

# [American Samoa] PRESENTATION

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[NOAA National Weather Service Pacific Region]

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**Weather and Climate Services for Sustainable Development in the Pacific Region**



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# 1. Background Information

- The NOAA Weather Service operates a Weather Service Office (WSO) in American Samoa, located at the Pago Pago International Airport.
- It is currently staffed with a Meteorologist-in-Charge, 3 Meteorologists/Forecasters, 3 Meteorological Technicians, a Meteorologist Intern, an Electronics Technician, and is carrying 2 vacant Met Tech positions that will soon be advertised to fill.
- Two students from American Samoa are currently enrolled in Meteorology undergraduate program at the University of Hawaii.



: L-R: Sam Puleasi, Carol Baqui, Congresswoman Aumua Amata, Elinor Lutu-McMoore, Tauave Galuvao, Roy Laulusa, Joe. Missing: Akapo Akapo, Hans Malala, Imoasina Solomona-Tilo, and Jane Taifane



## 2. Progress and achievements of the NMSs from 2013 and possibly relating them to the 14 Pacific Key Outcomes of PIMS

- Maintains a network of automatic (non-aviation) weather stations in American Samoa and Samoa.
- Partners with the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security in conducting numerous outreach and education campaigns with Territorial agencies, village officials, schools and other organizations.
- Conducted a very successful first ever Rip Current Awareness Week in 2014, and is working with the Ports Administration to provide increased outreach and interaction with the marine community and recreational ocean users.

## 2. Progress and achievements of the NMSs from 2013 and possibly relating them to the 14 Pacific Key Outcomes of PIMS

- WSO Pago Pago operates the only radiosonde observation in the Samoa islands region, supported by a hydrogen generator, and has a backup power generator.
- WSO Pago takes a manual aviation observation for Pago Pago International Airport, but the American Samoa Ports Administration's Automated Weather Station III-P has been repaired and the ASPA will be taking over augmentation and backup on September 1st. The FAA is procuring a more modernized AWOS system to be installed in late 2016.
- WSO Pago Pago issues an Area Synoptic Discussion one per day, as well issuing public and coastal marine forecasts 4 times per day.

### 3. Proposed activities to be carried out over the next 2 years

- Have a fully staffed office, with an additional meteorologist/forecaster on station.
- Upgraded to 1Mb/sec Internet connectivity to the NWS Cloud, which will allow a AWIPS-2 workstations to be installed, with an increased access to meteorological data to produce better products.
- Upgrade and increase automatic telemetered rain stations in American Samoa.
- Re-establish the Hotline between American Samoa and Samoa.
- Improve backup communications with the Samoa Meteorological Service and with the village officials in Manua and Swains Islands.

## 4. Gaps and Future Needs of the NMS

- Increase observations from ships transiting the coastal and offshore waters.
- Obtain/Deploy lightning detection systems for better resolution of thunderstorms.
- Work with other agencies to increase seismic data in the Territory.



## 4. National Activities Undertaken to Respond to the Current El Niño

- Hosted El Nino Briefings for the local stakeholders and users.
- Hosted the bi-annual Two Samoas Post Season Tropical Cyclone and Tsunami Coordination Meeting in late April, 2015, which included briefings on El Nino.
- Conduct an American Samoa Tsunami Exercise in September, 2015.