Roles and Responsibilities in Weather Decision Making: The Dispatcher’s Perspective
As stated in the FARs, the aircraft dispatcher and pilot in command are jointly responsible for planning around and avoiding known or forecasted weather phenomena that may affect the safety of flight.
Overview

• Operational Responsibility
• Strategic Planning Team (SPT)
Operational Responsibility

• Shared by:
  – Pilots
  – ATC
  – Dispatchers

Air Safety “PAD”
Operational Responsibility

- Primary responsibility is: **Safety**
- Accomplished using:
  - Efficient Operational Procedures
  - Enhanced Communication
  - Built-in Redundancies
  - Constant Information Exchange
Operational Responsibility

- Air Carriers maintain safe operational control by pilot and dispatcher joint responsibility (FAR 121.533 & 121.535)
  - Dispatcher responsible for pre-flight planning
  - Dispatcher & Pilot sign Flight Release
  - Dispatcher maintains in-flight responsibilities

Shared Responsibility
Pre-Flight Planning
• Flight Plan Calculation includes:
  – Weather Avoidance
  – Flight Routing
  – Fuel Computation
  – Cancellation / Delay Decisions
  – Aircraft Performance
  – Aircraft Selection
Operational Responsibility

• Flight Plan Calculation (continued)
  – Destination Specifications & Alternate Airport
  – Inoperative Aircraft Items
  – Government Regulations
  – Company Policies
  – Business Objectives

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Operational Responsibility

In-flight Responsibilities:
- Weather updates and flight plan re-analysis
- Mechanical Irregularities
- Medical Emergencies
- Aircraft Emergencies
- Monitor Flight Progress
- Provide information updates and re-dispatch
COLLECTIVE MANDATE:
(FAA & Airlines)

- Establish a process to develop collaborative solutions which govern air traffic operations during severe weather and/or heavy traffic events to:
  - Maximize airspace and minimize delays
  - Allow users to operate within their own capabilities and economic objectives
  - Exchange information to build collaborative solutions to constraint problems
AIRLINE MANDATE:

- Implement a formal process to enhance collaboration within the airline, and between FAA and other users.
- Develop a team of specialists to closely work with the FAA to better manage system traffic flows during constraining events
  - The team of specialists is the airline’s Strategic Planning Team (SPT)
  - The SPT’s mission is to make strategic decisions which meet the operating goals of the airline
OBJECTIVES OF THE AIRLINE’S SPT:

• Create a daily strategic plan of operations based on known or forecasted events two to six hours in the future which will allow the airline to safely and reliably achieve its operating goals

• Collaborate with the Air Traffic Control System Command Center

• Provide analysis to critique and improve current procedures
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Strategic Planning Team (SPT)

- Strategic Functionality:
  - Preflight Weather Avoidance Planning

Strategic Functionality:
- Preflight Weather Avoidance Planning

SPT Collaborative Route
 Preferred Route
Tactical Functionality:

- En Route Weather Avoidance
Conclusion

• Airline Operations Centers, Flight Dispatch, and the SPT process enhances the safety and operational effectiveness of air carrier flight operations.

• Collaboration is essential to manage air traffic in the saturated NAS.

• Commitment to continuous improvement and joint training to develop collaborative solutions to NAS constraint issues.
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