

Air Force Weather

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Air Force Meteorologists and Weather Technicians deliver accurate, relevant, and timely environmental information, products, and services anywhere in the world. They directly impact military decision superiority by enhancing predictive battlespace awareness and enabling military commanders at all levels to anticipate and exploit the battlespace environment, from the mud to the sun.

Information will be presented on the Air Force Weather mission along with information on training, equipment and services provided to the military commands.

A brief overview on the 104th Fighter Wing's mission will also be provided to include the new Air Sovereignty Alert mission.

Presenter's Bio

Christopher Plonka is the Officer-in-Charge for the 104th Fighter Wing Combat Weather Team at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, MA. He joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 2000 after 8 years on active duty in the United States Air Force as a Meteorologist. Assignments while on active duty included Atmospheric and Space Environmental Forecaster for NORAD at Cheyenne Mountain Air Base in Colorado Springs; Staff Weather Officer for the US Army's V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany; and Requirements Section Chief, 7th Weather Squadron also in Heidelberg, Germany. Deployments include Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina in 1996 to support Operation Joint Endeavor... and Iraq in 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lt Col Plonka received a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Lyndon State College in 1991 and a Master of Science degree in Information Technology from the University of Maryland in 1999. Lt Col Plonka is also employed by General Dynamics Information Technology as an IT Project Manager.