



Commander's View

Lt Col Eric McKinley



"Great initiative", "Lots of good, easily digestible information", "Excellent effort", "Great product", "Most informative and nice layout". These are just a few examples of the overwhelmingly positive feedback we've received, my thanks to those who took the time. Unless there is significant reason to do otherwise, I'll be yielding my column space in future editions to allow highlighting more of our center's capabilities. My

commitment will remain to keep you informed of the products and services we use to positively influence DoD activities and operations worldwide.

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Branch Spotlight

The Tailored Climatology Products Team (DOPT) handles requests for products that are similar to standard products, but have to be modified to meet customer needs. AFCCC offers a ceiling/visibility atlas on our web site that provides standard meteorological categories: 100ft/0.25mi, 300ft/1mi, 500ft/1.5 mi, 1500ft, 3mi, 3000ft/3mi, etc. DOPT recently calculated occurrences (by number of days and percent frequency) for new visibility categories for the entire globe. These data were requested by the United States Army Topographic Engineering Center (USATEC) to integrate climate data into one of their geospatial visualization tools, which will be used by terrain analysts and military planners. USATEC plays a major role in evaluating topographic systems for military adaptation in support of the US Army's 2003 Modernization Program. If categories, coverage, or definitions within our standard products do not fit your needs, call us to discuss your requirements. We can tailor standard products to fit your needs. Contact Capt. Budai at jeffrey.budai@afccc.af.mil.

Hot Spot

HAITI

Haiti has a Secondary Dry Season from January through April. The cause of this period of relative dryness is the southwestward movement of the Azores/Bermuda high and the resultant higher pressure over Haiti. Migratory highs that move south out of the United States reinforce the Azores high, which suppresses convection. Incursions of the polar front may still occur and bring periods of rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms for 1-2 days.



Table 1. Secondary Dry Season Rainfall

Month	January	February	March	April
Mean Rainfall	4.3 ins (109 mm)	4.2 ins (107 mm)	3.4 ins (86 mm)	3.7 ins (94 mm)
Extreme Rainfall	28.7 ins (729 mm)	23.9 ins (607 mm)	14.1 ins (358 mm)	23.7 ins (602 mm)
Maximum 24-hr Rainfall	6.8 ins (173 mm)	7.3 ins (185 mm)	7.1 ins (180 mm)	4.5 ins (114 mm)
Rain Days GTE Trace	6	6	6	5

Table 2. Secondary Dry Season Temperatures

Month	January	February	March	April
Mean high	80F (27C)	79F (26C)	80F (27C)	82F (28C)
Extreme high	86F (30C)	87F (31C)	92F (33C)	89F (32C)
Mean Low	67F (19C)	67F (19C)	68F (20C)	70F (21C)
Extreme low	59F (15C)	57F (14C)	59F (15C)	61F (16C)

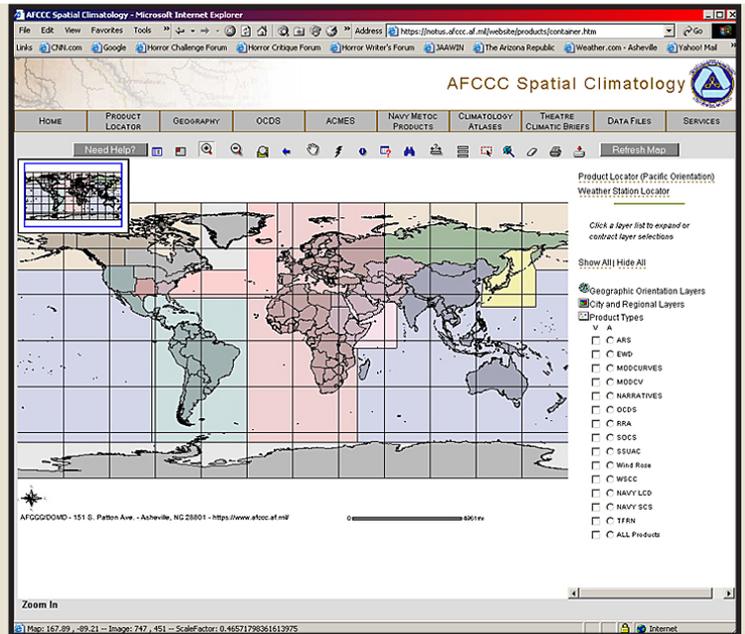
What's New

Narratives. The following new studies are available at <https://www.afccc.af.mil>:

