



# NOAA Emerging Technologies Workshop

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NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP)  
College Park, Maryland

## OSC Co-Chair & Workshop Co-Chair



### **Thomas J. Cuff**

**Director, Office of Observations  
National Weather Service**

*National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration*

Tom Cuff is the Director, Office of Observations, for NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS). Cuff is responsible for the collection of space, weather, water, and climate observational data owned or leveraged by NWS, to support predictions and impact-based decision support services for the nation. Focal points for these activities include the National Data Buoy Center, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi; the Radar Operations Center in Norman, Oklahoma; and the Surface and Upper Air Division, NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, Maryland.

From December 2015 through March 2019, Cuff served as the Director for NOAA's Ocean Prediction Center, NWS, in College Park, Maryland. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing weather forecasts and hazardous marine warnings for much of the north Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, meeting U.S. responsibilities under the World Meteorological Organization and international Safety of Life at Sea conventions. During this period, Cuff and his leadership team led a reinvigoration of maritime weather services in NWS by improving forecast services to core partners and the maritime community and initiating plans to more tightly integrate wind, wave, and sea ice forecasts in the high latitudes.

Prior to joining NWS, Cuff had a naval career that spanned over 30 years, as a naval officer and, for 22 of those years, a civilian employee. He served as Technical Director for the Naval Oceanographic Office, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, from July 2009 through November 2015. As the senior civilian advisor for the Navy's largest operational oceanography center, Cuff was responsible for providing tailored support to naval and defense forces around the

world, and his span of management responsibilities included the world's foremost operational oceanographic modeling center, technical control for 5 Navy oceanographic survey ships deployed globally, and strategies for ocean observations.

From 2002 to 2009, Cuff served in Singapore as the Director, Far East Regional Office, for the Naval Oceanographic Office. In this role, he developed cooperative oceanography programs in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, including a multi-year survey program with the Philippines, and, following the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004, hydrographic surveys along the northern Sumatra coast in support of humanitarian relief. He also represented the U.S. on 3 regional commissions of the International Hydrographic Organization.

Other positions Cuff held from 1994 to 2002, in the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, Washington, DC, include Deputy Technical Director and Deputy Director for International and Interagency Policy.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Cuff holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Oceanography, and a Master of Science Degree in Meteorology from the University of Maryland. He has received four Navy Superior Civilian Service Awards for his work, and he is a retired Captain, U.S. Navy Reserves.