

# ***Bringing Diverse Missions into a Common Focus***

U.S. Air Force's 15<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Squadron and  
the Storm Prediction Center/Aviation Weather Center  
Backup Mission



Mr. Jeff Mitchell

Mr. Larry McCoy

Meteorological Technicians

15<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Sq

# Why are we here?

- ▶ To give a glimpse of how an Operational Weather Squadron (OWS) is organized and how it completes the aviation, force protection, and the Storm Prediction Center/Aviation Weather Center backup missions.
- 

## ▶ First, a little history...

In 1997, the Air Force Chief of Staff signed a Strategic Plan that directed Air Force Weather to be “reengineered”.

This reengineering plan mandated that eight regional hubs, or Operational Weather Squadrons (OWS), be opened to produce Synoptic, Mesoscale, and Microscale forecast products and Force Protection (warning) products for a predefined Area of Responsibility (AOR). Later, due to force reductions, the number would be cut to six.

# AF Weather OWS AOR's



In February of 1999, the 15<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Squadron opened at Scott AFB, IL

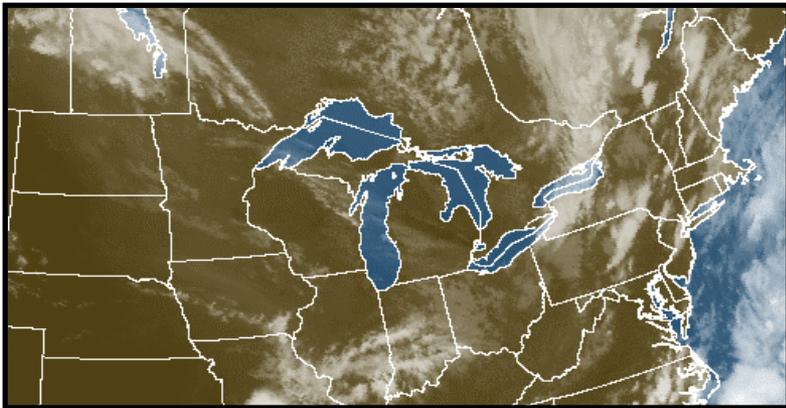


# 15 OWS Mission Statement

Provide accurate, timely and relevant weather information to ensure safe, effective, and efficient military operations and provide world-class training to build technical skills necessary to support the warfighter.



