



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office
INFORMATION PAPER

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**Fourth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group
Implementation of Aeronautical Meteorology (MET) Task Force
(NACC/WG/MT/TF/4)**

Mexico City, Mexico, 28 to 31 July 2026

Agenda Item 6: Requirements for Current and Future Meteorological Services

COLLABORATION TOOL FOR SIGMET COORDINATION USED IN THE US

(Presented by United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
The primary meteorological provider in the United States (US) is the National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS has upgraded its collaboration tool known as NWSChat powered by Slack (NWSChat) to help improve collaboration and consistency in the region. This paper is a review of the SIGMET collaboration being done in the region with the NWS Chat tool.	
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	• Draft Conclusion MET/TF/3/07

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 While there are an abundance of collaboration tools worldwide, the NWS has focused on one tool to improve collaboration consistency, it's known as NWSChat powered by Slack but referred to as NWSChat, and leverages Slack as an enterprise provider. It offers multiple channels (discussion areas) on one platform. This is convenient for SIGMET collaboration and other ICAO products. This paper offers a brief update on where we are in the region.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 NWSChat began as a collaboration tool between NWS offices and their external customers for various service areas around 2008. It was used for aviation, public, fire weather, and hydrology service users as well as Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs), Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCACs), and State Volcano Observatories. Since then, it has expanded and remains the easiest way for US Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs) to communicate differences and collaborate. The tool allows for multiple discussions and different topic areas, includes graphics and allows some translation

capabilities. Just recently, coordination between the US and Canada has resulted in a new channel for SIGMET collaboration.

2.2 The goal is to spread the use of NWSChat to improve SIGMET coordination and consistency in the North American, Central American, and Caribbean (NACC) Region.

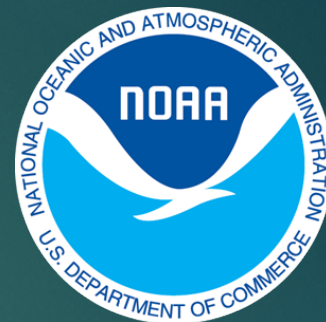
2.3 The US's Kansas City MWO is now looking to add another channel to work with the five MWOs they provide backup service for the Caribbean Region. The goal is to increase SIGMET availability, accuracy and overall consistency throughout the region. Work is beginning with several offices, notably Cuba and Mexico.

2.4 Attachment A links to a Power Point that provides usage information for NWSChat for external customers.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information in this paper and in **Appendix**.

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NWSChat

A Collaborative Tool

Jamie Kibler – Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center Manager

NWSChat – A Collaborative Tool

- ▶ *What is NWSCHAT:*
 - ▶ A communication tool that provides a modern and reliable way for the National Weather Service (NWS) and its many domestic and international partners to communicate with each other during weather, water, volcanic and climate events.
- ▶ *How can NWSCHAT help your organization during volcanic ash events or other weather related events:*
 - ▶ NWSChat 2.0 connects forecasters and domestic and international partners in real time during extreme weather to support the highest level of collaboration and communication.

NWSChat Interface Registration

- ▶ **The link to register** - <https://partnerservices.nws.noaa.gov/registration/>
- ▶ **Training Options:** Once approved and logged into Slack, you can access training materials via your browser or the Slack app. Please review the NWSChat 2.0 partner video series and FAQs, which are pinned/bookmarked in the #help-slack-partners channel.

NWSChat – A Collaborative Tool

Benefits of NWSChat

- The exchange of volcanic ash information between Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC), Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) and State Volcano Observatory (SVO) and other users is crucial in volcanic ash and aviation operations.
- The ability to provide updated information and provide to users quickly.
- Volcanic Ash Advisories automatically inserted into washingtonvaac_mwo_svo channel and other channels for easy access to latest volcanic ash information.
- Continued collaboration during very active events – 24/7/365.

NWSChat- A Collaborative Tool

Things to know about NWSChat

- Pictures and graphics can be automatically added to the channel.
- Links can be added and will open up in other tabs. They can also be pinned to the top of the channel for future use.
- The ability to have conference calls using the “Huddle” feature
- Each individual must have their own NWSChat account. No group accounts and all must be approved by NWSChat Admin
- Login must be performed every 180 days or account will be deactivated and eventually deleted.
- History of conversations are in each channel and can be seen and used as needed.

