



# INTRODUCTION TO THE NTC



**For a Battlefield Weather Team, NTC provides a realistic environment both climatologically and geographically comparable to current real-world contingency operations. The scenarios developed at the NTC represent realistic situations where deployment tactics are put to practical use. NTC presents an excellent opportunity for motivated weather teams to test knowledge and capabilities, establish strong ties with their supported Army units, and train on exploiting the weather for combat operations.**





# DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE



This is a rough guideline. Every rotation is slightly different.

- 2-3 Months Prior to NTC Rotation (Up to 6 months prior)
  - Pre-deployment preparation/coordination at home station with supported units.
- Week before NTC Rotation
  - Arrival to NTC with Army customer (Usually weekend prior to 1<sup>st</sup> week of the rotation).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Rotation: Reception, Staging, Onward-Movement, and Integration (RSOI) (Mon-Fri)
  - RSOI 1 (Mon): Plan to have the entire team meet with the OC/Ts for the in brief (usually held at the Raven's nest ~0800L, transportation can be provided).
  - RSOI 1-4 (Mon-Thur): Deployment preparation/coordination. Flight Weather briefs for AVN.
  - RSOI 3 (Wed) Jabber training for 1x SWO from each BWT.
  - RSOI 5 (Fri): Deployment into training area/ TOC set-up.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Rotation
  - Training Days (TD) 1-14 (starts on Saturday): training, weather OC/T(s) reviews
  - TD 7 (Friday): Mid-rotation AAR: OC/T discussion over STX/ preparation for FoF operations
  - TD 14 (Friday): ENDEX (CTM) **DO NOT stop operations or tear down early!** Final Raven AAR
- 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Rotation
  - BRD 1-5: Return to Home Station with Army customer.
  - Within 2 weeks of returning to home station, provide the Wx OC/Ts with AAR/feedback comments.

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W
RSOI 1	RSOI 2	RSOI 3	RSOI 4	RSOI 5	TD 1	TD 2	TD 3	TD 4	TD 5	TD 6	TD 7	TD 8	TD 9	TD 10	TD 11	TD 12	TD 13	TD 14	BRD 1	BRD 2	BRD 3	BRD 4	BRD 5



# ACTIONABLE ITEMS

## (Pre-arrival to the NTC)



1. Prepare a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) or an annex to customer's OPORD with a detailed description of weather support. You should be fully involved in the Army's planning and coordination process. Start producing this document 90-180 days prior to deployment to the NTC. This document is the agreement between the BWT and Army unit, including the support, communication procedures, special NTC Weather Watch, Warning, and Advisory criteria, logistics and equipment, etc.

Emphasis should be placed on how your customer will receive support beginning upon arrival at the Rotational Unit Bivouac Area (RUBA), en route to the FOB and during the exercise (as well as weather support to/from NTC from your home station). In the event a weather team will not be deploying with them, coordinate how support will be provided. Detail courses of action in the event the BWT is unable to provide support (reach-back support from home station/25<sup>th</sup> OWS).

12<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron  
Combat Weather Team (12<sup>th</sup> CTS/CWT)  
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 05-03



[Eagle Team Aviation Observer and Controllers](#)  
Fort Irwin and US Army National Training Center (NTC)



# ACTIONABLE ITEMS (Pre-arrival to the NTC)



2. Ensure BWT members are placed on official travel orders. Orders may include Army group orders or through DTS. Remember, travel back to home station for any reason during the exercise due to emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, will be expedited by having orders created and annotated with your weapon serial numbers.

The screenshot shows the Defense Travel System (DTS) website. At the top, there is a search bar for "Search DTS" with a "Go!" button. Below the search bar are links for "Web Accessibility", "Privacy and Security Notice", and "Site Map".

The main content area features a "Welcome to DTS!!" message, stating: "Welcome to the new era of government travel that can really take you places. Featuring the best practices in industry and plug-and-play components, Defense Travel System streamlines the entire process involved in global Department of Defense (DoD) travel." Below this is a "Login to the Defense Travel System" section with a "LOGIN TO DTS" button and the instruction: "Click on the button below to begin using the Defense Travel System."

There are two sidebars. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with links to Home, DTMO Website, Training, Travel Explorer, Travel Assistance Center (TAC), References, Contacts, and Find your Local DTA. The right sidebar includes a "System Status" section with two green status indicators: "DTS" (DTS is available) and "EWTS" (EWTS is available). Below that is a "Recent Updates" section with a notice: "ATTENTION: 72-Hour Air Reservation Auto Cancellation Effective 10/1".

At the bottom left, there is a "DoD Lodging" banner with the text: "Military travelers going TDY to military installations must check DoD lodging availability before making other accommodations. Civilians are encouraged to use DoD lodging when available. Click here to check availability." Below the banner are two buttons: "LEARN MORE" and "TRAINING".

At the bottom center, there is a "Notices" section.



