COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 3140.2D

Subj: Marine Weather Observation and Reporting

1. **PURPOSE.** This Instruction sets forth the policy for observing and reporting weather information from Coast Guard cutters, and provides information for obtaining weather instruments and publications.

2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** Commandant Instruction 3140.2C is cancelled.

3. **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.** This program is established to assist the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Naval Oceanography Command in collecting marine weather data to support public and national defense needs.

4. **DISCUSSION.** The National Weather Service has statutory responsibility for providing weather forecasts for public use. Under the authority of 14 USC 147, the Coast Guard cooperates with NWS by reporting marine weather observations. These observations are often the only marine information available to weather forecasting facilities and, as such, are critical to accurate weather analysis and forecasting. Real time reports of observed marine weather conditions are used several times daily as part of the marine and land forecasting scheme. Completed logs are used for preparation of marine climatology atlases and various marine research activities. The U.S. Navy uses marine weather data to provide environmental forecasts and services in support of fleet operations. As part of those services, the Navy provides weather forecasts (WEAX) and Optimum Track Ship Routing (OTSR) to Coast Guard cutters upon request.

5. **PROCEEDURES.**
   
a. **Units Affected.** For purposes of this Instruction, cutters responsible for making marine weather observations are designated as Category One or Category Two as follows:
5. a. (1) Category One: This category consists of all WAGB, WHEC, WMEC, and WLB class cutters with a radioman assigned and which have radioteletype or radiotelegraph capability.

(2) Category Two: This category consists of cutters of other classes which may be designated by area or district commanders to make weather reports.

b. Observations and Transmission of Reports.

(1) All cutters shall make and report weather observations at least four (4) times daily at 0000, 0600, 1200 and 1800 GMT when underway. Vessels in coastal waters (out to about 100 miles) should make weather reports at three hourly intervals starting at 0000 GMT. Where possible all reports should be transmitted on the report hour, or a few minutes before, to assure making the NWS computer model runs. Reporting times may be altered at the discretion of the operational commander to meet mission requirements or special requests of the Navy or the National Weather Service.

(2) All cutters shall send weather reports by PRIORITY precedence message via radioteletype or radiotelegraph. Radiotelephone shall be used only when teletype or telegraph are not available. Weather reports may be sent in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ship synoptic code format (same as on NOAA Form 72-1A) over the radiotelephone by pronouncing the numbers of the code phonetically. Radio call sign should always precede the weather message, except when SPREP or STORM prefixes are used (see pp. 1-9 and 1-10 of National Weather Service Observing Handbook No. 1). Reports shall not be transmitted when the commanding officer or other authority determines that transmission may compromise a mission such as law enforcement. However, it is important to resume reporting weather as soon as possible with most recent observations taking precedence over older ones.

(3) Category One cutters shall address weather observation messages to "OBS METEO WASH DC". Vessels using Navy weather forecast (WEAX) or Optimum Track Ship Routing (OTSR) services shall also include the servicing Naval Oceanography Command Center as an action addressee in order to provide updated position and weather input.

(4) Category One cutters engaged in certain operations should conceal their position or movements. In such cases, weather messages shall be sent "UNCLAS EFTO" to the appropriate AIG only. The National Weather Service does not have a capability for handling encrypted traffic. AIGs are as follows:

(a) AIG 7608 - for ships operating in the North Pacific, South Pacific, Indian Ocean and all areas south of 60 degrees South. This AIG includes:
FLENUMOCEANCEN Monterey CA NAVWESTOCEANCEN Pearl Harbor HI NAVOCEANCOMCEN Guam
5. b. (4) (b) **AIG 7641** - for ships operating in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea and areas north of 60 degrees North. This AIG includes: FLENUMOCEANCEN Monterey CA NAVWESTOMOCEANCEN Norfolk VA NAVOCEANCOMCEN Rota SP

(5) All cutters under Naval operational control shall transmit weather reports in accordance with Navy instructions and directives as specified in the appropriate operation order. Cutters shall record all weather observations made while under Naval OPCON on the designated NOAA form (see paragraph 5.c.) and mail completed forms to their servicing Port Meteorological Officer (PMO) on return to port (enclosure 3).

c. **Recording and Logging Procedures.**

(1) Category One and Category Two cutters shall record observed weather on NOAA Form 72-1 series (presently 72-1A) SHIP'S WEATHER OBSERVATIONS. Detailed instructions and coding information for this form are contained in the National Weather Service Observing Handbook No. 1 Marine Surface Weather Observations (NWSOH No.1) which may be obtained from the nearest Port Meteorological Office listed in enclosure (3). NOAA Form 72-4A WEATHER REPORT FOR IMMEDIATE RADIO TRANSMISSION is used to send the weather observations to the radio operator. Examples of these forms are contained in enclosure (1).

