Additional Information

Internet Links:

Aviation Weather Center www.aviationweather.gov

From TAFs, aviation AFDs, SIGMETs, Convective SIGMETs, AIRMETs, observations, forecast models, and anything else related to aviation weather, you'll find it here.

NWS Key West Homepage www.srh.noaa.gov/key

Find your local weather forecast, watches, warnings, and advisories here.

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/aviation/





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Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs)

Our primary aviation responsibility at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Key West is to issue Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs). Routine TAFs are valid for a 24-hour period and issued four times daily: 00Z, 06Z, 12Z, and 18Z, and are amended (updated) as conditions require. TAFs will include information about wind speed and direction, visibility, present weather, such as fog or thunderstorms if applicable, cloud cover and heights, and low-level wind shear.



The National Weather Service in Key West produces TAFs for two airports along the Florida Keys island chain:

Key West International Airport,

(EYW)

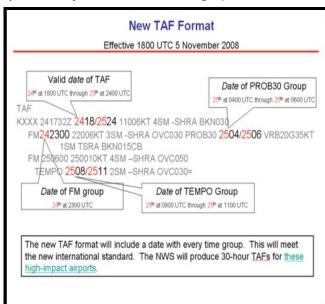
The Florida Keys Marathon Airport,

(MTH)

New TAF Format

On November 5, 2008, with the 00 UTC issuance, the National Weather Service changed the TAF format to conform to international standards outlined in ICAO Annex 3. The change included the initiating of 30-hour TAFs for high-impact U.S. Airports. To accommodate the extended TAF period, the format of ALL TAFs changed.

TAF sites within the Key West National Weather Service Area of Service continue to receive TAFs for a 24-hour period. Only the time format changed, as shown below.



SOUTHERN REGION WFO TAF RESPONSIBILITIES



Aviation Forecast Discussion

In addition to our regularly issued area forecast discussions, we also offer a separate forecast discussion specially tailored for aviation interests. Issued four times daily, the aviation forecast discussion explains the aviation forecast in greater detail than a traditional TAF. It highlights possible hazards in the forecast that may not be mentioned in the TAF due to a low level of confidence that the event will occur.

Snapshot of the Aviation Weather Center's ADDS webpage.



(EXTRACTED FROM FXUS62 KKEY 101830)
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE KEY WEST
230 PM EDT THU SEP 10 2009
VFR CONDITIONS WILL PREVAIL ACROSS THE KEY WEST AND
MARATHON TERMINALS, SHOWERS MAY FORM AROUND THE KEYS
THIS AFTERNOON SO HAVE LEFT VCSH IN THE TAFS. TIMELY
AMENDMENTS WILL BE ISSUED IF NEEDED. WINDS WILL BE FROM
THE SOUTHEAST AROUND 10 KNOTS.



How We Serve You



The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Key West, Florida serves the Florida Keys from Ocean Reef to the Dry Tortugas, which includes the communities of Marathon and Key West referred to by the locals as the Conch Republic. The

Overseas Highway (US-1), has 42 bridges connecting more than 100 islands along its 126 mile stretch from Homestead to Key West.



National Weather Service meteorologists are on-staff, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to providing public forecasts, watches, warnings, and advisories, we also provide services for customers in the aviation community. In fact, we have at least one forecaster dedicated to serving aviation interests on-shift at all times. The purpose of this pamphlet is to highlight the services that are available to our customers in the aviation community, as well as some that are offered by our agency outside of our local office.





National Weather Service

Forecast Office

Key West, Florida



