Message from the Director

The NWS, in collaboration with the FAA, developed a plan to consolidate CWSU services from 21 to 3 CWSUs: 2 Continental United States (CONUS) sites and an additional CWSU in Anchorage, AK. This business model was designed in response to FAA requirements for more consistent, high-quality aviation weather products and services focused on weather impacts to the National Air Space System (NAS) at a lower cost.

After a careful review, NOAA has decided not to forward the NWS response to the FAA at this time. NWS is currently developing an alternate plan that would maintain the current 21-Center model, but deliver enhanced services to meet the FAAs needs.

These enhancements could include:

- Develop and implement CWIP
 - o Provide consistent, collaborative weather information
 - o Provide TRACON forecasts for high-traffic terminals
- Establish team of NWS personnel at the Air Traffic Control System Command Center
 - Provide CWSU off-hour aviation weather support
 - Provide on-site weather information for traffic management decisions
- Establish a CWSU Program Manager within the Aviation Service Branch
 - o Provide a single point of contact for the CWSU program
- Establish an aviation desk at the Golden Triangle WFOs (New York, Chicago, and Atlanta)
 - Provide enhanced forecast services to high-traffic terminals

In the coming weeks, NWS will continue to work with the FAA to structure a plan that meets the FAAs future needs.