(2) Weather observation forms (NOAA form 72-1 (series)) which contain one or more observations shall be mailed to the servicing Port Meteorological Officer (enclosure 3) at the end of each month or upon return to port if the deployment exceeds 30 days.

d. **Precision Instrument Allowance**

(1) Category One cutters with a radioman assigned routinely or with a radioman assigned by the operational commander for an extended mission shall maintain a Navy class "C" basic meteorological allowance. The class "C" allowance is outlined in the NAVAIR ALLOWANCE LIST, METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT FOR NAVY METEOROLOGICAL UNITS, SECTION L, NAVAIR 00-35QL-22; available from: Commanding Officer, Naval Publications and Forms Center 5801 Tabor Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19120 This publication also specifies the procedures for obtaining the materials. Enclosure (2) lists the class "C" allowance and differentiates between the materials which are provided by the Navy and those which are procured from Coast Guard funds. The cutter's initial outfitting is chargeable to OG-46 allotments for Marine Science Activities support. Replenishment of allowance is the responsibility of the unit and should be charged to OG-30 accounts.
5. d. (2) Instruments, such as barometers, shall be ordered by individual vessels. Assistance on installation and calibration may be obtained from the nearest PMO, or assistance may be obtained from the nearest Navy weather unit. Barometers shall be calibrated before the beginning of each deployment of over 20 days or every six months, or at any time there is a suspected malfunction in the instrument.

(3) Material listed on enclosure (2) which is provided by the Navy shall be returned to the Navy upon decommissioning of the vessel or change in allowance.

(4) Category Two cutters shall maintain the meteorological equipment specified in the appropriate cutter class allowance list. These allowance lists generally authorize sufficient instrumentation to allow routine weather observations.

6. **ACTION.**

a. Commanding Officers of Category One cutters shall maintain a Navy class "C" meteorological allowance and make observations and reports as required by this Instruction.

b. Commanding Officers of Category Two cutters shall make and report weather observations in accordance with this Instruction when so directed by area or district commanders.

c. **Special Requests.**

(1) Commanding Officers of units which receive special requests from the National Weather Service are urged to comply to the extent that operations and resources permit.

(2) All such requests shall be reported to the concerned area and district commanders for information purposes.

(3) Any requests believed to be beyond the scope or intention of this instruction shall be forwarded with recommendations to the Commandant (G-OIO) via the cognizant Area and District Commander.

d. **Area and District Commanders shall:**

(1) Coordinate with appropriate NWS regional offices in designating special weather reporting requirements for cutters.

(2) Provide assistance to cutters to maintain an effective program of marine weather reporting.
7. **FORMS AVAILABILITY AND ASSISTANCE.** All cutters may obtain assistance in ordering forms, manuals, maintenance and calibration of equipment and any questions on meteorological training and procedures from the PMO; the nearest Naval Oceanography Command Center/Facility or from any Navy Weather Unit. Areas of responsibility of the Naval Oceanography Command Centers are given in enclosure (4). The Navy maintains a Meteorological and Oceanographic Equipment Program (MOEP) through which commands may receive assistance in equipment repair. MOEP areas of responsibility are shown in enclosure (5). Requests for MOEP assistance shall be submitted to the servicing Naval Oceanography Command Center/Facility. In cases where the PMO or MOEP is unable to provide technical assistance, requests for technical service to repair, maintain or calibrate instruments should be addressed to Commandant (G-EOE) via the district and area, and contain the following information:

a. Nomenclature of equipment for which assistance is requested.
b. Specific nature of technical difficulty.
c. Availability of spare parts and test equipment; if required.
d. PMO and/or MOEP unable to provide assistance.

/s/ N.C. VENZKE  
Chief, Office of Operations

Encl: (1) NOAA Forms 72-1A and 72-4A; examples  
(2) Class "C" Meteorological Allowance  
(3) National Weather Service Port Meteorological Officers  
(4) Naval Oceanography Command Center Areas of Responsibility  
(5) MOEP Areas of Responsibility
CLASS "C" METEOROLOGICAL MATERIAL
(From NAVAIR 00-35QL-22 Rev. August 1979)

