

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 90-2
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

Staffing and Organization
NWS MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

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OPR: W/ CFO2 (L. Love)

Certified by: W/(A) CFO/CAO (K. Cooley)

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 90-2, “*NWS Mission and Organization*”, dated September 30, 2016. The following changes were made:

- Section 3: Language was adjusted to reflect the updated NWS vision and mission statements.
- Sections 4.1 and 4.2: Office lists were adjusted and names were edited to reflect the current NWS Organizational Structure.
- Section 4.3: Comprehensive list of operational centers was included.
- Editorial changes were made throughout the document to ensure clear and concise policy guidance and improve readability.

1. To protect life and property and to enhance the economic well-being of the Nation, the National Weather Service (NWS) is recognized as the U.S. Federal agency responsible for weather and water forecasts and warnings.

2. The purpose of this policy is to define the mission and organizational structure of the NWS.

3. The vision of the NWS is to build a Weather-Ready Nation where society is prepared for and responds to weather, water, and climate–dependent events. The mission of the NWS is to provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts, warnings, and impact-based decision support services for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

4. The NWS is a Federal organization under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is an agency of the Department of Commerce. The organizational structure of the NWS supports the organization’s mission. (See Appendix A, NWS Organizational Chart.)

4.1 The NWS is comprised of the Office of the Assistant Administrator (OAA) for Weather Services and its staff offices: Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Assistant Chief

Information Officer; Chief of Staff; International Affairs; Chief Learning Officer; Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Audit Office; and Organizational Excellence. Under the OAA are the two major components of the NWS: a) - the Office of Planning & Programming for Service Delivery and its portfolios: Office of Facilities, Office of Observations, Office of Central Processing, Office of Dissemination, and Office of Science and Technology Integration; and, b) - the Office of Chief Operating Officer, which has one portfolio: the Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office, and these operational field offices: National Centers for Environmental Prediction; Office of Water Prediction; and NWS Regions.

4.2 The NWS has six regions, as well as their subordinate operational offices. The regions are:

- a. Eastern Region, located in Bohemia, New York;
- b. Central Region, located in Kansas City, Missouri;
- c. Southern Region, located in Fort Worth, Texas;
- d. Western Region, located in Salt Lake City, Utah;
- e. Alaska Region, located in Anchorage, Alaska; and,
- f. Pacific Region, located in Honolulu, Hawaii;

The subordinate operational offices provide products and services across their area of responsibility and include:

- a. Weather Forecast Offices;
- b. River Forecast Centers;
- c. Center Weather Service Units;
- d. Tsunami Warning Centers;
- e. Data Collection Offices;
- f. Weather Service Offices; and,
- g. Regional Operations Centers.

4.3 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction Headquarters located in College Park, MD, has nine operational centers across the U.S. They are:

- a. NCEP Central Operation
- b. Environmental Modeling Center
- c. Weather Prediction Center
- d. Ocean Prediction Center
- e. Climate Prediction Center
- f. Aviation Weather Center
- g. Storm Prediction Center
- h. National Hurricane Center
- i. Space Weather Prediction Center

4.4 The Office of Water Prediction, located in Silver Spring, MD, has the National Water Center located in Tuscaloosa, AL.

5. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

5.1 The NWS is headed by the Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services, also known as the Director. The AA is responsible for leading an integrated weather services program for the

Nation and for directing and managing the NWS.

5.2 Authority for the day-to-day operations of the NWS is delegated by the AA through the DAA to the Chief Operating Officer who coordinates with National Office and Regional Office Directors. (See NWSPD 1-2 on “Delegation of Authority”).

6. This policy directive is supported by the legal authorities, supporting information, and procedural directive listed in Appendix B.

