

Dr. Michael R. “Mike” Farrar

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Dr. Mike Farrar is the Director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). In addition, he is also the current President of the American Meteorological Society, the primary U.S. professional society for meteorology. As NCEP Director, he oversees nine National Weather Service (NWS) national centers with 750+ staff and \$210+ million annual budget for environmental prediction operations. Altogether these 9 NCEP centers provide the core of NWS' mission to protect life and property for the nation: Aviation Weather Center, Climate Prediction Center, Environmental Modeling Center, National Hurricane Center, Ocean Prediction Center, Space Weather Prediction Center, Storm Prediction Center, Weather Prediction Center, and NCEP Central Operations.

Just prior to his current position, Dr. Farrar served as Chief Scientist for U.S. Air Force (USAF) Weather at the Pentagon where he functioned as the primary science adviser to the USAF Director of Weather, and coordinated science and technology activities related to weather operations with Department of Defense (DoD) stakeholders and with US interagency and international partners. Before that, he served as the Senior VP and Chief Operating Officer of the University Corporation of Atmospheric Research (UCAR), a nonprofit consortium of 115+ North American member universities focused on research and education in atmospheric and Earth system sciences, where he led strategic planning and business functions.

Prior to joining UCAR, Dr. Farrar served for five years in three NWS leadership roles. He began as Chief of the Program Management Branch of the NWS Office of Science and Technology, where he oversaw a wide portfolio of programs for critical NWS observation, dissemination, and processing systems. Then as Director of the Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL), he led a 75-person Lab that developed and enhanced critical applications, tools, techniques and products that enable NWS forecasters to perform their 24/7 weather forecast mission. He concluded his time in NWS as Director of the Environmental Modeling Center (EMC), where he led a 175-person Center that developed, transitioned and maintained 20+ environmental models that serve as fundamental forecast guidance for the NWS' 24/7 operational mission.

Prior to joining the NWS, Dr. Farrar spent two years as the Vice President of Strategic Development for Science and Technology Corporation (STC), a company focused on scientific and technical support services to federal government agencies, where he led business development and strategic planning for the company. He also served as Program Manager for contracts with NOAA's Earth System Research Lab (ESRL), Technology Planning and Integration for Observations (TPIO) office, National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), and the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM).

Prior to his time at STC, Dr. Farrar served more than 24 years with the USAF as a career meteorologist where he achieved the rank of Colonel and served in several leadership positions, to include operational weather forecasting, weather modeling and other scientific development, program management, systems acquisition, satellite processing, training, budgeting, strategic planning, policy, and external collaboration with other U.S. and international partners.

Dr. Farrar holds Doctorate and Master of Science degrees in meteorology from Florida State University, where his research focused on satellite-based microwave radiometry. He is a distinguished graduate from the Eisenhower School of the National Defense University, with a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from Purdue University.