



NOAA REPORT

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

February 26, 1986

COMING UP

Public Affairs workshop for TV weathercasters, National Severe Storms Laboratory., Norman, Ok., Mar. 7 and 8.



Spring flooding outlook press conference by Weather Service's Dr. Michael Hudlow, Mar. 10, at 1 p.m., HCHB Auditorium.

NOAA-G Launching Mar. 31 (note new date) Vandenberg AFB., California.

New Look For NOAA:-- Moving toward more efficient operation, NOAA's management has proposed to reorganize several staff-level offices. Under the terms of the proposal, the Office of Budget and Finance would become the Office of the Comptroller. It would assume the planning and policy function; the former Office of Policy and Planning would be abolished. NOAA's line organizations would continue to operate their own budget and planning functions. A collection of widely dispersed functions coming under the general description of external affairs would be assumed by the Office of Congressional Affairs. Included in the new organization would be the extension program and the Office of Business Affairs. An administrative services division would include the functions of civil rights and personnel, and approximately 900 persons from the regional support centers. Unaffected by the reorganization would be the offices of general counsel and public affairs, which would continue to report directly to the Administrator.

Mack Sworn As Deputy Administrator:--J. Curtis Mack II was sworn into office as NOAA's Deputy Administrator Wednesday, Feb. 19. Administering the oath was U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Meese. Participating were Secretary Baldrige, Administrator Calio, Assistant Secretary for Administration Kay Bulow, former White House official Lyn Nofsinger, and Mr. Mack's father, J. Curtis Mack, who held the Bible. Nominated by President Reagan on Oct. 16, Mr. Mack was confirmed by the Senate Nov. 18. Before joining NOAA, he was executive director of Citizens for the Republic, a political action committee founded by the President.

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He has served in senior positions in the Los Angeles offices of the Veterans Administration, and has been a director of the New American Foundation. He has been a Commissioner on the President's Commission on White House fellowships since 1984. An active Air Force Reservist, he holds the rank of major.

Launch Date Moved:--Public affairs planning continues for the launch of the polar-orbiting search-and-rescue weather satellite, NOAA-G, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., postponed from March 17 to March 31. Emphasis in media briefing on the coast will be on international space cooperation, satellite-aided ocean rescues, and weather satellite contributions to western farming by monitoring water runoff. NOAA-G is the first spacecraft to give global coverage and a more accurate pinpointing of downed aircraft and ships in distress.

Pennsylvania Flood Forecasts Aided:--Seeking improved flood forecasting in the Susquehanna River Basin, the Weather Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and several state agencies have agreed to deploy more satellite-reporting river gages and a computer at the Harrisburg River Forecast Center. Eugene Stallings and Susan Zevin of the Weather Service's Office of Hydrology, who participated, said the agreement is being formalized by a memorandum of understanding between NOAA and USGS.

The Weather Hits Home:--The Waycross, Ga., Weather Service radar office had a \$25,000 visitor on Feb. 10. At about 11:30 p.m., a tornado touched down, destroying an outbuilding, damaging the roof and a government vehicle, but failing to injure Tom Thurston, the radar operator on duty. James Skyrn, office manager, said radar and emergency power continued to operate, but because all local communications were down, no radar reports could be disseminated.

Arctic Haze Flights Set:--Researchers from the U.S. and four other nations next month will probe dense layers of pollution over the Arctic, to identify better how it travels and its long-term global climate effects, a NOAA press release will announce. Russell Schnell of the Environmental Research Laboratories said the Arctic skies become polluted from Eurasian and Soviet -- and possibly U.S. -- sources each winter, peaking in March and April; the pollution then disappears for a year. Computer models from earlier expeditions indicate the haze heats the atmosphere by absorbing solar radiation and preventing infrared radiation from escaping. Four research planes will penetrate the haze and ground measurements will be made in Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

US-PRC Cruise Completed:--The arrival of Peoples Republic of China research vessel R/V Xiangyanghong #14 in Guangzhou, China, on February 21, marked the successful completion of the first US-PRC cooperative air-sea interaction reserach project. Temperature, salinity, and currents were measured and meteorological

observations and soundings were taken along the track from Honolulu to Guangzhou almost every degree in longitude and latitude. Continuous nutrient and chemical samples also were taken along the way. Most of the U.S. equipment will be shipped back to the contributing institutions for recalibration and adjustment. The next US-PRC joint cruise is planned for next fall.

