

The Federal Plan for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

FISCAL YEAR 1998

FEDERAL COORDINATOR
FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

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PREFACE

Since 1965, the Office of the Federal Coordinator has developed a federal plan which articulates the meteorological services provided and supporting research conducted by agencies of the federal government. As in the past, it provides Congress and the Executive Branch a comprehensive plan for meteorological services and supporting research within the federal meteorological community. "Supporting" research is defined as those research and development (R&D) programs that directly support and improve meteorological services. The plan reviews agency programs for FY 1997 and documents proposed programs for FY 1998. The plan's narratives, timelines, and schedules reflect a date as of June 1997. Consequently, the new OFCM organizational changes are not reported in this edition.

Section 1 is an overview and general summary of the entire document. Section 2 describes interagency cooperation that is essential to meet the federal government's requirements for meteorological services. Section 3 summarizes a discussion of resources requested in the President's budget for FY 1998 as compared to those resources that Congress appropriated for FY 1997. This budget information along with other significant aspects are summarized in graphical and table formats and are current as of the end of June 1997. The emphasis is on changes in resources and the associated changes in programs. Section 4 is a review article entitled *Owning The Weather--An Army Force Multiplier*. Appendices A through D describe individual agency weather activities and programs; Appendix E describes the World Weather Program; Appendix F contains a list of acronyms; and Appendix G lists the topics of our feature articles from prior years.

The policy and program guidance for coordinating weather activities and programs is provided by the interagency committees shown on the inside front cover. These committees and the supporting organizational structure shown on the inside of the back cover conduct systematic and continuous reviews of federal programs and requirements for meteorological services and supporting research according to guidelines initially set forth in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-62.

This edition of the Federal Plan continues modifications to format and presentation of information initiated two years ago. The focus of Section 2 is now on OFCM's coordination and planning activities for the past year rather than descriptive, historical program information. In conjunction with these modifications that we've initiated, I solicit your comments and feedback regarding additional enhancements. These comments may be directed to either myself or the staff editors.

In FY 1997, OFCM established a Web site--*WWW.OFCM.GOV*. In addition to the latest version of the Federal Plan, we intend to convert and make available for viewing and distribution new as well as previous OFCM publications. We look forward to your suggestions to assist us in improving our web site.

Julian M. Wright, Jr.
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological
Services and Supporting Research

THE FEDERAL PLAN FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH, FISCAL YEAR 1998

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