1. Class "C: allowance items not requiring U.S. Coast Guard reimbursement initially or upon replenishment.

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<th>UNIT OF ISSUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. 2RH6660005929002HX</td>
<td>Wind Measuring Set-Portable, AN/PMQ-3(), complete with carrying case, spare vane tail and detector. WT 15.0 CU 2.0</td>
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<td>EA</td>
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<td>b. 2RH66850006003777HX</td>
<td>Barometer-Precision Aneroid ML-448/UM, Mounting Base not included, WT 7.3 CU 1.0</td>
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<td>c. 0I08500015000</td>
<td>Pub-International Cloud Atlas. Abridged NW 50-1D-509</td>
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<td>d. 0I08500016500</td>
<td>Chart, Cloud Code NW 50-1G-521</td>
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<td>EA</td>
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<td>f. 0I08500034500</td>
<td>Publication, Density Altitude Computer Technical Manual</td>
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<td>EA</td>
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<td>Publication-Weather Radar Observations NW50-IP-2</td>
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<td>g. 0I08500039000</td>
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<td>h. 0I08500047000</td>
<td>Publication, Aerological Calculators, Computers and Evaluators, Operation and care of</td>
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<td>i. 0I08500049500</td>
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### CLASS "C" METEOROLOGICAL MATERIAL
(From NAVAIR 00-35QL-22 Rev. August 1979) (con't.)

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<td>Form-Navy AIREP Flight log NOM 3140/1</td>
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<td>u. 0I06911200100</td>
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<td>v. 0I0691120Q200</td>
<td>Pub-ASW Oceanographic Support Product Manual Vol. 2 (Confidential) DIRNAVOCEANMETINST C3160.4</td>
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2. Class "C" allowance items requiring U.S. Coast Guard reimbursement both initially and upon replenishment.

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<th>FSN</th>
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<td>a. 9Y 61350012001020</td>
<td>Battery, Dry C 11, Size D, for ML-450A/UM Electric Psychrometer</td>
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<td>Tube-Thermometer replacement, Minus 20 to plus 120 Deg. F. WT 0.3 cu 0.1</td>
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<td>Thermometer-Standard Air Minus 20 to plus 120 Deg F Mounted on stainless steel back WT 0.05 cu 0.1</td>
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<td>e. 1RM6605005534645HX</td>
<td>Computer-True Wind, CP-264/U for computing true wind direction and speed while underway. WT 0.5 cu 0.1</td>
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<td>h. 9G 6685005908759</td>
<td>Psychrometer-Electric ML-450A/UM, portable, complete with case and spare tube set, powered by 3 size D batteries which are not included. WT 4.0 cu 1.0</td>
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<td>i.</td>
<td>Tube Set, Psychrometer, Matche thermometers for ML-450A/UM, straight type tube. WT 0.5 cu 0.1</td>
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<td>Computer-Psychrometric Cp-165A/UM, circular plastic slide rule WT 0.5 cu 0.5</td>
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<td>Wicking-Muslin, 3 inch length, for use with sling psychrometer 50 per box</td>
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<td>r. 9G 41400006105169</td>
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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICERS

The Port Meteorological Officers visit ships enlisted in the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program.

They (1) check and calibrate barometers and other meteorological instruments aboard ships. (2) assist captains and mates with problems regarding weather observations, preparation of weather maps at sea, and interpretation of forecasts, conduct observer training, and (3) supply meteorological manuals and forms to ships.

In addition, they provide some meteorological equipment to ships enrolled in the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program.

Sources of Marine Information and Forecasts

Ships in the NWS Voluntary Observing Ship Program are entered into a data bank which puts each ship on the mailing list for the *Mariners Weather Log*, a quarterly magazine on marine weather; quarterly distribution of *Pilot Charts* for the appropriate ocean, and the weekly *Notice to Mariners* so that navigational charts may be kept up to date.

On the initial outfitting of a newly recruited vessel, they receive:

2. Radio Stations Accepting Ship's Weather and Oceanographic Observations
3. Selected Worldwide Marine Weather Broadcasts
4. Ship's Code Card for encoding/decoding weather reports
5. All of the necessary forms and pre-addressed envelopes to the servicing PMO
6. Various Defense Mapping Agency and Naval Oceanographic Command forms and publications
7. Sea water temperature thermometer and dip for measuring surface water temperature.
8. True wind plotting board and calculator for calculating true wind speed and direction from a moving vessel.
Addresses of National Weather Service Port Meteorological Offices

Atlantic Ports

Mr. Robert Baskerville, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112  
212-399-5569 (FTS 662-5569)

Mr. Anthony Rippo, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
2005 T Custom House  
300 South Ferry Street  
Terminal Island, California 90  
213-548-2539 (FTS 796-2539)

Mr. Joseph Takach, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA

Gulf of Mexico Ports

Building 51  
Newark International Airport  
Newark, New Jersey 07114  
201-624-0890 (FTS 341-6188)