Canadian-U.S. Sub Cooperation:--The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Underwater Research Program, directed by Elliot Finkle, has negotiated an agreement under which a Canadian submersible, PISCES, will be used next summer at Axis Seamount in the Strait of Juan de Fuca for ocean venting system research. Further dives by the submersible ALVIN in 1987 and PISCES in 1988 will provide a long-term series of observations of this exciting site. The seamount is important to science because it is a potential area for study of changes in biology, fluids and chemistry in active venting areas (where water, often containing valuable minerals, is vented through fissures in the seafloor).

Something For Supervisors:--NOAA's personnel division is developing two supervisory courses (SD1 and SD2), principally but not exclusively for new supervisors and managers. Each is 32 hours. SD1 concentrates on "processes germane to effective supervision;" SD2 on the people-oriented side of management. Each course will be offered at various National Capital Area locations, and will accommodate 24 participants. For further information: Maurice Qualis, 443-1357.

Safety Stories Produced:--Tornado time is approaching, and three releases are en route to the media, familiarizing the public with watch and warning terms, simple safety precautions, and a plea that people refrain from opening windows when a tornado approaches. For years, it had been assumed that doing so would compensate for the tornado-induced drop in atmospheric pressure, and keep buildings from being blown away. Not so, according to recent studies: the current wisdom is to drop everything, seek shelter, and forget the windows. The releases are part of an all-media campaign to be highlighted by a TV weathercasters' workshop Mar. 7 and 8 at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Okla.

Performance Appraisals Coming Up:--Formal performance appraisal meetings with all general work force employees must be conducted at the end of the appraisal period -- Mar. 31 -- and completed within the following 30 days. Four to six weeks before the appraisal period starting Apr. 1, rating supervisors and employees should begin developing new performance plans, due by Apr. 30.

Wetlands Inventory Published:--The Ocean Service has published the first comprehensive coastal wetlands inventory since the Fish and Wildlife Service developed their detailed wetland classification system in 1979. The purpose of this

inventory is to compile all available information, evaluate its adequacy, and provide an initial data base for fisheries habitat purposes.

Help's Here:--NOAA employees in HCHB, served under the Employee Assistance Program by the counseling staff of COPE, Inc., are reminded that they may seek free, confidential counseling, or be referred by supervisors, if they have problems associated with personal difficulties, substance abuse or emotional trauma. Family members with problems affecting employee performance may also get help from the EAP. For information: 377-1569. In an emergency: 646-5100.

Automated Climate Reports:--A significant step in the automated production of climatological reports was taken recently when climatic summaries for 191 U.S. weather stations were successfully collected and prepared automatically at the National Meteorological Center for subsequent distribution. The automation of these reports -- consisting of monthly summaries of surface temperature, pressure, precipitation, and sunshine observations -- will increase the coverage and reduce the workload at the observing stations. Unified processing and quality control programs have been developed by the Climate Analysis Center.

NACOA Release Issued:--The Office of Public Affairs has issued a press release on behalf of the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere concerning a NACOA report to the President and Congress advocating an end to the 60-year-old government policy of linking federal support to shipbuilders to a requirement to build in the United States. Copies of the report may be obtained from NACOA's executive office at 3300 Whitehaven St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235.

Little Improvement Seen in Shellfish Harvesting Areas:--The National Shellfish Register of Classified Estuarine Waters, jointly prepared by NOAA and the Food and Drug Administration, indicates little change nationwide in approved areas for shellfish harvesting. The register, which recently went to press, is published every five years and lists areas approved, conditionally approved, and prohibited for shellfish harvesting. Based primarily on state data, this year's report shows expanded approved areas in some states because of installation of new sewage treatment facilities. However, overall nationwide the pattern shows little change because of added restrictions in several states.

NOAA Magazine Issued:--The Winter 1986 issue of NOAA Magazine is out. Highlights: articles on the scientific support coordinators of the Hazardous Materials Response Branch; NESDIS's Wallops Island facility; and the Genesis of Atlantic Lows Experiment (GALE).

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010