# Mission

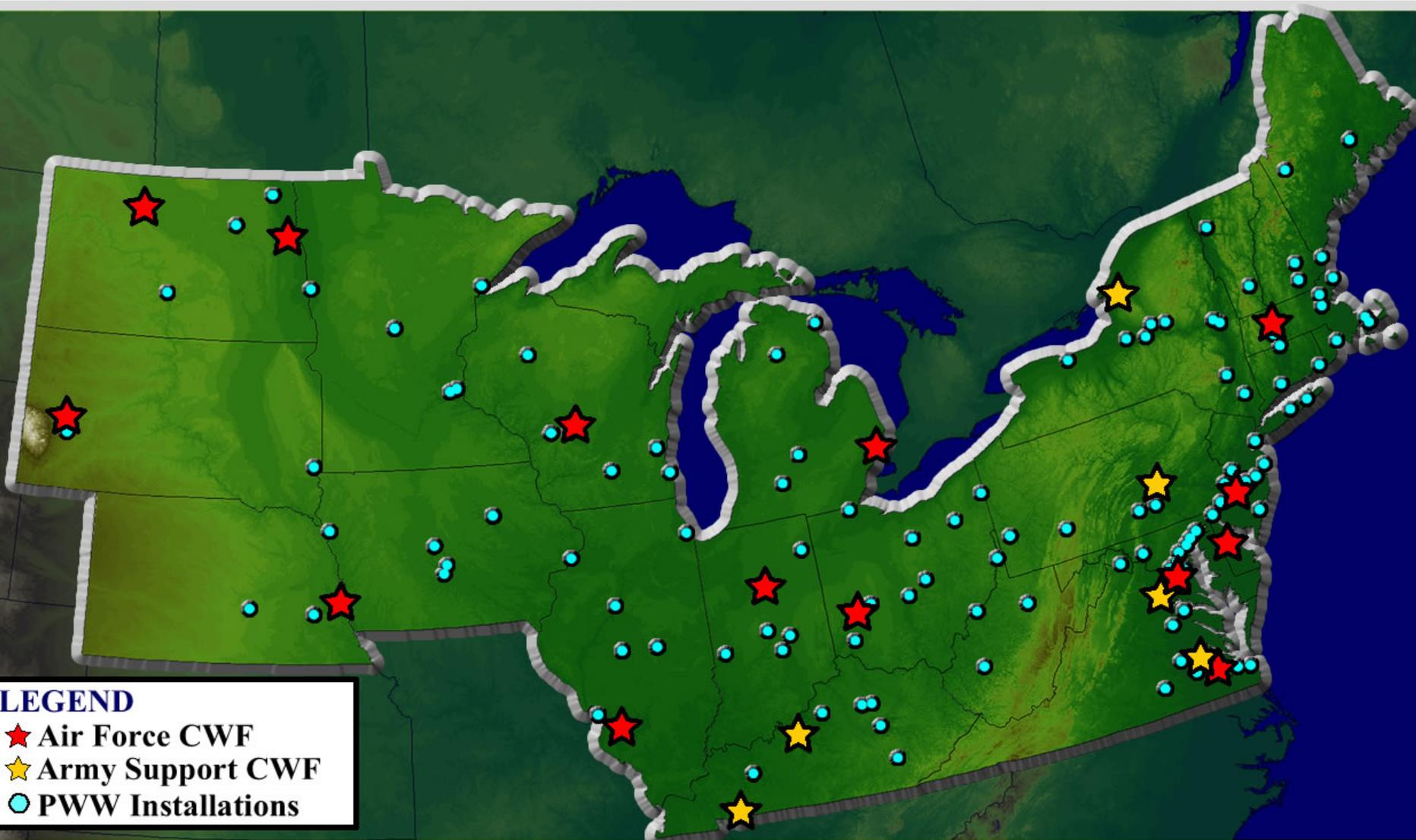


**Regional Forecast Center For  
Army/Air Force Units In NE CONUS**



**Training Ground For 20% of  
AFW Accessions**

# 15 OWS Supported Locations



# Mission

## Customer Demographics

### ▶ NE CONUS

- 17 Active Duty and Reserve Installations
- Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS) Support
- 148 Guard and Reserve Flying Units--250 sorties daily
  - 22 Airlift, 23 Fighter, 12 Tanker, 80 Army, SAR, Special Ops
  - 1200+ aircraft supported
- 25 Non-flying customers (i.e., radar sites, research facilities, etc.)
- 127 DoD Customers
  - Point Warnings With Over \$100 Billion in Assets/180,000 Personnel
- 14 Guard Weather Flights

# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# Supported Aircraft



# White House





# Technical Training



- **Initial Skills Course – A 30-week course covering:**

- Structure and Properties of the Atmosphere
- Analysis and Prognosis
- Weather Elements
- Forecast/Meteorological Watch
- Hydrology
- Radar
- Weather Codes
- Space Environment
- Weather Briefings
- Meteorological Equipment
- Combat Skills

# In-house Training

- ▶ **12 weeks of enhanced training on:**
  - Structure and Properties of the Atmosphere
  - Surface and Upper Air Analysis
  - Model Analysis
  - Weather Elements
  - Convective and Non-convective Severe Weather
  - Forecast/Meteorological Watch
  - Radar Interrogation
  - Weather Codes
  - Space Environment
  - Meteorological Equipment
  
- ▶ **Two Career Development Courses**



# SPC/AWC Backup

- ▶ In the fall of 2007, Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA), in agreement with National Weather Service, decided to transfer backup support from AFWA
- ▶ In the select
- ▶ Four N-AWIPS terminals were installed in the winter of 2008 and the SPC/AWC Training and Backup Operations Center was born.

**SATBOC**

# SPC/AWC Backup

- ▶ In April of 2009, the Proof of Concept exercise was successfully completed.
  - ▶ On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, the SATBOC was deemed “fully operational” and support was transferred from AFWA to the 15<sup>th</sup> OWS.
- 

# The REAL SATBOC!



# SPC/AWC Backup Responsibility

## ▶ SPC

- Up to 24 hours
- Products
  - 1, 2, and 3 Day Outlooks and updates
  - Watches

## ▶ AWC

- Up to 8 hours
- Products
  - AIRMET's
  - Convective and Non-convective SIGMET's

# SPC/AWC Backup Responsibility

- ▶ 20 to 25 experienced forecasters trained
  - Selected by the Squadron Director of Operations
  - 15 to 20 years average weather experience
  - Receive two weeks of Initial Skills training and monthly practice

# SPC/AWC Backup Responsibility

- ▶ Quarterly exercises
  - Overseen by SPC/AWC forecasters
  - All products issued for an 8 hour shift

**So, if you see our name on  
SPC/AWC Products.....**



**You're in Good Hands!**

**DON'T FREAK  
OUT!!!!!!**

# Contact Information

For additional information, contact:

Mr. Jeff Mitchell – 1-618-256-9706

[Jeffrey.Mitchell1@scott.af.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.Mitchell1@scott.af.mil)

Mr. Larry McCoy – 1-618-256-9717

[Lawrence.mccoy@scott.af.mil](mailto:Lawrence.mccoy@scott.af.mil)

