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Contact: John Gordon, NWS Louisville  
(502) 969-8842 ext. 642  
Ted Funk, NWS Louisville  
(502) 969-8842 ext. 766

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TEAM WINS SILVER MEDAL FOR SNOW AND FLOOD FORECASTING**

A Silver Medal – one of the highest honors granted by the U.S. Department of Commerce – will be awarded to a team composed of members from several National Weather Service (NWS) offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

A Silver Medal honors “exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions that have a direct and lasting impact within the Department.”

Team members brought their expertise together to create exceptional predictions and warnings of the record setting Ohio Valley snow and flood events last December and January. The team consists of individuals from NOAA’s National Weather Service offices in Louisville and Paducah, Kentucky; Indianapolis and Syracuse, Indiana; and Wilmington and Cleveland, Ohio; as well as the Ohio River Forecast Center in Wilmington, Ohio and the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center in Washington, D.C.

The NWS forecast team was cited for “exemplary customer service, while enduring personal hardships before, during, and after the weather and water events of December 2004 and January 2005.”

“Dedicated, caring employees at several NWS offices demonstrated exemplary leadership and service in keeping the public well-informed before and throughout the record snowstorm, and the subsequent rains and flooding,” said Ted Funk, Science and Operations Officer at NWS Louisville, and Acting Meteorologist in Charge at the time. “Effective teamwork with our partners in the media and public officials helped us meet the high impact challenges at hand and protect life and property.”

Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Guitierrez will present the award to staff members from each of the National Weather Service offices, as part of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Awards ceremony on December 6, 2005 in Washington, D.C. Senior Forecasters Joseph Ammerman and Chris Smallcomb will be the recipients from the Louisville Weather Forecast Office.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events, and to providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources.