

## Rick Lumpkin - NOAA Federal

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**From:** Rick Lumpkin - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 12:25 PM  
**To:** Craig McLean - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** Re: Hurricane Dorian and Exceptional Service

Thank you, Craig. You exemplify leadership and make us proud to be in OAR.

Rick

On 9/9/19 12:55 AM, Craig McLean - NOAA Federal wrote:

> Dear Colleagues,

>

> The fierce storm we know as Hurricane Dorian has concluded its  
> ferocious path through the Bahamas and along the US East Coast. Many  
> of you have contributed to the excellent science that has underpinned  
> the forecasts and current understanding of storms such as this one,  
> which accelerated quite rapidly in intensity. The storm also  
> presented challenges in track which improved with enhanced  
> observations. We know that our collective work, from the scientists  
> in the aircraft penetrating the storm, to the scientists deploying the  
> glider picket line, to the modelers and folks working the physics of  
> the storms, across OAR and in our CI's, and across all NOAA Lines, we  
> are working the problem in order to give the NWS forecasters the best  
> tools we possibly can to keep America and our neighbors safe. Thank you.

>

> During the course of the storm, as I am sure you are aware, there were  
> routine and exceptional expert forecasts, the best possible, issued by  
> the NWS Forecasters. These are remarkable colleagues of ours, who  
> receive our products, use them well, and provide the benefit of their  
> own experience in announcing accurate forecasts accompanied by the  
> distinction of all credible scientists -- they sign their work. As  
> I'm sure you also know, there was a complex issue involving the  
> President commenting on the path of the hurricane. The NWS  
> Forecaster(s) corrected any public misunderstanding in an expert and  
> timely way, as they should. There followed, last Friday, an unsigned  
> press release from "NOAA" that inappropriately and incorrectly  
> contradicted the NWS forecaster. My understanding is that this  
> intervention to contradict the forecaster was not based on science but  
> on external factors including reputation and appearance, or simply  
> put, political. Our NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy and Code of  
> Scientific Conduct make clear that all NOAA employees shall approach  
> all scientific activities with honesty, objectively, and completely,  
> without allegiance to individuals, organizations, or ideology. The  
> content of this press release is very concerning as it compromises the  
> ability of NOAA to convey life-saving information necessary to avoid

> substantial and specific danger to public health and safety. If the  
> public cannot trust our information, or we debase our forecaster's  
> warnings and products, that specific danger arises.

>

> You know that the value of our science is in the complexity of our  
> understanding, our ability to convey that understanding to a wide  
> audience of users of this information, and to establish and sustain  
> the public trust in the truth and legitimacy of that information.  
> Unfortunately, the press release of last Friday violated this trust  
> and violated NOAA's policies of scientific integrity. In my role as  
> Assistant Administrator for Research, and as I continue to  
> administratively serve as Acting Chief Scientist, I am pursuing the  
> potential violations of our NOAA Administrative Order on Scientific  
> Integrity. Thankfully, we have such policies that are independently  
> cited as among the best in the federal community, if not the best.  
> Your NOAA and OAR management and leadership team believes in these  
> policies and principles. I have a responsibility to pursue these  
> truths. I will.

>

> Thank you for your continued excellent work, and your trust. Carry on.

>

> Craig

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> --

> Craig N. McLean

> Assistant Administrator

> Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

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