with thunderstorms</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong winds equal to or greater than 35 knots not associated with thunderstorms</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy rain or snow 2 inches or more within 12 hours</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freezing precipitation any intensity</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falling and/or blowing snow and visibility less than or equal to 5/8 miles and winds greater than or equal to 30 knots lasting 3 hours or longer</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning within 15 and 5 NM of Fort Leonard Wood</td>
<td>Observed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2-3. Observed weather advisory criteria

During normal observing duty hours, OL-C, 3 WS, will issue advisories whenever the following occurs: Surface winds 45 knots or greater.

2-4. Procedures for requesting weather warning service

   a. Fort Leonard Wood units may submit request for weather warning advisory service to Headquarters, MSCoE (IMLD-PLA). However, consideration must be given that this headquarters has no weather forecasting facility.

   b. Initial requests for weather warning service will include the following:

      (1) Name of the unit or site for which support is requested, mailing address, and telephone number.

      (2) The weather conditions for which warnings are required using the criteria in paragraphs 2-1 and 2-2 above.

      (3) Complete justification for the service.

      (4) The daily time period during which the service is requested.

   c. Requests for changes to existing weather warning service will be accomplished in the same manner as initial requests.

   d. Activities requesting weather warning service of Headquarters, MSCoE, will adhere to the criteria as stated in paragraphs 2-1 and 2-2 above. Requests for service based on weather criteria other than those listed will be considered; however, detailed justification must accompany the request. Such justification will include an estimate of the effects that such weather will have on operational or structural capabilities of specified resources, as obtained from technical manuals or technical bulletins. This procedure is necessary in order to justify specialized weather warning support from 26 OWS.

2-5. General dissemination procedures

   a. Weather warnings.

      (1) Observed weather warnings for the occurrence of lightning are disseminated by OL-C, 3 WS, via weather dissemination system, to IOC during duty hours or the SDO during non-duty hours, when the weather station is open. The 26th OWS disseminates all other warnings via weather dissemination.
system to the IOC/SDO. The IOC/SDO then disseminates the warnings throughout the installation. Offices receiving weather warning service are responsible for providing any changes in contact information to the IOC/SDO.

(2) The Net Control Station (NCS) is the IOC, 0730-1630 hours weekdays, SDO other times.

(3) Disseminators and recipients of weather warnings will not alter the text of the weather warnings.

b. Current weather conditions. An automatic telephonic answering device (ATAD) number will be utilized to record current weather conditions, to include wind chill factor when the ambient air temperature is less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit (596-2059), for dissemination to Fort Leonard Wood and vicinity. Current weather conditions will be recorded hourly, during periods that the weather station is operational.

2-6. Dissemination responsibilities

a. DPTMS is responsible for—

(1) Supervising the staff activities of OL-C, 3 WS, pertaining to weather support for this command.

(2) Initiating, coordinating, and consolidating the command's requirements for weather information and service.

(3) Disseminating weather advisories and warnings.

b. Combat Training Company and DPTMS, Range Operations, are responsible for disseminating wet bulb global temperature (WBGT) readings.

c. OL-C, 3 WS, is responsible for—

(1) Providing monthly climatology summary to Fort Leonard Wood units.

(2) Forwarding other command climatology and meteorological data requirements to 26 OWS.

(3) Providing surface weather observations during weather station operating hours. Outside of posted weather station hours, the automated observation system will transmit weather observations.

(4) Disseminating observed weather advisories and observed lightning warnings to IOC/SDO (during observing duty hours only).

(5) Disseminating all significant pilot reports (PIREPs) via dissemination system.

(6) Providing and interpreting weather data, obtained from Air Force communications systems to pilots for use in flight planning.

d. The IOC during duty hours or the SDO after duty hours is responsible for issuing flood stage advisories whenever United States Weather Bureau upstream gauging stations indicate anticipated flood stage conditions on the Big Piney River.

e. The Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Natural Resources Branch personnel, or DES Fire personnel are responsible for relaying fire index computations to the weather station to be included into current weather conditions recording.
f. The SDO is responsible for disseminating warnings and advisories during the periods the IOC is closed.

g. Commanders of major units are responsible for—

1) The dissemination of weather warnings or flood stage conditions to subordinate units or activities.

2) Providing the post SDO with telephone numbers of unit or activity officials to be called during nonduty hours.

Chapter 3
WEATHER WARNING PLANS AND REPORTING

3-1. Planning

a. Assigned and attached units receiving weather warning service will prepare and publish a weather warning plan which will include as a minimum the following information:

1) Local office authorized to receive weather warnings.

2) Persons and activities to be notified upon receipt of weather warnings.

3) Protective measures to be taken when weather warnings are received.

4) Criteria for which warnings are received.

5) Provisions for recording the receipt and dissemination of warnings.

6) Source(s) of weather warnings.

7) Procedures for preparing and submitting damage reports in accordance with paragraph 3-2 below.

b. Weather warning plans and requirements will be reviewed annually and revised as required.

3-2. Weather damage reports

Damage to buildings and facilities or injuries to personnel, known or suspected to have been caused as a result of weather phenomenon, will be reported to the IOC and OL-C, 3 WS, (596-0702) within 24 hours.

3-3. Aviation weather support

a. Surface weather observations.

1) A basic weather watch (BWW) is conducted by OL-C, 3 WS, to detect and report significant changes in specified weather elements. In addition to taking and disseminating required observations, the BWW involves the minimum requirements to recheck weather conditions at intervals not to exceed 20 minutes since the last observation, to determine the need for a local or special (SPECI) observation, when any of the following conditions are observed to be occurring or are forecasted to occur within 1 hour:
(a) Ceiling forms below, dissipates, or increases/decreases to equal or exceed 1,500 feet.

(b) Visibility decreases to less than 3 miles, or increases to equal or exceed 3 miles.

(c) Precipitation (any form).

(d) Thunderstorms.

(e) Fog or mist.

(2) OL-C, 3 WS, will take and locally disseminate surface weather observations to include runway condition reading (RCR)/runway surface condition (RSC), via weather dissemination system to WRAFF Airfield Operations, Control Tower, Army National Guard Aviation Facility, and the contract commuter airline.

(a) Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR) observations are complete observations taken hourly.

(b) SPECI, as listed in Appendix A, is taken to report significant changes in weather elements. These observations will be taken in accordance with criteria, specified in AFM 15-111. SPECIs may also be taken for appropriate ceiling/visibility criteria specified in the DOD FLIP and AR 95-1.

(3) Local dissemination formats for weather observations are—

(a) METAR - KTBN METAR 1955 20010KT 7SM SCT040 27/11 A3027 A02 SLP210 PA +830 DA -844

(b) SPECI - KTBN SPECI 2013 23013KT 5SM -SHRA BKN040 26/13 A3027 A02 PA +830 DA -844

(4) Cooperative weather watch. As OL-C, 3 WS, because of other weather operations duties, cannot monitor the weather continuously, WRAFF Control Tower personnel will maintain a cooperative weather watch, informing the weather observer (duties permitting) whenever—

(a) A ceiling forms, dissipates, raises or lowers.

(b) Visibility increases or lowers through instrumental flight rules (IFR)/visual flight rules (VFR) criteria.

(c) A thunderstorm begins or ends.

(d) A tornado or funnel cloud is observed.

(e) Precipitation starts or ends.

(f) Lightning is first observed.

(g) An obstruction to vision appears (fog or smoke).

(h) A significant PIREP is received (for example, PIREP of turbulence, icing, wind shear, clouds, and/or visibility).

b. Flight weather briefings.
(1) Full time remote aviation weather briefing service is available from 26 OWS, Barksdale AFB, LA.

(2) During duty hours, OL-C, 3 WS, will provide transient pilots with the current weather conditions at WRAFF. OL-C, 3 WS, will assist pilots in obtaining updated observed/forecast weather conditions, through the use of Air Force communications systems on the weather station computer, for other locations as required.

c. Training of Army Air Traffic Controllers (ATC). At the request of the ATC Branch, OL-C, 3 WS, will conduct weather observation training and certification for Army Air Traffic Controllers to take limited weather observations. Controllers will be certified prior to being rated to pass meteorological information to the weather station.

d. Maintenance of weather records.

