

## **William Aydlett**

Senior Meteorologist, NOAA National Weather Service

### NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

#### Maintaining Vital Relationships between the NWS and Emergency Managers Via Collaborative Exercises

Collaborative training and exercises have been a hallmark of the relationship between the National Weather Service (NWS) and regional and local emergency management offices. Since 2020, Covid-19 has posed wide-ranging challenges in these activities. Additionally, the forecaster staffing of the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Guam has undergone significant changes with the addition of five new forecasters.

While forecaster training heavily emphasizes regional weather, climatology, and hazards, training would be incomplete without trainees also engaging with emergency managers (EMs) and learning of their needs and weather concerns.

A new approach to tropical cyclone (TC) training at WFO Guam in 2021 and briefings on new probabilistic TC forecast graphics in 2022 have led to new opportunities for forecasters and EMs to interact to discuss operational needs and decision points. For the exercise, forecasters were tasked with generating TC watches and warnings for the Marianas based on a sample TC in its final approach to the islands. Forecasters then briefed the threats, impacts, and timing to EMs followed by a Q & A session. Through these Q &

A sessions, forecasters learned what EMs really look for and desire in weather briefings. Additionally, new forecasters, approaching the task with little prior experience, produced creative graphics portraying the timing of impacts with widespread approval from EMs.

Early in 2022, WFO Guam briefed EMs across the Marianas on the eventual usage of probabilistic TC graphics (similar to those used by the National Hurricane Center). These graphics, currently experimental, being produced by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu, and quite different from WFO Guam's Hurrevac-produced forecast graphics, will eventually become more commonplace in WFO Guam's TC operations. Additional coordination will ensure the successful understanding, and use, of these TC graphics, better equipping our communities to prepare for TCs.

**Presentation Theme:** Inter-office training is paramount in sharpening skills and building trust and relationships among interagency partners.

Collaborative tropical cyclone training exercises between NWS Guam and the Guam Homeland Security Office builds upon those relationships and ensures flawless performance of duties when natural hazards threaten the island.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** NWS Guam and Guam Homeland Security / Office of Civil Defense.