Suva, Fiji Brazzaville, Congo McGuire AFB, NJ

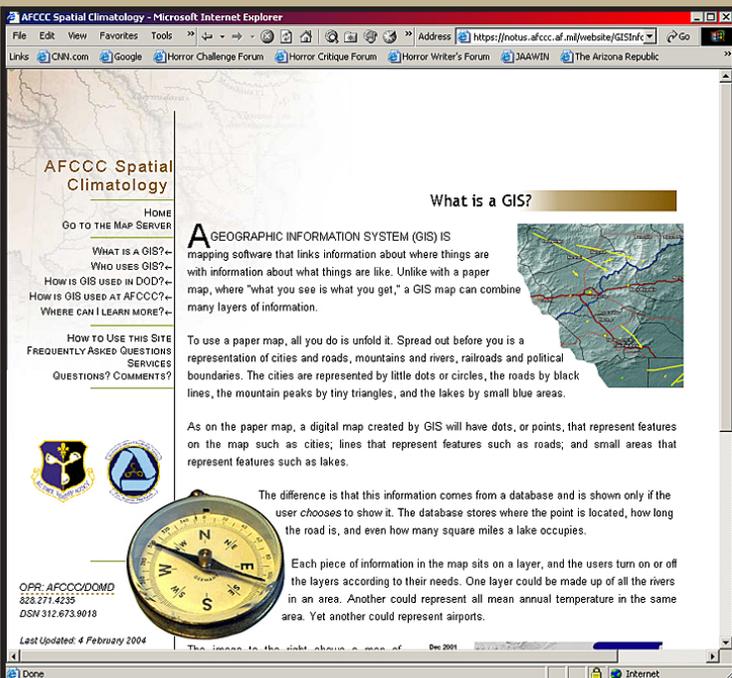
AFCCC Launches New Spatial Climatology Website. In February, AFCCC launched its new Spatial Climatology Initiative, the first step toward redefining map-based climatology as it applies to the mission planner, warfighter and operational forecaster. From Engineering Weather Data to OCDS-on-demand to ACMES images to vast stores of climatological atlases, the Spatial Climatology Initiative is a gateway to the most comprehensive climate information library available on the web.

What is spatial climatology? Based on projected data, it is a forward-thinking way to explore the world climate. Using the boundless possibilities in the emerging technology of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) combined with cutting-edge Internet technology, spatial climatology provides exciting new ways to visualize climate in a familiar format—the map. Rather than having to pore through thousands of tables with endless sub-references, GIS lets you quickly navigate to your area of interest and select only the information you need. It cuts down on guesswork and gives you “point-and-click” access to tens of thousands of climatological products.



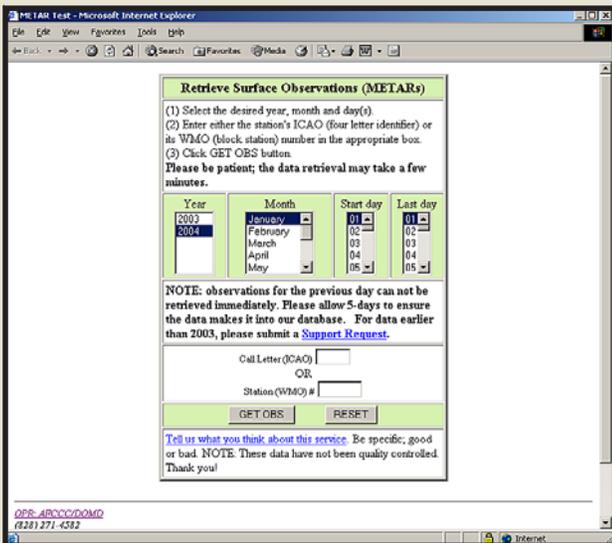
Although AFCCC has maintained a small GIS presence on the web for the last few years, the launch of the new Spatial Climatology Initiative website is the first real step in a bold and expanding project to not only present the data, but also refine the storage, processing and end delivery of what the customer needs. Future plans include redeveloping older products, constructing new products and reorganizing the massive GIS database to be consistent with new and emerging database storage technologies. One exciting goal is the future ability to allow a customer to select an area with little or no data and be able to visualize the climate of that region in seconds.

