A User’s Perspective on Airborne Observations

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Weather Accidents

Turbines are doing nicely
Technology is better
But ...
Wx Acc. Trend – Mostly Flat

63 in ‘2003

80% Fatal

50 in ‘2012
2012 – 50 Wx Accidents Total

VFR into IMC = 46%
How Many Came Close???
AIRMETs!!
“VFR Not Recommended”

Not now
Not tomorrow
Not next week

Just take the Bus!!
Crying Wolf?

Is it **Really** IMC?

... Over the **entire** forecast area

... Over the **entire** time ... Really????

Forecasts amended **timely** ?????
Failure to WARN
IMC in the Sunny South
Only two PIREPs, but ...
METARs = Confirm
Lotta ice: 020-FL180???
Well, maybe not so much ...
Ice – SFC to 140?
Not so much, but ...
Y’all be Careful …

Orographic lifting

Moisture aloft

Temperature fluctuations
Datalink

Great for some things
But not all...
Where is this Going?

Observations – Ground & Aloft
Training – Pilots & Forecasters
It’s about GOOD forecasts
It’s about timely updates/changes
It’s about verification

Move GA into the 1990s
PIREPS ...

“FAA should put a much higher priority on acquiring PIREPs ...”
New World – Old World
Icing & IMC ...

• Tops?

• Bases?

• Is there really ice?

• What’s the Viz?
Hundreds of PIREPs needed!

- **Downlink via ADS-B - using EFB?**
- Eliminate the middle-person
- Near Real Time

- **Null reports vital …**
Cut the Chit-Chat

◆ Direct to the system – **All Users**
  ◆ Pilots, ATC, AWC, AFSS

◆ VFR aircraft can play

◆ Freqs uncluttered

◆ **Real time**
Waiting for Airborne Obs …
Good Info = Good Decisions

- **Important** for forecasters
- **Critical** for pilots
- Confirm or Deny
- *Failure to Warn* greatly reduced
- Improve Utility

- **Save Lives.**
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Thank You!

NBAA

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