

Military meteorology

Meteorologists study the atmosphere which surrounds the earth. They are engaged in both the basic research to expand knowledge of the earth's atmosphere and in its practical application to agriculture, the environment, transportation, communication, health, and national defence.

Military meteorology is meteorology applied to military purposes, by armed forces or other agencies. It is one of the most common fields of employment for meteorologists.

World War II brought great advances in meteorology as large-scale military land, sea, and air campaigns were highly dependent on weather, particularly forecasts provided by the Royal Navy, Met Office and USAAF for the Normandy landing and strategic bombing.

University meteorology departments grew rapidly as the military services sent cadets to be trained as weather officers. Wartime technological developments such as radar also proved to be valuable meteorological observing systems. More recently, the use of satellites in space has contributed extensively to military meteorology. Military meteorologists currently operate with a wide variety of military units, from aircraft carriers to special forces.

For example, if the United States sends troops to fight somewhere, their fate and fighting tactics may depend on a tiny, usually forgotten band of heroes: military meteorologists.

One of the tools military forecasters use is a mobile weather station, which resembles a camera tripod but is larger. It measures temperature, wind speed and direction, cloud height and precipitation. This tactical weather station is the same piece of equipment used by the troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. It is a crucial piece of equipment that helps the troops in the heat of battle.

The vicissitudes of heat, humidity and wind have decided many grand military campaigns.

Based on:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_meteorology

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/TARGETING-TERRORISM-Military-Meteorologists-2872417.php#ixzz25O70s9oy>

<http://www.kvue.com/news/Military-meteorologists-help-forecast-battles-110726384.html>

<http://www.michigan.gov/careers/0,1607,7-170-46398-64467--,00.html>