To try out the new Spatial Climatology Initiative website, point your web browser to <https://www.afccc.af.mil/>. There, you will find your gateway to the future of climatology. For more information, contact TSgt Benjamin X. Wretlind at DSN 673-9018 (commercial 828-271-4235) or benjamin.wretlind@afccc.af.mil



Restricted Air Space Support. The Standard Climatology Section (DOPS) is sending hourly ceiling and visibility data for each month as it ends to HQ NORAD. We provide data for Camp David MD, Washington, D.C., New York City, and Crawford, TX. This ongoing project began in September 2003 and is in support of a study that is attempting to correlate restricted air space violations over CONUS locations with other activities, events, or weather conditions. Other locations can be provided on request. Contact Major Guimond at DSN 673-9009 (commercial (828) 271-1043) or phillip.guimond@afccc.af.mil.

Surface Observations Available on AFCCC Website. Do you need instant access to past weather observations? AFCCC now has surface observations from January 2003 to within 5 days of the current date in METAR format with worldwide availability available on both our NIPRNET and SIPRNET sites. To access the site, go to our Products page and then click on the Online Observation Retrieval Surface link. You will be directed to a form that prompts you for the Year, Month, Start Day, Last Day, and either a call letter or 6-digit station identifier. You can retrieve all of the observations for a single day or a range of days. The output will come back to your screen and from there you can copy/paste or save the page as a text document. Observations in synoptic code are reconstructed into METAR format along with the original synoptic code. This is a new and expanding capability. Please submit requests for additional capabilities via the feedback form on the "Tell us what you think about this service" hyperlink. Contact Mr. Kiess at DSN 673-9018 (Commercial 828-271-4582) or raymond.kiess@afccc.af.mil.



Library Corner



The Air Force Weather Technical Library (AFWTL) researches a variety of sources, such as American Meteorological Society publications, Cambridge University release notifications, and publisher announcements, to

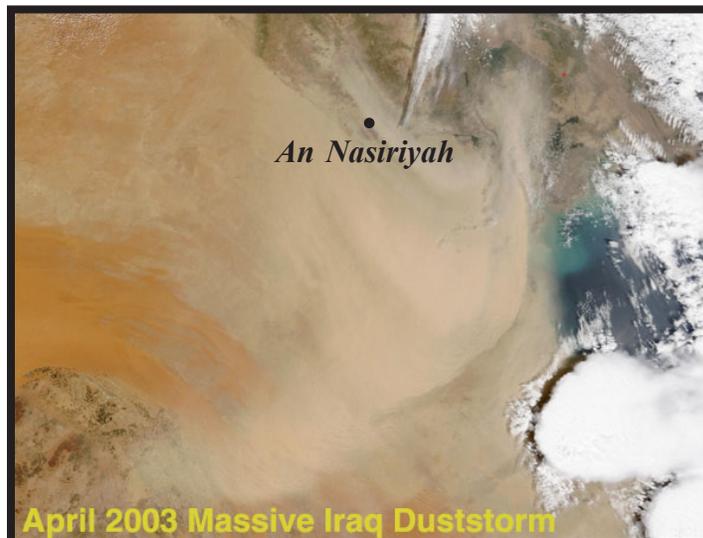
keep current on new technical publications in atmospheric sciences. We do this to maintain the literature in the AFWTL as current and relevant to DoD operations as possible. We also maintain up-to-date core computer science technical literature, to a much lesser degree than atmospheric science material, to support the many computer operations in Air Force Weather Agency.

We publish the list of latest additions to the AFWTL in each "Operations Digest." You can also view this list through the AFCCC web site (https://www.afccc.af.mil/cgi-bin_mil/index_mil.pl) by clicking on AF WX Library link. At the bottom of the library site is a listing of these new acquisitions.

If you belong to an AFWA organization and you need us to acquire either atmospheric science or computer science technical literature, please send your request to us via a letter or use the Technical Publication Request button on the AFWTL web page. List as many specifics (i.e., title, author, publication date or edition) as you can, the operational reason you require the literature, and the impact to the operation if you do not receive it. Have your branch chief validate your request in a letter. We'll add that verification to our web page soon. Contact Mr. Gray at DSN 673-9019 (commercial 828-673-4320) or john.gray@afccc.af.mil.

Climo Tidbits

The primary dust source region in Iraq lies between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, from 31-33N and from 45-46E. In late winter and spring, most Baghdad dust events occur with southeast "Kaus" winds ahead of low pressure systems. At Nasiriyah, Basrah, and southward into Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, most dust events occur with northwest winds behind fronts. The figure to the right depicts the April 2003 massive duststorm.



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