

Britt Max Mayfield
Director, NOAA's Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center
National Centers for Environmental Prediction
NOAA's National Weather Service

Under Mr. Max Mayfield's tenure as Director of TPC/NHC, official tropical cyclone track forecasts have been steadily improving. TPC/NHC established new Atlantic track forecast records at every forecast period from 12-120 hours in 2003; set a record for the best Atlantic intensity forecasts (on average) in 15 years at every period from 12-72 hours, except at 72 hours (second best); met its 2003 Atlantic 48-hour track forecast GPRA goal (goal=130 nmi, actual=107 nmi); and based on preliminary statistics met its GPRA goal for each of the four strong U.S. landfalling hurricanes in 2004. Under Mr. Mayfield's leadership, the TPC/NHC successfully extended operational tropical cyclone forecasts in 2003 from three days to five days giving people more time to prepare; created the Joint Hurricane Testbed to accelerate the transition of research results into improved operational products; strengthened the organization commitment to the highly successful Hurricane Liaison Team which is a partnership between FEMA and NWS – a model for partnerships within the government - to ensure that emergency management needs are met during hurricane landfalls; and led the development of a regional Hurricane Operational Plan approved by 24 World Meteorological Organization member countries which ensures coordination and a consistent message within the region. Mr. Mayfield's tireless outreach efforts have been a major contribution to ensuring the best possible results during hurricane events.