



Fall Semester 2016 Organizational Meeting

Instructor Alex Davies, Command Forecaster, Meteorologist

MIDN 1/C Carman Arnold, Lead Midshipmen Forecaster

Welcome!

Overview:

- USNA and NAWT Mission Statement
- What is the current state of USNA Weather Forecasting?
- Where we want to go?
- Who is the NAWT Leadership Group?
- Forecast Shift Schedule
- What is expected of me during a forecast shift?
- Where can the forecast products I issue be found?

Mission

- (1) To provide timely weather information as a courtesy to the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) and/or NSA-Annapolis in support of weather-sensitive events and daily operations.
- (2) To serve as a supplemental source of timely weather information for the broader Annapolis community. Official forecasts are issued by the National Weather Service.

Notes: (1) Forecasts are issued by either faculty meteorologists in the Oceanography Department at USNA or Midshipmen student forecasters under the direct supervision of the faculty meteorologists. (2) The forecasts provided are NOT official U.S. Navy or U.S. Government weather forecasts; the forecasts and products should not be confused with the official U.S. Navy weather information from the Fleet Weather Center or the official U.S. Government forecasts issued by the NWS.

Current State of USNA and Annapolis Area Weather

- Weather information has been provided as a service to USNA by the Oceanography Department for over a decade.
- Weather information is distributed three times per week via:
 - The USNA Weather Website (www.usna.edu/Weather)
 - USNA Weather Email Listserv with approximately 260 subscribers
 - USNA Weather Facebook Page and Lab Deck Monitors
- The Environmental Data Lab (EdLAB) in CH221 will be used as a place for Oceanography students to conduct research and study. Forecasting will take place there, as well.
- MIDN forecasted for the first time in Spring 2016!
 - 22 MIDN Student Forecasters!



Building Capabilities

- Severn River Watershed Observatory:
 - 3 Observations Nodes with real time Wx and Water observations.
 - First station installed!!! Second was just purchased for the YP basin.
- Environmental Data Monitoring and Prediction System (EdMAPS) coming soon!
- Webpage and Facebook Page
- New for AcYear 2016: Lab Deck Graphics!

Leadership Group

Command Weather Forecaster:

Instructor Alex Davies, Meteorologist, Oceanographer

Lead MIDN Forecaster:

MIDN 1/C Carman Arnold

MIDN Forecast Shift Leaders:

MIDN 1/C Sarah Chama

MIDN 2/C Rachel Boushon

MIDN 2/C Colin Hackbarth

Additional Oceanography Dept. Meteorologist and Climatologist:

Associate Professor Brad Barrett, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Gina Henderson, Ph.D.

CDR Michael Cooper, Associate Chair

LCDR Matt Burich, JPMP

Tentative Forecasting Shifts

Week 1

Mon-1st

Fri-1st

Week 2

Mon-2nd

Fri-3rd



What happens during a Forecast Shift?

Approximate Timeline:

- Beginning of Period (10min): Team weather and map discussion. Wx Discussion are lead by Inst. Davies, other Dept Meteorologists (if available and/or willing), or MIDN 1/C Carman Arnold.
- Immediately Following (25-30 min): Forecast Block. MIDN Forecast Shift Leader assigns forecasters to develop the following products:
 - Three Day Text Forecast (Word)
 - Three Day Graphic Forecast (Powerpoint) (WIP)
 - Forecast Discussion (Word)
- Final 5-10min: Forecast Product Brief and Review.
 - Team reviews the forecast products w/ Inst. Davies and any Dept Meteorologists that are present. Decisions follow regarding changes/updates.
- After Forecast Period: Inst. Davies issues and posts the forecasts.

Standard USNA Weather Forecast

What your forecasts will include:

- Three Day Text Forecast
- Forecast Discussion
- Three Day Graphic Forecast (**New**)

Where are these products found?

- www.usna.edu/Weather
- USNA Weather Listserv (subscribers include: Dant, Deans, Supe Chief of Staff, NSA-A Ops, CWPC)
- Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/usnaweather
- Graphic Forecasts displayed on lab deck monitors (**New**-WIP)

Additional USNA Weather Forecast

USNA Weather Discussion

- Issued weekly or as needed by Inst. Davies or Dept Meteorologists
- Reviews timely weather topics and provides details on weekly weather.
- Particularly useful during high impact weather events or tailored forecast guidance.
- Issued on the USNA Weather Website, Facebook, and as a link in the Standard USNA Forecast Discussion.
- Send directly to decision makers during high impact events. Example: Blizzard 2016; Commissioning Week 2016

USNA Weather Map

- Issued as needed by Inst. Davies or Dept Meteorologists
- Graphically displays information for any upcoming, high impact weather events (snow, hurricanes, ect).

Forecasting Policies

1. **DO NOT** issued any forecasts on behalf of the NAWT or the USNA Command Weather Forecaster without approval by Instructor Davies.
2. **DO** forecast using continuity.
3. **DO** practice probabilistic forecasting. Good forecasts are always probabilistic in nature! We always strive for a forecast consensus.
4. **DO NOT** used definitive or vague wording.
5. **DO NOT** issue advice or comment on weather as it relates to life or personal property. You can relay information from the National Weather Service, but your job is not to advise people on how to protect themselves or their property. There are significant liabilities associated with this topic. The forecast disclaimer is found on the USNA Weather Page.
6. These forecasts **ARE NOT** official U.S. Navy or U.S. Government forecasts. Do not drastically deviate from that information.
7. **DO** take this seriously and come to each shift with a positive attitude.
8. If you **fail to adhere** to these policies, you will be immediately **removal** from the NAWT.
9. All policies subject to change. Policies set by Instructor Davies. Issued: 07 September 2016.

What's Next?

- First Forecast Day – Monday 12 Sept.
 - Schedule will be sent out soon