NWSChat Interface

Training and
Help
guidelines

The screenshot displays the NWSChat interface. On the left is a dark purple sidebar with navigation options: Home, DMs, Activity, Files, and More. Below these are icons for Training and Help guidelines, and a list of channels including #help-slack-partners, #admins-all, #announcements-all, #aviation-weather-center, #cvo-volcano-coordination, #feedback, #nesdis-nws-volcano-chat, #nhc-jtwc-satellite-collaboration, #nws-senior-duty-meteorologist, #nws-significant-event, #state-hi-volcano-coordination, #vaac_collaboration (highlighted), #washingtonvaac_mwo_svo, #welcome NWSChat 2.0, #welcome NWS Internal, #wfo-balt-wash-dc, #wfo-honolulu-hi, and an Add channels button. At the bottom of the sidebar is a Direct messages section. The main chat area on the right is titled 'vaac_collaboration' and shows a list of messages from the National Weather Service [WxBot] and a user named Paul Lee. A red arrow points to the '86' participant count in the top right corner of the chat area. At the bottom of the chat area is a text input field with a rich text editor toolbar and a 'Send' button.

Participants

Chat box for
communication

Different Channels
including
"washvaac_mwo_svo"

Channel and Pinned
Links/Websites/Bookmarks

NWSChat Interface

The screenshot displays the NWSChat interface. On the left is a sidebar with a purple header 'National Weather Servi...' and a list of channels including #help-slack-partners, #admins-all, #announcements-all, #aviation-weather-center, #cvo-volcano-coordination, #feedback, #nesdis-nws-volcano-chat, #nhc-jtwc-satellite-collaboration, #nws-senior-duty-meteorologist, #nws-significant-event, #state-hi-volcano-coordination, #vaac_collaboration, #washingtonvaac_mwo_svo, #welcome NWSChat 2.0, #welcome NWS Internal, #wfo-balt-wash-dc, #wfo-honolulu-hi, and an 'Add channels' button. The main chat area has a purple header 'washingtonvaac_mwo_svo' and a list of messages. The messages include: a message from AV - Instituto Geofisico - Edwin Teran at 7:01 PM with a link to a VONA link; a message from NESDIS - Washington VAAC - Boris Konon at 8:39 PM stating 'Boris at Washington VAAC until 1030z.'; a message from AV - Instituto Geofisico - Edwin Teran at 9:00 PM with a link to a VONA link; a message from National Weather Service [WxBot] at 9:13 PM with a link to a WMO product; a message from National Weather Service [WxBot] at 9:22 PM with a link to a WMO product; and a message from National Weather Service [WxBot] at 9:38 PM with a link to a WMO product. A red arrow points from the top left text to the sidebar, and another red arrow points from the top center text to the chat header. A third red arrow points from the right text to the 'Show' button in the chat area.

National Weather Servi...

help-slack-partners

admins-all

announcements-all

aviation-weather-center

cvo-volcano-coordination

feedback

nesdis-nws-volcano-chat

nhc-jtwc-satellite-collaboration

nws-senior-duty-meteorologist

nws-significant-event

state-hi-volcano-coordination

vaac_collaboration

washingtonvaac_mwo_svo

welcome NWSChat 2.0

welcome NWS Internal

wfo-balt-wash-dc

wfo-honolulu-hi

Add channels

Direct messages

washingtonvaac_mwo_svo

Messages Files Bookmarks +

AV - Instituto Geofisico - Edwin Teran 7:01 PM

Hello Joe, I send you the VONA's link fo Sangay.Link informe: <https://servicios.igepn.edu.ec/url/NzQ2NQ==>

1 reply 2 months ago

NESDIS - Washington VAAC - Boris Konon 8:39 PM

Boris at Washington VAAC until 1030z.

AV - Instituto Geofisico - Edwin Teran 9:00 PM

Hello Boris, I send you the VONA's link fo El Reventador. Link informe: <https://servicios.igepn.edu.ec/url/NzQ2Ng==>

National Weather Service [WxBot] APP 9:13 PM

Issue WMO product [FVXX20](#)

Show

National Weather Service [WxBot] APP 9:22 PM

Issue WMO product [FVXX23](#)

Show

National Weather Service [WxBot] APP 9:38 PM

Issue WMO product [FVXX21](#)

Show

B I U | | | | | | | | | |

Message @washingtonvaac_mwo_svo

+ Aa @ | | | | |

Past
conversations

Collaboration on
Reventador
volcano in
Ecuador with the
Geophysical
Institute