

CRH SSD
SEPTEMBER 1992

CENTRAL REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT 92-19

A WORKSHEET FOR WRITING "PRACTICE" TERMINAL FORECASTS

Daniel D. Nietfeld¹
National Weather Service Meteorological Observatory
Neenah, WI

1. Introduction

The Meteorological Intern Aviation Terminal Forecast Program is one of the best training programs available to National Weather Service Met Interns. It provides the opportunity to develop and refine aviation forecasting skills while under external pressures similar to actual forecast issuances. However, writing a Terminal Forecast (FT) can often be frustrating and time consuming due to the exacting format and syntax of the product. The FT worksheet (Fig. 1.) was devised to help the beginning forecaster learn and understand the construction of a proper terminal forecast product.

2. Purpose and Uses

The FT worksheet was designed to assist in the construction of the forecast and to efficiently record and document the finished product. It includes labelled spaces for each element of the FT for both the issued forecast itself, and for correspondence with the WSFO forecaster. The product and the recommendations or comments from the WSFO forecaster can then be archived together for future reference.

The archived worksheets provide a useful service to the intern. The past forecasts can be periodically reviewed or studied. If a similar forecasting situation is encountered the intern can reexamine previous efforts and recall recommendations from the WSFO forecaster. The worksheets help the intern monitor the progress of his or her forecasting efforts, and maintain a record of how many FTs were written and issued each month.

A possible dependency on the worksheets, delaying the memorization of the FT format, is unlikely. The repetition of filling in the necessary information in the format causes the user to subconsciously learn the format at his or her own pace. Eventually, the intern will be able to anticipate the pattern and

¹Current duty station: National Weather Service Office, Grand Island, Nebraska.

| FFF | FT | TYPE | VALID TIME | FRO PA | CIG HTS | OPA AMT | CIG HTS | OPA AMT | CIG HTS | OPA AMT | WX VIS | OBVIS | WINDS | REMARKS |
|------------|----|------|------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| 2nd group: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3rd group: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4th group: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5th group: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| V.T. | CAT | QUALIFIERS | WINDS |
|----------------|-----|------------|-------|
| 1st CAT group: | | | • |

| V.T. | CAT | QUALIFIERS | WINDS |
|----------------|-----|------------|-------|
| 2nd CAT group: | | | • |

ACTUAL
FTA
PRINTOUT

REMARKS/COMMENTS:

NO
CHANGE

SLIGHT
MODIFICATION

MODERATE
MODIFICATION

DID NOT USE

WSFO AVN FORECASTER: