

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ADVANCING METEOROLOGICAL**  
**SERVICES (ICAMS)**

1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION

The Interagency Council for Advancing Meteorological Services (ICAMS) is chartered under authority of the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to serve as the Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services pursuant to Public Law No. 115-25, title IV, sec. 402 (Apr. 18, 2017), 15 U.S.C. § 8542.

As a continuation of the mandate in Public Law No. 87-843, title III, sec. 304 (Oct. 18, 1962), 68 Stat. 1114, and consistent with Public Law No. 115-25, ICAMS leads the annual development of an interagency budget review of programs supporting meteorological services and supporting research and annual implementation plans.<sup>1</sup>

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

ICAMS is the formal mechanism by which all relevant Federal departments and agencies (Ds/As) coordinate implementation of policy and practices to ensure U.S. global leadership in the meteorological services<sup>2</sup> enterprise. ICAMS also informs the development of relevant Federal policies via the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and within individual Ds/As.

The following set of principles guides the work of ICAMS:

- The meteorological enterprise is a national asset for ensuring personal and community safety, economic success, national security, and education;
- Individuals, and their creativity and dedication, are the greatest asset of the U.S. meteorological enterprise;
- Effective cross-agency coordination and external engagement are critical to success;
- Success for individuals and organizations is achieved via success of the enterprise as a whole;
- Efficiency is foundational to the stewardship of taxpayer dollars;
- Research, operations, and applications are mutually beneficial, mutually reinforcing, and equally important for realizing ICAMS goals;
- Open debate and a diversity of opinions promote excellence and teamwork; and
- Excellence results in quality and promotes public trust.

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<sup>1</sup>DoD will participate to the limits imposed by the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

<sup>2</sup>Consistent with the World Meteorological Organization, “meteorological services” reflect an Earth system approach and encompass weather, climate, hydrological, ocean, and related environmental services. The term “services” broadly includes all relevant activities that provide value to society whether over land, at sea or in the air, including for the protection of life and property, personal and public health, quality of life, sustainability of the natural world, and economic and national security.

The creation of ICAMS enables the following aspirational goal:

**The United States will lead the world in meteorological services via an Earth system approach, providing societal benefits with information spanning local weather to global climate.**

ICAMS' objectives in pursuing these goals are as follows:

- Coordinate, help prioritize, and execute activities for U.S. global leadership in meteorological services;
- Streamline/consolidate activities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and create greater efficiencies;
- Improve participation of agency leaders in strategic planning and program execution;
- Enhance communication and coordination, and promote sharing, within agencies and across the interagency;
- Facilitate the expansion and strengthening of partnerships with non-government sectors;
- Improve prioritization and promotion of high impact and innovative initiatives;
- Enhance research and operational interactions and feedback loops to accelerate advancement;
- Enhance to all stakeholders messaging about the American meteorological enterprise; and
- Develop, recruit and sustain a professional and diverse workforce engaged in meteorological science and services.

The following standing Committees are hereby created within ICAMS:

- Committee on Observational Systems
- Committee on Cyber, Facilities, and Infrastructure
- Committee on Services
- Committee on Research and Innovation

ICAMS empowers these Committees to establish within them, charter (if appropriate), and task subordinate coordination bodies including (sub)committees, working groups, task forces, and joint action groups (including with other Federal coordinating bodies), following the principles and supporting the above-mentioned objectives. These subordinate coordination bodies will each specify, at minimum, their ICAMS specific purpose, scope of work, membership, expected deliverables, and term. They will coordinate with their parent body and be governed by it.

ICAMS is administered as an Executive Branch activity. The associated Interagency Meteorological Coordination Office (IMCO) provides administrative and logistical support to, and operates under guidance from ICAMS. The IMCO assumes many of the responsibilities formerly administered by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM) and will fulfill other functions as approved by the ICAMS members. Consequently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce will support the IMCO as it has supported OFCM in the past, and likewise will support the Federal Coordinator as Co-Chair of ICAMS.

ICAMS coordinates and cooperates with relevant NSTC Committees and their subordinate activities, as well as with all other relevant Federal coordinating bodies.

The members of ICAMS, known as Principals, are senior agency executives (or their designees, as appropriate) from Federal meteorological enterprise Ds/As (listed below) having programs and/or missions that provide, support, and/or rely upon meteorological services and/or Earth system science that advance such services to meet national requirements.

ICAMS Committee members are senior leaders appointed by ICAMS Principals from participating Ds/As.

ICAMS Committees are co-chaired by senior leaders recommended from participating agencies and approved by ICAMS Principals. The co-chairs are expected to rotate among member agencies as deemed appropriate by ICAMS Principals. The role of the ICAMS Committee co-chairs is to facilitate the work of their respective Committee, including but not limited to scheduling meetings and soliciting input for agenda items, ensuring effective communication both within the Committee and with other appropriate groups and organizations, and ensuring that goals of the Committee and its subordinate coordination bodies are appropriate and being met.

ICAMS and this Charter do not represent budget authorities and do not imply any resource commitments by member agencies. However, ICAMS deliberations, decisions, and/or products may be used to inform agency and Federal government budget processes.

### 3. FUNCTIONS

- a. Identify and help prioritize meteorological services needs including observations, operational systems, and infrastructure, coordinating those needs against budget requests and program initiatives across participating offices and agencies.<sup>3</sup>
- b. Leverage Earth system science research outcomes and inform the planning of relevant research based upon meteorological services activities.
- c. Lead the development of a decadal strategic plan to advance meteorological services with involvement of the Earth system science, service, and stakeholder communities.
- d. Share information regarding services improvement needs and science opportunities across relevant agencies.
- e. Provide guidance and direction to all ICAMS Committees and any subordinate groups that they may form or may be tasked to carry out the coordination work, including regarding the establishment, continuation or termination of ICAMS subordinate groups.
- f. Provide advice to all relevant Federal Ds/As on the source and level of resources needed to maintain and operate the ICAMS.

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<sup>3</sup>DoD will participate only to extent required by P.L. 115-25.

- g. Promote cooperative efforts on relevant Earth system science research to advance meteorological services, and share information regarding research results and needs that can advance such services.
- h. Review and formally approve release of ICAMS documents and other deliverables.

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP

- a. ICAMS is Co-Chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the latter of whom shall serve as the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology.
- b. Membership consists of Federal agencies with significant interests in meteorological services and Earth system science that advances such services, and whose participation is necessary to coordinate these activities within the Federal government. The following departments and organizations shall be represented on ICAMS, and others may be added at the discretion of the co-chairs:
  - **Executive Office of the President (EOP)**
    - Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
    - Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
  - **Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
    - Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)
  - **Department of Commerce (DOC)**
    - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
    - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
      - NOAA National Weather Service (NWS)
      - NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)
      - NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS)
      - NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)
  - **Department of Defense (DOD)**
    - United States Army (USA)
    - United States Air Force (USAF)
    - United States Marine Corps (USMC)
    - United States Navy (USN)
    - United States Space Force (USSF)
  - **Department of Energy (DOE)**
  - **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**
    - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**
    - Federal Emergency Management (FEMA)
    - United States Coast Guard (USCG)
  - **Department of the Interior (DOI)**
    - United States Geological Survey (USGS)
    - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
    - National Park Service (NPS)
    - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
    - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

- **Department of State (DOS)**
  - Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)
- **Department of Transportation (DOT)**
  - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
  - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**
- **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)**
- **National Science Foundation (NSF)**
- **National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)**

## 5. ORGANIZATION

- a. ICAMS is the senior body under the Executive Branch, serving the Federal meteorological services enterprise.
- b. The IMCO's essential role is to provide executive, administrative, logistical, and other support as required to ensure the most effective coordination of all ICAMS activities, as well as coordination with NSTC and other Federal and non-Federal organizations and activities as appropriate. The IMCO is led by an Executive Director and assisted by a Deputy Director, both of whom are selected by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, with input from ICAMS Principals. The Executive Director and Deputy Director shall be Federal employees of an ICAMS member agency, with the Executive Director detailed to/appointed within OSTP. The Deputy Director typically will be affiliated with NOAA as a means for providing continuity. The IMCO staff is supplemented by detailees provided by member agencies and selected by the Executive Director.
- c. ICAMS Committees are directly subordinate to ICAMS. Their coordination roles are:
  - *Committee on Observational Systems* – Coordinates all relevant land/air/ocean/space-based observation systems and associated data capabilities for meteorological research and services.
  - *Committee on Cyber, Facilities, and Infrastructure* – Coordinates all relevant computing, data, networking, and security elements for operations and research.
  - *Committee on Services* – Coordinates meteorological services encompassing weather, climate, hydrological, ocean, and related environmental services. Services include all relevant activities that provide value to society whether over land, at sea or in the air.
  - *Committee on Research and Innovation* – Coordinates an Earth system approach to advance meteorological services including definition of research topics, community engagement, coordination among research organizations, engagement of multi-sector enterprise to maximize technological innovation, creation of new modalities/processes/efficiencies, building collaborations, and pursuing frontier capabilities.

- d. All Committees are responsible for engaging in the effective transition of research to operations and operations to research (R2O/O2R), as well as applications and demonstrations (R2X), and for the broad advancement of meteorological services. Mechanisms include: test beds, both within and external to the U.S. Government, that naturally and continuously undertake R2O and O2R, engaging other stakeholder sectors (universities, for-profits, non-profits) and other platforms that facilitate R2O and O2R; and other mechanisms that enable the transition of research into meteorological R2X.
- e. All Committees are responsible for ensuring effective communication among ICAMS Committees and with other relevant Federal coordination organizations (e.g., NSTC groups).

6. TERMINATION

This Charter expires on 30 September 2030. ICAMS may vote on extending, terminating or modifying the Charter prior to the expiration date.

Approved:



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Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy  
The White House  
Date: 7/31/20



Neil Jacobs, Ph.D.  
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Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce  
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Date: 7/31/20