Mr. Earle Ray Brown, Jr., PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
Norfolk International Airport  
Norfolk, Virginia 23518  
804-441-6326 (FTS 827-6326)

Mr. Julius Soileau, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
Route 6, Box 1048

Mr. Peter Connors, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
1600 Port Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33132  
305-358-6027

Mr. Richard Rasmussen, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
Jacksonville International Airport  
Box 18367  
Jacksonville, Florida 32229  
904-757-1370

PACIFIC PORTS

Mr. Donald Olson, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
BINC15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
206-527-6100 (FTS 446-6100)

Mr. James Mullick, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
Metro Oakland International Airport  
P. O. Box 6249  
Oakland, California 94614  
415-273-6257 (FTS 536-6257)

Mr. Robert Melrose, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
Mr. Donald Olson, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
BINC15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
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Seattle, Washington 98115  
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BINC15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
206-527-6100 (FTS 446-6100)

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BINC15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
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National Weather Service, NOAA  
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BINC15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
206-527-6100 (FTS 446-6100)

Mr. Donald Olson, PMO  
National Weather Service, NOAA  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
BINC15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
206-527-6100 (FTS 446-6100)
The following National Weather Service offices will provide a marine weather briefing and a barometer check by telephone. They will also comply with, or relay, requests for forms or services to the closest Port Meteorological Officer.

### ATLANTIC COASTAL AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Weather Service Office</th>
<th>International Airport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Building</td>
<td>Box 19367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, ME 04104</td>
<td>Jacksonville, FL 32229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207-773-0352 (FTS 8-833-3552)</td>
<td>904-757-1370 (FTS 8-946-3620)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Weather Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forecast Office</td>
<td>4245 Southern Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan International Airport</td>
<td>West Palm Beach, FL 33406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Boston, MA 02128</td>
<td>305-694-3633 (FTS 8-350-7229)</td>
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<tr>
<td>617-567-4670 (FTS 8-223-1354)</td>
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### CARIBBEAN AREA

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ignor I. Sikorsky Municipal Airport</td>
<td>Isla Verde International Airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford, CT 06497</td>
<td>San Juan, PR 00913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203-379-4328 (FTS 8-643-4898)</td>
<td>809-791-0376</td>
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### GULF COAST AREA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Weather Service Office</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Bldg., Room 9258</td>
<td>Federal Building, Room 312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Arch Street</td>
<td>2301 First Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, PA 19106</td>
<td>Ft. Myers, FL 33901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215-365-2170</td>
<td>913-332-4220</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFD 6, Box 50</td>
<td>P.O. Box 4116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington, NC 28405</td>
<td>Pensacola, FL 32506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919-763-8331 (FTS 8-763-4975)</td>
<td>904-455-6211 (FTS 9-496-5276)</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Airport</td>
<td>P.O. Box 8903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston, SC 29411</td>
<td>Mobile, AL 70807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>803-744-0303 (FTS 8-677-4395)</td>
<td>205-694-6625</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 7207</td>
<td>Ryan Airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah, GA 31408</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA 70807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>912-964-1507 (FTS 8-248-4445)</td>
<td>504-357-9743 (FTS 8-697-0303)</td>
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</table>
Enclosure (3) to COMDTINST 3140.2D

National Weather Service Office
P.O. Box 5423
Lake Charles, LA 70606
318-477-5285 (FTS 8-687-7220)

National Weather Service Office
International Airport
R.R. #2, Box 900
Corpus Christi, TX 78410
512-289-0898 (FTS 8-734-3337)

National Weather Service Office
Brownsville, TX 78520
512-542-2438 (FTS 8-734-8217)

PACIFIC AREA
National Weather Service Office
International Airport
R.R. #2, Box 900
Corpus Christi, TX 78410
512-289-0898 (FTS 8-734-3337)

National Weather Service Office
Brownsville, TX 78520
512-542-2438 (FTS 8-734-8217)

PACIFIC COASTAL AREA
National Weather Service Officer
Lindbergh Field
2980 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101
714-293-5678 (FTS 8-895-5678)

National Weather Service Office
P.O. Box 1447
Eureka, CA 95501
707-443-6484 or 707-442-2171

National Weather Service Office
Route 1 Box 941
Warrenton, OR 97146
503-861-2722

National Weather Service
Forecast Office
5420 N.E. Marine Drive
Portland, OR 97218
503-281-2618 (FTS 8-423-2340)

ALASKAN AREA
National Weather Service Office
Box 5113, Star Route 5
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-7491

National Weather Service Office
Box 427
Valdez, AK 99686
907-835-4505