(1) In the event of an aircraft accident or incident, a file of weather data will be prepared and maintained for a period of not less than 6 months.

(2) Routine weather records (observations) will be maintained in accordance with (IAW) applicable Air Force directives.

(3) Weather records will be made available to aircraft accident investigation officers/boards upon request.

3-4. Support to OL-C, 3 WS

a. WRAFF Control Tower/airfield operations will—

(1) Notify OL-C, 3 WS whenever they open or close the ATC function.

(2) Maintain a cooperative weather watch with OL-C, 3 WS, and duty priorities permitting.

(3) Relay tower visibility whenever the reported prevailing visibility is 4 miles or less and differs from the observer's reported visibility by one or more reportable values.

(4) Notify OL-C, 3 WS, whenever the active runway changes.

(5) Notify OL-C, 3 WS, of all in-flight emergencies, incidents, or accidents.

(6) Pass significant PIREPs to OL-C, 3 WS, for further dissemination.

(7) Provide OL-C, 3 WS, upon receipt, a copy of the latest FLIP for review of any possible changes to weather support requirements.

b. Allow OL-C, 3 WS, use of building 5007 as the alternate observing location (AOL) during periods of extended weather station evacuation.

c. The MSCoE will provide administrative and logistics support in accordance with AR 115-10/AFJI 15-157.
3-5. Limiting factors

a. Personnel assigned to OL-C, 3 WS, are weather observers and have no ability or authorization to make weather forecasts or provide Toxic Corridor information. Their mission is to provide weather observing services to WRAFF and to relay forecasts produced by 26 OWS, Air Force Group Weather Command (AFGWC), or other Air Force Weather units.

b. 26 OWS is somewhat limited in its ability to issue accurate weather warnings for Fort Leonard Wood when OL-C, 3 WS, personnel are not on duty to provide timely observations of the current weather.

c. Surface observations at WRAFF are limited by a tree line from east to south to west.

d. OL-C, 3 WS, weather personnel will accomplish duties IAW the following priority list:
   (1) Perform emergency war orders tasking.
   (2) Respond to aircraft and ground emergencies.
   (3) Take and disseminate surface weather observations.
   (4) Produce and disseminate observed weather advisories and warnings.
   (5) Provide support to Forney Operations.
   (6) Transmit PIREPs and aircraft reports (AIREPs).
   (7) Perform METWATCH and MISSIONWATCH duties.
   (8) Provide “Eyes Forward” / Collaborate with OWS.
   (9) Perform back-up procedures during 26 OWS service interruptions.
   (10) Provide other weather support.

e. Non-DOD agencies/individuals must request, and obtain approval for, the release of weather information through the appropriate United States Army(USA)/United States Air Force (USAF) channels

Appendix A
SPECI OBSERVATION CRITERIA

Take, disseminate, and record SPECI observations to report significant changes in weather elements when criteria, as indicated below, are observed.

A-1. CEILING. The ceiling is observed to form below, decrease to less than or if below, increase to equal or exceed: 3000, 2000, 1500, 1000, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, or 100 feet.

A-2. SKY CONDITION. A layer of clouds or obscuring phenomena aloft is observed below 600 feet and no layer aloft was reported below 600 feet in the previous Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR) or SPECI observation.

A-3. VISIBILITY. Prevailing visibility is observed to decrease to less than or, if below, increases to equal or exceed: 3, 2, 1-3/4, 1-1/2, 1-1/4, 1, 3/4, 1/2, or 1/4 mile.
A-4. TORNADO, FUNNEL CLOUD, OR WATERSPOUT: Is observed, disappears from sight or ends.

A-5. THUNDERSTORM: Begins or ends.

A-6. PRECIPITATION:
   a. Hail begins or ends.
   b. Freezing precipitation begins, ends, or changes in intensity.
   c. Ice pellets begin, end, or change in intensity.
   d. Any other type of precipitation begins or ends.

