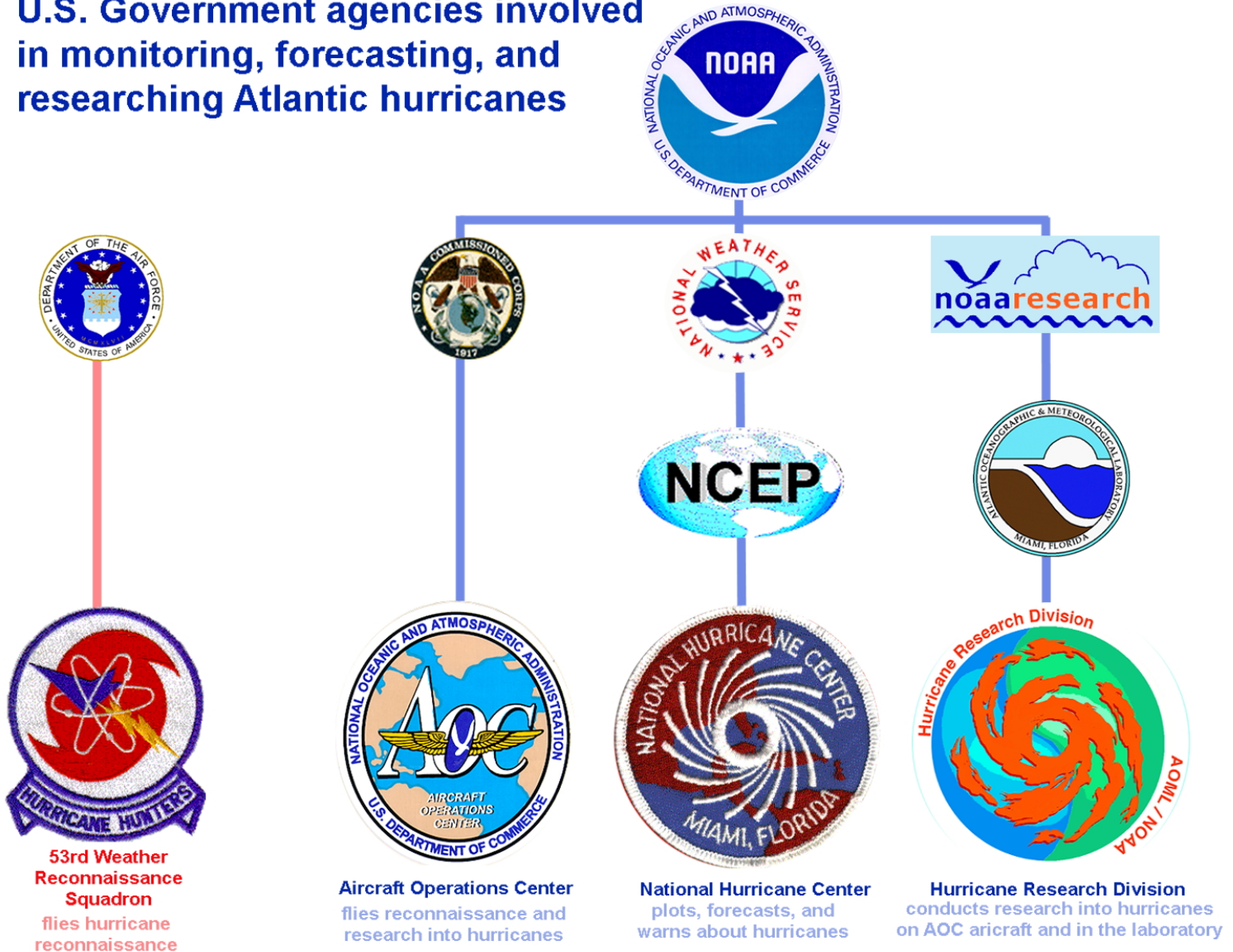


U.S. Government agencies involved in monitoring, forecasting, and researching Atlantic hurricanes



53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron
flies hurricane reconnaissance

Aircraft Operations Center
flies reconnaissance and research into hurricanes

National Hurricane Center
plots, forecasts, and warns about hurricanes

Hurricane Research Division
conducts research into hurricanes on AOC aircraft and in the laboratory

U.S. Government agencies involved in monitoring, forecasting, and researching Atlantic hurricanes:

There are several agencies within the Federal Government whose duty it is to either monitor, forecast, or research Atlantic hurricanes. This can often appear as a confusing jumble of acronyms to members of the public and press. Below is an explanation of who does what as a part of the Government's endeavors. Keep in mind that these agencies also work with local and state agencies, the media, and private institutions as part of a team effort to keep the public informed and safe.

Within the U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

- **The National Hurricane Center (NHC)**

Housed on the Florida International University campus in western Miami-Dade County, **NHC** is part of the National Weather Service's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (**NCEP**). **NHC** is responsible for tracking dangerous tropical weather systems, forecasting their movement and strengthening, and issuing warnings for those in danger. The computer models used by **NHC** are run by **NCEP** or other governmental or academic institutions.

For further information contact Dennis Feltgen (305) 229-4404

www.nhc.noaa.gov

- **The Aircraft Operations Center (AOC)**

Based at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, FL, **AOC** is part of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (**NMAO**). **AOC** maintains and operates two Orion P-3 aircraft and one G-IV high altitude jet to carry out both reconnaissance and research flights into tropical systems. These planes are heavily instrumented with radars and other probes in order to record data for later scientific analysis, as well as transmitting the information to **NHC** via satellite for operations.

For further information contact David Hall (301) 713-7671

www.aoc.noaa.gov

- **The Hurricane Research Division (HRD) of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML)**

Located on Virginia Key, FL, **HRD/AOML** is part of NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (**OAR**) section. **HRD/AOML** carries out scientific analysis of tropical cyclones, including field research flights aboard **AOC** aircraft, data assimilation and computer simulation studies.

For further information contact Monica Allen (301) 734-1123

www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd

Within the U.S. Department of Defense:

- **The Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (WRS)**

Based at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, **the 53rd** operates a fleet of over ten C-130 aircraft modified to record meteorological information and transmit that data in real time to **NHC** via satellite. **The 53rd** carries out the bulk of hurricane reconnaissance often flying into forming tropical systems and carrying out around-the-clock surveillance of tropical storms and hurricanes.

For further information contact 403rd Wing PAO (228)337-2056

www.hurricanehunters.com