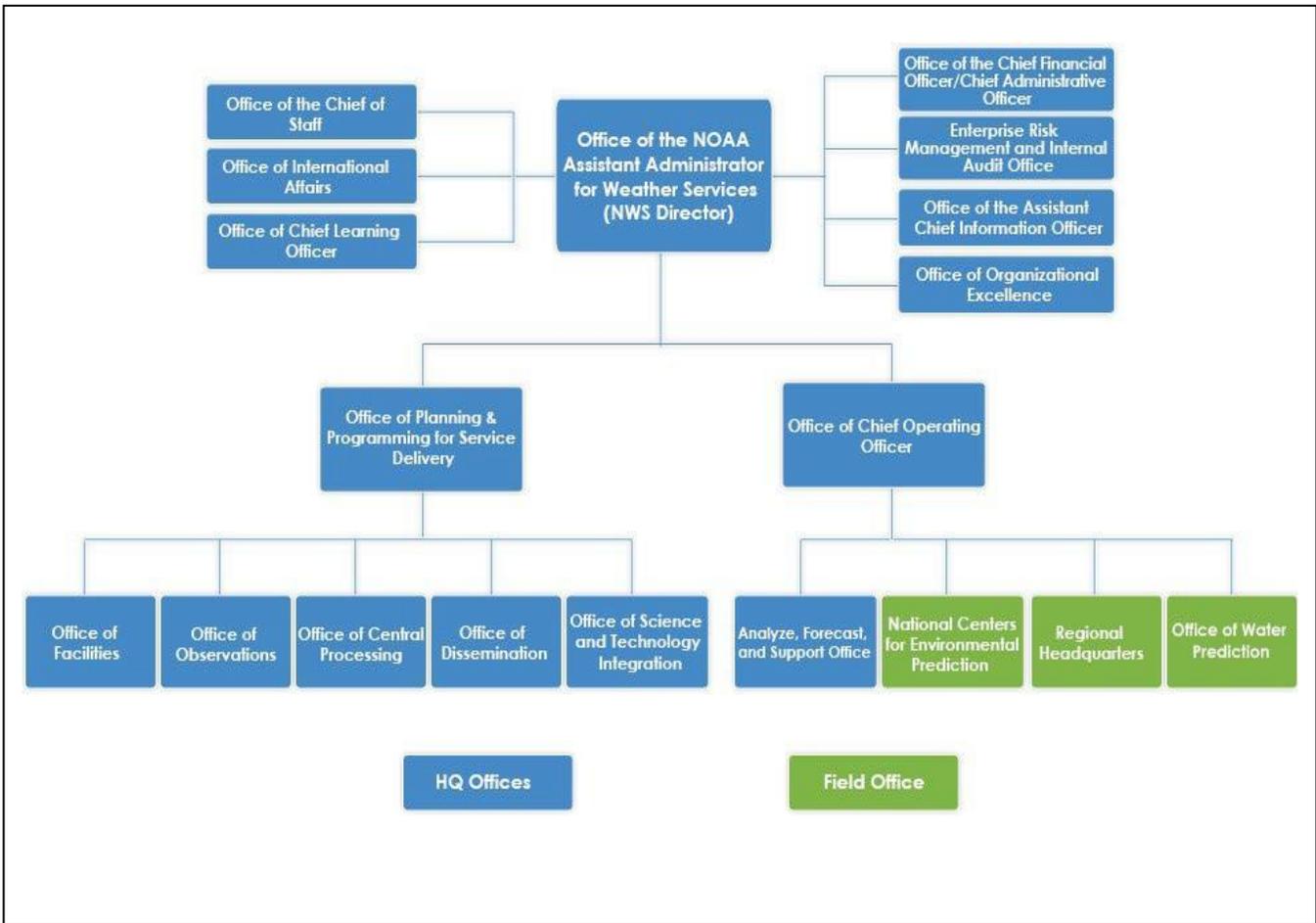
Kenneth E. Graham
Assistant Administrator
for Weather Services

Date

Appendix A

As of April 1, 2015, the National Weather Service Headquarters is operating in a new organizational structure, depicted below. The reorganization of the headquarters allows the agency to be best positioned to fulfill its critically-important mission for NOAA and the nation, and to support the NWS field offices in providing environmental intelligence and associated services necessary to build a Weather-Ready Nation.

NWS Organizational Structure



Note: Organization Chart depicts the components of NWS.

Appendix B

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Legal Authorities:

- Duties of Secretary of Commerce/Weather Service Organic Act, 15 U.S.C. §313 et. seq.
- Meteorological Services to Aviation, 49 U.S.C. 44720.
- Cooperative Agreements/Reimbursement to Further NOAA's Mission, 15 U.S.C. §1540
- Weather Service Modernization Act of 1992, P.L. 102-567.
- NWS Modernization, 15 CFR Part 946.

Supporting Information:

- NWSPD 1-2, Delegation of Authority.
- NAO 202-351, NOAA Competitive Areas for Reduction-in-Force, Effective March 19, 1990; as Amended: February 24, 2000.
- Department Organization Order 25-5, Section 9, effective May 4, 2015.
- NOAA Circular 00-13, dated September 25, 2000, NOAA Organization Handbook.

Procedural Directive:

- NWSI 90-201, Procedures for Initiating and Processing Organizational Change.