

# Patuxent River Navy Flying Club



## **READING THE KNHK TAF**

**PRNFC**

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# TAFs at Military Bases

When you look at the Terminal Area Forecast (TAF) for Pax, you probably noticed a different format from what you see at civilian airports. Specifically, The NWS does not forecast the following Elements/Groups:

- Variable Winds
- Partial Obscurations
- Altimeter Group
- Icing Group (**6** prefix)
- Turbulence Group (**5** prefix)
- Temperature Group

# How do I determine forecast icing conditions?

**KBLV 051153Z 0512/0612 14005KT 8000 BR FEW030 WS010/18040KT  
QNH2960INS**

**BECMG 0516/0517 29008KT 3200 -RA OVC030 620304 QNH2958INS  
T08/0518Z TM01/0611Z**

**If forecasted, the icing group will be prefixed by the number 6, and follows the cloud group. To decode, follow these instructions:**

1. Find the icing designator — “6” following the cloud group (620304).
2. The next digit gives icing type and intensity (620304). See next slide.
3. The next three digits give the base of the icing layer in hundreds of feet (620304).
4. The last digit provides the icing layer depth in thousands of feet (620304), so add this value to the base height to determine the top limit of the icing conditions.

**In the above example, the icing forecast will read, — light rime icing (in cloud) from 3,000 to 7,000 feet.**

# Icing Intensity Decode Table

<b>CODE</b>	<b>DECODE</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Trace Icing or None (see note)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Light Mixed Icing</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Light Rime Icing In Cloud</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Light Clear Icing In Precipitation</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Moderate Mixed Icing</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Moderate Rime Icing In Cloud</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Moderate Clear Icing In Precipitation</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Severe Mixed Icing</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Severe Rime Icing In Cloud</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Severe Clear Icing In Precipitation</b>

**Note: Air Force code — 0 means a trace of icing,  
World Meteorological Organization code — 0 means no icing**

# Turbulence Intensity Decode

<b>CODE</b>	<b>DECODE</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Light turbulence</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Moderate turbulence in clear air, occasional</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Moderate turbulence in clear air, frequent</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Moderate turbulence in cloud, occasional</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Moderate turbulence in cloud, frequent</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Severe turbulence in clear air, occasional</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Severe turbulence in clear air, frequent</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Severe turbulence in cloud, occasional</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Severe turbulence in cloud, frequent</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Extreme turbulence</b>

**Note: Occasional is defined as occurring less than 1/3 of the time**

Phenomenon Qualifiers		
Element 1: Intensity	Element 2: Proximity	Element 3: Description
- Light	<b>none</b> On station	<b>BC</b> Patches
<b>none</b> Moderate	<b>VC</b> In the vicinity (5-10 miles)	<b>BL</b> Blowing
	<b>DSNT</b> > 10 miles	
+ Heavy		<b>DR</b> Low Drifting
<i>Note: + can also mean a well-developed dust storm, sandstorm, whirl, dust devil, tornado, or waterspout</i>		<b>FZ</b> Freezing
		<b>MI</b> Shallow
		<b>PR</b> Partial (covering part of the sky)
		<b>SH</b> Shower(s)
		<b>TS</b> Thunderstorm

Types of Weather Phenomenon		
Element 4: Precipitation	Element 5: Obscuration	Element 6: Other
<b>DZ</b> Drizzle	<b>BR</b> Mist, vis. $\geq 5/8$ SM (or $\geq 1000$ m)	<b>DS</b> Dust Storm
<b>GR</b> Hail, diam. $\geq 5$ mm (.25")		<b>FC</b> Funnel cloud(s) e.g., tornado or waterspout
<b>GS</b> Small Hail / Snow Pellets, diam. $< 5$ mm (.25")	<b>DU</b> Widespread Dust	<b>PO</b> Well-developed dust/sand whirls
<b>IC</b> Ice Crystals	<b>FG</b> Fog, vis. $< 5/8$ SM (or $\geq 1000$ m)	
<b>PL</b> Ice Pellets	<b>FU</b> Smoke	<b>SQ</b> Squalls
<b>RA</b> Rain	<b>HZ</b> Haze	<b>SS</b> Sandstorm
<b>SG</b> Snow Grains	<b>PY</b> Spray	
<b>SN</b> Snow	<b>SA</b> Sand	
<b>UP</b> Unknown Precipitation (Automated only)	<b>VA</b> Volcanic Ash	

# Can you read this?

8 DEC 2017 KNHK TAF

**Forecast (unofficial) TAF KNHK 0815/0915 06007KT 9999  
SCT070 OVC100 651009 651902 540609 541506 QNH3000INS  
BECMG 0818/0820 VRB06KT 8000 -RAPLSN FEW030 BKN050  
OVC070 650509 651407 540609 541506 QNH2996INS  
FM082200 VRB06KT 2400 -SN FEW015 SCT030 OVC050  
650509 651506 540609 541506 QNH2995INS FM090000  
VRB04KT 1600 -SN BKN004 OVC010 650109 651009 651902  
540609 541506 QNH2987INS TEMPO 0902/0906 4800 -PL  
OVC004 TEMPO 0906/0910 2400 PLSN OVC004 FM091000  
01010G15KT 0800 SN VV004 690109 651009 550605 581109  
552009 QNH2985INS TEMPO 0910/0915 0600 +SN VV002  
T05/0818Z T01/0911Z FN20066**

# EXTRA CREDIT

## Why is mist “BR”?

- It comes from the French word *brume*, meaning “mist”