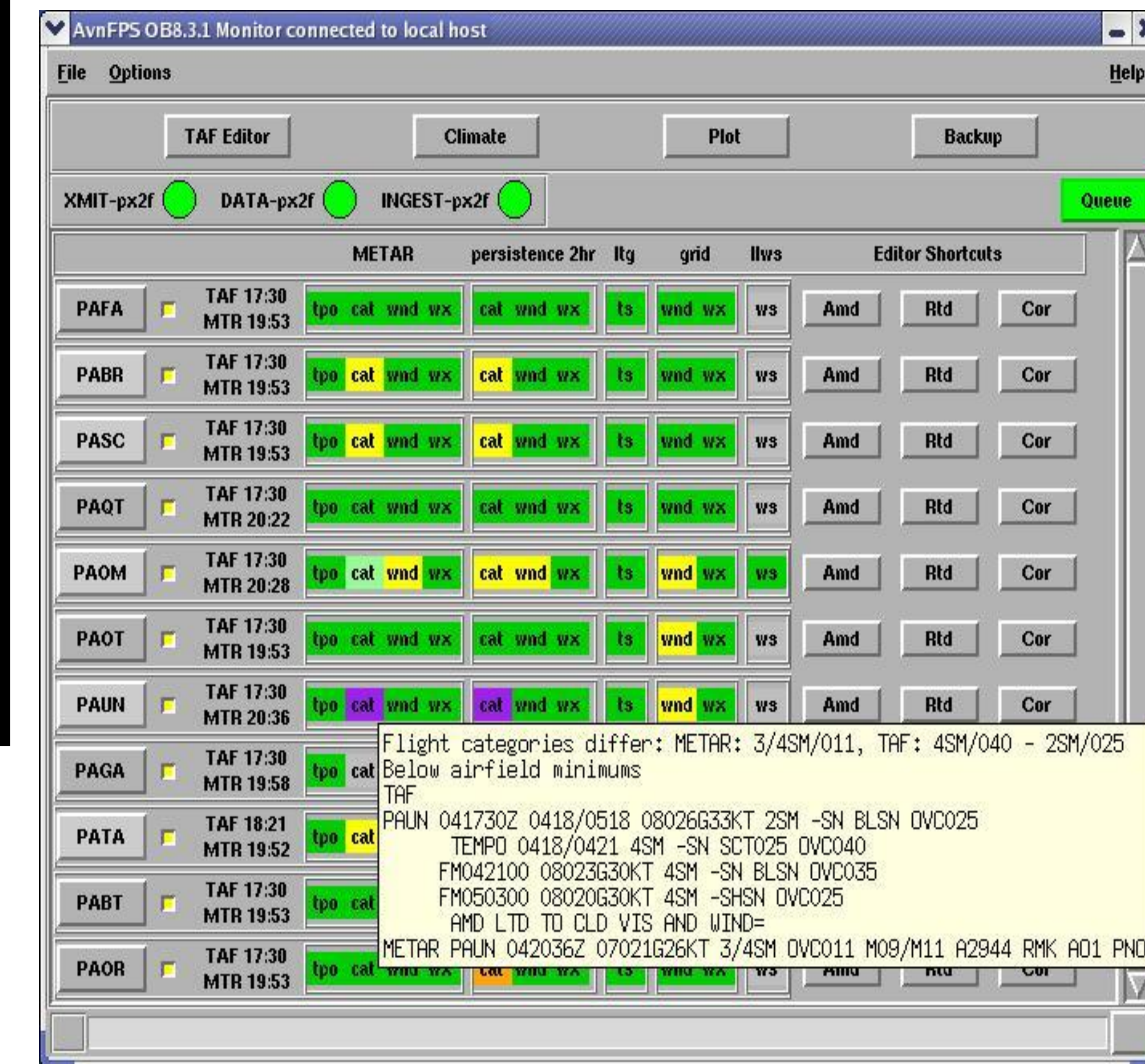


SITE SPECIFIC TAF AMENDMENT CRITERIA (SSTAC)



Brad Sipperley, National Weather Service, Fairbanks, AK
 Aaron Tyburski, Cyndie Abelman, Cammye Simms

SSTAC notifications in AvnFPS



SSTAC Employs 3 Important Concepts

- Tailors Ceiling and Visibility to meet specific airport requirements
- Groups Ceiling and Visibility together into categories to match FAA Regulations
- Checks TEMPO groups immediately against Metars to alert forecasters of resulting customer impacts

Impacts of Standard Amendment Criteria

- Non-standard airfield minimums ignored
- Amendments are issued for elements which may have no operational impact on the affected airport
- Forecasters time is diverted from sites needing attention
- In addition...TEMPO groups may restrict operations, resulting in flight delays and impact the National Airspace System

SSTAC Amendment Criteria

Alternate Definition for TAF Amendment Ceiling and Visibility Criteria

Forecast Element/Occurrence	TAF Ceiling and Visibility Amendment Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling or Visibility observed to decrease to less than, or if below, when both elements increase to equal or exceed • See notes for specific details 	Category	Limits
	A (note 2)	<200' – 1/2SM
	B (note 3)	<600' – 2SM
	C	<1000' – 3SM
	D	<2000' – 5SM
	E	See note 4 and 5
F	See note 6	
Notes: 1. Forecast category is determined by the lowest ceiling or visibility value 2. Substitutes the lowest published airfield minimums for ceiling/visibility category A where higher minimums apply 3. Substitute category B precision approach minimums at airfield served only by a non-precision approach with 800' and 2SM	Notes: 3. Use higher minimums based on special requirements of the airport 4. Amendments required for ceiling < 2000' with visibility > 3SM 5. Amendments for 1SM at airfields with visibility minimums of 1/2SM 6. Higher limits locally determined by airfield traffic management or airport requirements	

Benefits of Using SSTAC

- Better customer service
 - Amendments issued based on criteria tailored to each specific airport
 - Regulatory needs of the flying community addressed
 - Quicker reaction to out of category TEMPO groups
- Forecasters time is maximized
 - Focused on sites needing attention
 - Only valid amendments issued resulting in fewer amendments

Customer Feedback

- ✓ Matching your criteria to values that have an operational impact on pilots has helped us better anticipate when a change will occur that is meaningful to us.
- ✓ TAF amendments are more responsive now than in the past, as a result, flight delays have been reduced.