#### TYPES OF WEATHER CHARTS

## **SURFACE WEATHER CHARTS:**

* includes: isobars (joins places of equal pressure), high and low pressure areas, air masses and fronts;
* shows **actual conditions** at a specific time;
* the pressure pattern is representative of the atmosphere up to 3000 feet; and
* issued 4 times daily at 6 hour intervals.

##### **UPPER LEVEL CHARTS:**

shows **actual** wind flow patterns and temperatures aloft at various altitudes at a specific time; and

measured twice a day at 0000 Zulu and 1200 Zulu.

###### **PROGNOSTIC CHARTS**

**(Graphic Forecasts)**

**PROGNOSTIC SURFACE CHARTS (PROG**):

* is a graphic **forecast;**
* shows expected surface weather at a specific time in the future; and
* issued 48 hours before they are valid and a second revised chart is issued 12 hours. later (36 hours before they are valid).

**UPPER LEVEL PROGNOSTIC CHART (PROG**):

* a graphic **forecast** of winds and temperatures aloft for a specific time;
* prepared for specific high level altitudes; and
* issued 4 times daily 12 hours before valid.

**SIGNIFICANT WEATHER PROGNOSTIC CHART (PROG):**

* shows **forecast** significant weather considered to be of concern to aircraft operations;
* issued four time daily 12 hours before they are valid;

**METAR - Meteorological Aviation Weather Report:**

* taken and issued on the hour, every hour, at weather stations around the world;
* an actual observation of current weather conditions taken by an accredited observer; and
* cloud heights are above ground.

**TAF - Terminal Aerodrome Forecast:**

* states in specific terms the expected weather conditions at a specific aerodrome;
* covers a radius of five nautical miles around the aerodrome;
* issued four times daily at six hour intervals;
* valid for up to 30 hours; and
* cloud heights are above ground.

#### FA - Area Forecast:

* general forecast conditions over a particular area;
* forecasts for various regions within the area;
* cloud heights above sea level unless noted;
* issued every six hours; and
* valid for 12 hours with a further 12 hour outlook

