



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR TRAINING  
CNATRA  
250 LEXINGTON BLVD SUITE 102  
CORPUS CHRISTI TX 78419-5041

CNATRINST 3710.8K  
N33

04 MAY 10

### CNATRA INSTRUCTION 3710.8K

Subj: RESTRICTION OF FLIGHT INTO, THROUGH, OR WITHIN CNATRA  
AVIATION WEATHER WARNINGS (CAWW)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3710.7U

1. Purpose. To amplify instructions contained in reference (a), provide additional guidelines for operation of aircraft under the operational control of the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) in areas of hazardous weather, and establish uniform guidelines for the issuance of CNATRA Aviation Weather Warnings (CAWWs) by Naval Aviation Forecast Center (NAVAVNFCSTCEN) Norfolk and subordinate Naval Aviation Forecast Center Components (NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMPs) under the cognizance of the Director, Oceanography Operations, Aviation (DOO AVN) serving the Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM). This instruction has been revised to modify CAWW METOC criteria and flight restriction policy and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. CNATRINST 3710.8J

3. Discussion. NAVAVNFCSTCEN and subordinate COMPs have access to Severe Weather Watch (WW) bulletins issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). These bulletins are used by NAVAVNFCSTCEN and subordinate COMPs to notify aviation activities in the NATRACOM of severe weather conditions that may affect planned flight areas. In view of possible communications time delays and occasionally unforeseen weather conditions by the NWS, further safety precautions are needed to protect student pilots. As a result, CNATRA tasks cognizant NAVAVNFCSTCEN and subordinate COMPs to issue CAWWs when certain conditions and parameters exist as outlined in this instruction. NAVAVNFCSTCEN and subordinate COMPs are further tasked with evaluating the validity of existing watches/warnings and determining whether or not they are progressing as forecasted. NAVAVNFCSTCEN will be the only continuously manned forecast watchfloor, which will have overall weather warning responsibility for NATRACOM bases when local forecasters are not available. NAVAVNFCSTCEN can be contacted toll free via phone

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at 1-888-PILOTWX (1-888-745-6899) or email at ado@nlmcc.navy.mil. NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMPONENT (COMP) at Whiting Field, FL; Pensacola, FL; and Corpus Christi, TX will have local qualified weather forecasters, which can issue CAWW's during portions of their respective airfield operating hours. NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMPs at Meridian, MS; Whiting Field, FL; Pensacola, FL; Corpus Christi, TX; and Kingsville, TX, will have qualified weather observers during airfield operating hours to disseminate CAWW's to Training Air Wing's and Training Squadron's.

a. CAWWS. Issuance of a CAWW indicates any or all of the following criteria:

- (1) Embedded thunderstorms.
- (2) Severe thunderstorms.
- (3) Tornadoes.

b. CAWWS will be issued for a specific and defined geographical area when this criteria has been reported, detected by radar, or when imminently expected within 100 miles of NAS Meridian, MS; NAS Pensacola, FL; NAS Whiting Field, FL; NAS Corpus Christi, TX; and NAS Kingsville, TX. CAWWS may be issued in the event that WW or SIGMET coverage is inadequate or non-existent. Cognizant NAVAVNFCSTCEN and subordinate COMPs will issue CAWWS and disseminate them via phone calls to affected Training Air Wing's Duty Officer and each of the affected VT Squadron(s) Duty Officer(s). The Wing and Squadron Duty Officers must then take appropriate actions to inform their pilots and the chain of command. CAWWS may be issued from two hours prior to field opening until the field closes for the day. Although NWS WWS and SIGMETs are provided at non-military airfields, CAWWS may not be available. However, when a CAWW is issued and in affect, NAVAVNFCSTCEN subordinate COMPs that support CNATRA will appended "CAWW IN AFFECT, VT: ddhhmm - ddhhmm" to their hourly aviation observations.

#### 4. Policy

a. CNATRA aircraft conducting student pilot or student NFO training missions shall be restricted in the same manner as they would if a WW has been issued. Reference (a) states: Except for operational necessity, emergencies, and flights involving

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all-weather research projects or weather reconnaissance, pilots shall not file into or through areas that the NWS has issued a WW unless one of the following apply:

(1) Storm development has not progressed as forecasted for the planned route. In such situations:

(a) Visual Flight Rule (VFR) filing is permitted if existing and forecast weather for the planned route permit such flight.

(b) Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) flight may be permitted if aircraft radar is installed and operative, thus allowing detection and avoidance of isolated thunderstorms.

(c) IFR flight is permissible in positive control areas if visual meteorological conditions can be maintained, thus enabling aircraft to detect and avoid isolated thunderstorms.

(2) Performance characteristics of the aircraft permit an en route flight altitude above existing or developing severe storms.

b. Only a qualified forecaster may make the determination as to whether storm development has not progressed as forecasted. The following units have CAWW issuing responsibilities:

(1) NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Corpus Christi, TX - within 100 miles of Naval Air Stations, Corpus Christi and Kingsville.

(2) NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Pensacola, FL - within 100 miles of Naval Air Stations, Pensacola and Whiting Field.

(3) NAVAVNFCSTCEN Norfolk - within 100 miles of Naval Air Station, Meridian and for all CNATRA Naval Air Stations outside of local forecaster work hours.

c. In order to maintain uniformity, cognizant NAVAVNFCSTCEN activities will prepare and disseminate CAWWs via phonecon, and email using the following format:

WWXX1 K\_\_\_ DDHHMM

CAWW K\_\_\_ VALID UNTIL DDHHMM

(The specific warning area is defined on this line).

(The specific meteorological parameters for which the warning is being issued are defined on additional lines as necessary).

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Example:

WWXX1 KNMM 231000  
CAWW KNMM VALID UNTIL 231200  
20N NMM-30SW NMM-15S PIE-10W JAN-15N GWO-20N NMM  
AREA SVR TSTMS MOVG FROM 2415. SFC WIND GUSTS TO 50  
KTS. TOPS TO 500. HAIL TO 1 IN.

d. TRAWING Commanders are responsible for establishing local guidelines to ensure safety of flight in and through areas where SIGMETs are in effect.



JAMES A. CRABBE  
Chief of Staff

Distribution:

CNATRAINST 5215.1S

List I

NAVAVNFCSTCEN Norfolk, VA  
NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Corpus Christi, TX  
NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Pensacola, FL  
NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Meridian, MS  
NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Whiting Field, FL  
NAVAVNFCSTCEN COMP Kingsville, TX