A-7. SQUALL: When squalls occur.

A-8. WIND SHIFT: The wind direction changes by 45 degrees or more in less than 15 minutes and the wind spread is 10 knots or more throughout the wind shift.

A-9. RUNWAY CONDITIONS: Upon receipt, transmit runway condition readings as a SPECI or append to a METAR or SPECI being taken at time notified.

A-10. RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE (RVR):
   a. RVR for the active runway decreases to less than, or if below, increases to equal or exceed 6000, 5000, 2400, 2000, or 1200 feet.
   b. Prevailing visibility conditions for reporting RVR are first observed and when the prevailing visibility conditions no longer exist.
   c. RVR is first determined as unavailable (RVRNO) for the runway in use, and when it is first determined that the RVRNO report is no longer applicable, provided conditions for reporting RVR exist.

A-11. VOLCANIC ERUPTION: When eruption or volcanic ash are first noted.

A-12. MISCELLANEOUS: Any other meteorological situation that, in the weather technician’s opinion, is critical.

A-13. RESUMPTION OF OBSERVING SERVICES: Take, disseminate, and record a SPECI within 15 minutes after returning to duty following a break in observing coverage if a METAR was not filed as scheduled during that 15 minute period.

A-14. AIRCRAFT MISHAP: Immediately following notification or sighting of an aircraft mishap at or near the observing location, unless there has been an intervening observation.

Glossary

Section I. Acronyms and abbreviations.

AG
Adjutant General

AFB
Air Force Base
AFGWC  
Air Force Group Weather Command

AFJI  
Air Force Joint Instruction

AFM  
Air Force Manual

AIREP  
aircraft report

AOL  
alternate observing location

AR  
Army regulation

ATAD  
automatic telephone answering service

ATC  
Air Traffic Control

BN  
battalion

BWW  
basic weather watch

DA  
density altitude

DES  
Directorate of Emergency Services

DOD  
Department of Defense

DPTMS  
Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security

DPW  
Directorate of Public Works

FLIP  
flight information publication

FLW  
Fort Leonard Wood

IAW  
in accordance with

IFR  
instrumental flight rules

IOC  
Installation Operations Center

LA  
Louisiana

LOCAL  
local observation

METAR  
Aviation Routine Weather Report

MP  
military police

NCS  
Net Control Station

NM  
nautical mile

MSCOE  
Maneuver Support Center of Excellence

OL-C  
Operating Location C

OWS  
operational weather squadron

PA  
pressure altitude

PIREP  
pilot report

RCR  
runway condition readings

Reg  
regulation

RSC  
runway surface condition

RVR  
runway visual range
Section II. Terms.

Lead time. The time elapsed between the issuance and first occurrence of phenomena requiring the warning/advisory. The desired lead times in paragraph 2-1 are established by supported organizations based on the time needed to react to the warning, tempered by the current "state of the art" of weather forecasting.

Severe weather warning. A specific weather warning issued for tornadoes, hail 3/4 inch or larger in diameter, or winds gusting to 50 knots or more.

Weather advisory. A special notice that certain weather conditions which may be hazardous to personnel or equipment is occurring at Fort Leonard Wood. It is issued to minimize injury and/or damage.

Weather observations. Reports of existing weather conditions at a specific time and place, such as Waynesville Regional Airport at Forney Field (WRAFF). Observations include sky condition, weather (rain, thunderstorms, hail, and/or snow), visibility and obstructions to visibility (dust, haze, or fog), temperature, dew point, wind direction and speed, wind chill factor, altimeter setting, pressure altitude (PA), density altitude (DA) (upon request), and runway condition reading (RCR)/runway surface condition (RSC).

Weather warning/advisory. A weather warning/advisory is issued by the 26 Operational Weather Squadron (26 OWS), for a specific location (Fort Leonard Wood), valid for a specified time period. Criteria and area are determined by the stated needs of the supported organizations. A weather warning/advisory implies the occurrence and/or forecast of phenomena of such intensity as to prompt immediate protective action by the supported organizations.