

CHAPTER 4

COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Department of Commerce.

4.1.1 National Weather Service (NWS). All communication systems of the NWS are used in support of the data collection and warning program given in the plan. These communication systems are described in the publication, Operations of the National Weather Service.

4.1.2 Aircraft Operations Center (AOC). The AOC may use the communications facilities of the Air Force described in paragraphs 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

4.2 Department of Defense (DOD).

4.2.1 U.S. Air Force. Headquarters Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) posts winter storm bulletins received from the National Weather Service on the Joint Air Force/Army Weather Information Network (JAAWIN) where they are accessible by DOD users worldwide.

4.2.2 Weather Reconnaissance. Weather reconnaissance observations will be transmitted via satellite down link, checked for accuracy, and then transmitted to NOAA and AFWA for processing. See paragraph 2.6 for more information regarding aircraft and ground station communications systems used to transmit observations.

4.2.3 U.S. Navy. For the maritime environment, the primary means of dissemination for gale, storm, high-seas warnings, other winter storm advisories, and special observations is via the classified and unclassified web pages of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center, Norfolk, VA, for the Atlantic and Mediterranean basins ([https://www.nlmoc.navy.\(smil\).mil](https://www.nlmoc.navy.(smil).mil)) and the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for the Pacific and Indian Ocean basins ([https://www.npmoc.navy.\(smil\).mil](https://www.npmoc.navy.(smil).mil)). Both graphical and alphanumeric warnings are posted. In addition, the Defense Message Service (DMS) is also used to distribute alphanumeric data and gale, storm, and high-seas graphics. Unclassified DISN ATM Services (DATMS-U) will be used for exchange of data between National Weather Service (NWS) and the Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center.

4.3 U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard operates activities that routinely collect and/or report meteorological data. Those units that collect and transmit (or report) data for this program are Coast Guard Communications facilities at Boston, MA; Chesapeake, VA; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; Kodiak, AK; Honolulu, HI; and San Francisco, CA. These facilities collect Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) messages from merchant vessels and METEO messages from merchant and Coast Guard vessels on a routine basis. The METEO data are then passed directly to the NCEP on the Coast Guard Data Network (CGDN).

