

February 6, 2014

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Statement for NTSB

On Monday, February 3rd, I worked the Q shift (2100-0500 UTC) at the FA East desk. The weather in the East was a little less busy than normal in the FA East. There was one trough exiting the BOS FA area which had produced snow across the Middle Atlantic States and southern portions of New England. Another trough was moving into the Central FA region and would begin to impact the FA East region on Tuesday afternoon.

I issued an amendment for IFR at 2126z over southern Pennsylvania, western Maryland, western Virginia and much of West Virginia. This area was expected to improve to MVFR conditions at 21z but it did not. Otherwise, the first part of the shift was routine weather wise. I began by rebooting the N-AWIPS and AWIPS II workstations and loading data fields on both systems. Data flow of text products, radar and satellite imagery, TAFs, METARs, and PIREPs was normal. There were no data interruptions or computer problems noted.

We have urgent PIREPs that are issued under the PIRUS collective alarmed at all of the FA desks on the AWIPS system. In addition, urgent PIREPs issued individual state headers are alarmed at the FA desk responsible for that state. Also, urgent PIREPs are alarmed on our N-AWIPS system and we will usually verbally mention urgent PIREPs that we see in the PIRUS collective. For example, on Tuesday night, I mentioned to the FA Central forecaster that I had seen a severe to extreme turbulence report near Indianapolis around 0430z.

After issuing the IFR amendment, I completed my part of the Low Level Significant Weather Prog. Next, I wrote the synopsis portion of the 0145Z BOS and MIA FA. I also checked the current BOS and MIA FAs to see if they needed an amendment. Next, I began creating the first draft of the 0245Z East G-AIRMET snapshots and smears.

Around 2320z, I began writing the 0145z BOS and MIA FAs. I started with the MIA FA first since it was the easier of the two FAs to write.

In addition to my meteorological duties, I am also the supervisor for my shift. I am responsible for dealing with personnel issues, facility issues, computer problems, and verifying that AWC products are updating on the web page. One issue that I had to deal with was the major winter storm which would impact Kansas City on Tuesday. I received briefings from [REDACTED] Director, on hotel rooms for employees and provisions for any employee who could be stranded at AWC without a hotel room. [REDACTED] also briefed me on provisions for any stranded employees. One employee was 19 minutes late for his Global Graphics shift due to problems checking in at the hotel.

Sometime around 2330z, [REDACTED] asked me if I had heard about an aircraft accident near Nashville TN. I replied that I had not. I logged onto to CNN.con and Yahoo.com but did not find any information about the accident. I then searched for Nashville TV stations and found a website with information about the accident. I informed the FA Central forecaster that there was an accident around 2300z and entered the information in the shift log.