# **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

## **(Pre-arrival to the NTC)**



**3. Inform the 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron Weather Flight (12 CTS/DOC) of your full travel itinerary as soon as possible. To include all of the following (if applicable):**

- Deploying Weather Team Members Rank/Name**
- Arrival & Departure Airport/Flight Information**
- Full contact information (Cell Phone and Email addresses) of each deploying member**
- KQ Identifier, if already setup/coordinated with AFWA (see next slide from more info)**

**4. Complete the pre-deployment survey document and NTC Roll Out Card (found on the 12 CTS webpage) and email it to the OC/T NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC.**

**5. If you require 25 OWS (Davis Monthan AFB) tailored products (unique WWA criteria) or support, complete a SAR and also notify the NTC OC/T of your request.**



# ACTIONABLE ITEMS

## (Pre-arrival to the NTC)



6. Setup a temporary KQ Identifier with AFWA NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC in order to transmit observations long-line via AF-WEBS. Phone DSN: 271-1626 or (after hours) DSN: 271-2586 / Commercial (402) 294-1626/(402) 294-2586, or via email: [afwakq@us.af.mil](mailto:afwakq@us.af.mil) .
7. Secure a DCO 2.0 (Defense Connect Online) account NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC. A SIPR JABBER account creation is also highly encouraged (coordinate through Army S6 office).
8. Secure weapons for all personnel (M4s & M9s). M4s must be used during Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) rotations. Blank firing muzzle adapters should be obtained if not already provided by the Army.



# ACTIONABLE ITEMS

## (Upon Arrival to the NTC)



9. Contact the 12 CTS/DOC upon arrival to NTC at DSN: 470-4363 (or 9527) / Commercial (760) 380-4363 (or 9527) and provide a copy of your MOA/Annex-to OPORD.

10. Secure MILES gear for all personnel, vehicles and weapons from the NTC before the start of the exercise.





# NTC BEST PRACTICES



1. **Coordinate acquisition of JLIST and Chem. Gear including masks, prior to drafting the MOA. Make sure that the CBRNE has enough gear for the SWO team. DATE rotations will include real CS gas attacks, and for safety and health reasons these items must be brought to the exercise.**
2. **Coordinate briefing support with the 25<sup>th</sup> OWS. The Bike Lake forecasters DO NOT brief rotational aircraft, at any time. In a real world scenario support for the assets must be in place until the BWT is prepared to assume support, this is part of the BWT training and will be used in the AAR.**
3. **If possible, the same BWT that supports the Army at NTC should participate in any pre-NTC field exercises in order to build a relationship with the unit. SWO's who have worked with their supported unit in the past have had an easier time than those who have not.**
4. **In the case that the SWO's will be using equipment from their home station that was left by the previous unit, be sure that rotation has performed an ops check and noted all items that are not operational. Communicate with your counterparts to ensure that all equipment is FMC for the inbound rotation. Be sure that the Army is accounting for what ever equipment they did not bring to Ft Irwin.**



# NTC BEST PRACTICES



- 5. Ensure that all members of the team are within regulations for dress and appearance in a Garrison environment. All tactical uniform changes/items allowed by the AFI can be used in the field, but not in the cantonment area during RSOI/BRD weeks. OCPs are allowed for wear at NTC, but all members of the BWT must be in the same uniform.**
- 6. The 12<sup>th</sup> CTS will not provide regular transportation around Ft. Irwin during RSOI/BRD. Be prepared to walk or catch the Rotational shuttle buses. Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis. Additionally transportation (to/from RUBA to airfield) should be coordinated with the Army customer.**
- 7. For DATE rotations, pack to be mobile. The Army may give less than 24 hours of notice before jumping to a new location. In addition, depending on the unit, sleep tents may or may not be set up.**
- 8. If the Army is bringing Gray Eagles, establish a support plan early. Usually the Gray Eagles will fly out of the Goldstone Airfield and do not have reliable NIPR communications. Lay out a plan for their support prior to coming to NTC.**
- 9. Ensure that your Mission Weather Product is tailored for a tactical exercise. If your home station MEF is location specific, create a tactical version that can accommodate NTC. This is better done at home station than during the training days.**



# NTC RECENT TRENDS



- 1. Obtaining proper CBRNE gear:** Be sure to acquire all MOPP gear (gas mask, gloves, suits and boots) from the Army or Home station supply chain. Actual and simulated gas attacks are employed at NTC.
- 2. Acquiring and utilizing MTOE items:** As early as possible, an MTOE review should be conducted to ensure all items allotted to the BWT are available for use at NTC.
- 3. Verifying communication equipment:** Ensure that a NIPR and/or SIPR workstation is available. Most Army TOC's will operate on SIPR for Jabber and SharePoint. Aviation teams should also work to obtain radios to serve as initial comms during jumps. BCT teams with UAS support should ensure a line of communication prior to TD1.
- 4. Securing BWT workspace:** As early as possible, plan the BWT placement in the TOC area. Aviation teams should make sure they are in the TOC in order to respond to PMSV contacts and to maintain situational awareness of the battle space.
- 5. Developing relationships:** Integrating with the current operations and plans cells will emphasize the importance of weather effects in planning and executing the various missions conducted during NTC.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## 25 OWS



The 25th Operational Weather Squadron will:

- Issue Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWA's) for the four NTC weather zones (link to WWAs is on the NTC webpage).
- Collaborate on all weather products via DCO (Defense Connect Online) with the BLAAF (Bicycle Lake Army Airfield) Weather Flight and the deployed BWT.
- Issue a Military Operations Area Forecast (MOAF) three times a day (00L, 08L and 16L). The MOAF is the controlling forecast. The BLAAF Weather flight and the rotational BWT will collaborate on the MOAF (via DCO) and use it, along with the current WWAs, for horizontal consistency.





# RESPONSIBILITIES

## 12 CTS Weather Flight (12 CTS/DOC)



The 12 CTS Weather Flight located at Bicycle Lake Army Airfield (BLAAF) will:

- Issue 5-Day Weather Planning Outlook/Forecast once a day posted to the Fort Irwin/NTC webpage.
- Issue Mission Weather Products (MWP)/Flimsy's three times daily.
- Provide local area or 175-1 pilot weather briefs to indigenous NTC aviators assigned to the NTC/KDAG. **Note: The 12 CTS/DOC will only provide flight weather briefings to rotational units during emergencies!**
- Provide division-level support to NTC personnel/Garrison units/Opposing Forces (OPFOR) in the form of: CG updates, planning weather, and operational weather updates.
- Relay current and forecast weather data (as required) to 52d ID TOC (Division) and 12 CTS OCTs in the field.
- Collaborate on all weather products via DCO with the 25 OWS and the deployed BWTs.



# RESPONSIBILITIES



## 12 CTS Observer-Coach/Trainers (OC/Ts)

The 12 CTS Wx OC/Ts will:

- Provide EXROE (Exercise Rules of Engagement) briefs to rotational BWTs and ensure it is followed.
- Ensure all BWT safety concerns are addressed. If needed, the OC/T will intervene to ensure correct weather information is relayed.
- Observe BWTs under field conditions and offer recommended sustains and improvements to BWTs through AAR inputs.
- Provide liaison support between rotational BWTs, NTC Army OC/Ts, and Army rotational customers (as required).





# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Deploying BWTs



The deploying BWTs will:

- Coordinate required weather support with Army customers before deploying to the NTC.
- Ensure all pre-deployment actionable items are sent to the OC/Ts on-time.
- Ensure all BWT members obtain basic field skills BEFORE deploying to the NTC. BWTs are also encouraged to read the NTC EXROE prior to arrival at NTC.
- **Bring all required equipment, as determined by MTOE/home unit.** For training purposes, it is suggested to also bring non-standard equipment. All equipment should be ops checked prior to deploying and immediately after arriving at NTC.
- Deploy with Army unit, providing weather support IAW regulations, TSOPs, and customer requirements (as applicable): staff briefings, tactical weather observations, operational/planning forecasts and products, etc.
- Brief all rotational aircraft to include UAS and coordinate post-rotation support to home station.  
**Note: The 12 CTS/DOC will not be tasked to provide flight weather briefings to rotational aviation units!**
- Coordinate WWAs with both the 25 OWS and 12 CTS/DOC. If your customers require unique WWA criteria, these special WWAs must be pre-coordinated with the 25 OWS (via SAR) prior to arrival at the NTC.



# IMPORTANT REMINDERS



- **The 12 CTS/DOC does not support rotational aircraft or ground units. Be sure the units are aware before deploying to the NTC. If BWTs do not arrive at the NTC with their aviation and/or ground units, the Army units will be referred to the 25 OWS to receive necessary weather support (flight weather briefings, 175-1's, etc.) Rotational BWTs are responsible for informing their supported units of this requirement.**
- **12 CTS/DOC (i.e., Division) and deployed BWTs (i.e., Brigade/Battalion) will use the forecast funnel and METCON with the 25 OWS to collaborate forecasts via DCO.**
- **The 25 OWS will issue all Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories for the NTC and Barstow-Daggett (KDAG); thus, the 25 OWS is the final authority on all WWA matters.**
- **Due to the lack of robust communications on the NTC, BWTs must have multiple backup communication methods (phone, HF, Iridium, etc). Ensure these methods allow for contact with the 25 OWS and the 12 CTS/DOC.**
- **To alleviate the problem of operational control (i.e. Army Commanders/Sergeant Majors) tasking BWT members to perform tasks outside of the BWTs responsibility (guard duty), it is the BWT OIC/NCOIC's responsibility to educate the Command Staff on additional tasking according to doctrine and regulations. This should be included in your MOA.**