NOAA National Hurricane Center – Hurricane Specialists 1950s – 2020s

National Hurricane Center Locations

Lindsey Hopkins Building
Miami, Fla. 1949-57

Aviation Building
Miami, Fla. 1958-64

Univ. of Miami Computer Bldg.
Coral Gables, Fla. 1965-79

Gables One Tower
Coral Gables, Fla. 1979-95

Florida International University
West Miami-Dade, Fla. 1995 to present

Duties of the Hurricane Specialist Unit

(Unit was officially established in 1969 by NHC Director Dr. Robert Simpson)

- Maintain a continuous watch on tropical cyclones and areas of disturbed weather within the North Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins.
- Prepare and issue analyses and forecasts in the form of text advisories and graphical products.
- Issue coastal tropical cyclone watches and warnings for the United States and its Caribbean territories.
- Provide watch and warning recommendations to other World Meteorological Organization Region IV meteorological services.
- Conduct an extensive outreach and education program and train U.S. emergency managers and representatives from many other countries affected by tropical cyclones.
- Conduct and document post-storm analyses.
- Conduct applied research.

Hurricane Specialists collectively spanning seven decades 1960s-2020s

Ed Rappaport, Bob Sheets, James Franklin, Jack Beven, Lixion Avila, Miles Lawrence, Bob Case, Max Mayfield, Richard Pasch, Rick Knabb, Joe Pelissier and John Guiney, April 22, 2005

The 2020s

- Avila, Lixion (1989 - 2020)
- Beven, Jack (1999 - present)
- Berg, Robbie (2008 - present)
- Blake, Eric (2006 - present)
- Brown, Daniel (2006 - present)
- Cangialosi, John (2009 - present)
- Landsea, Chris (2005 - present)*
- Latto, Andrew (2018 - present)
- Pasch, Richard (1990 - present)
- Roberts, Dave (2003 - present)**
- Stewart, Stacy (2000 - present)
- Zachry, Brian (2019 - present)*
- Zelinsky, Dave (2017 - 2020)

* Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist

** Navy Hurricane Specialist

The 2020s

Richard Pasch

Stacy Stewart

Jack Beven

Lixion Avila

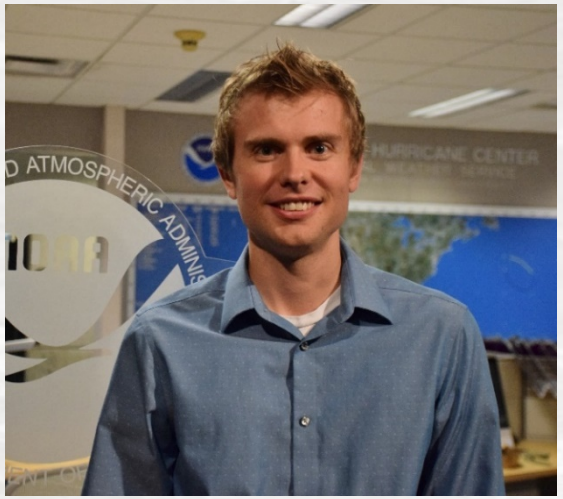
Daniel Brown

The 2020s

Eric Blake

Andrew Latto

John Cangialosi



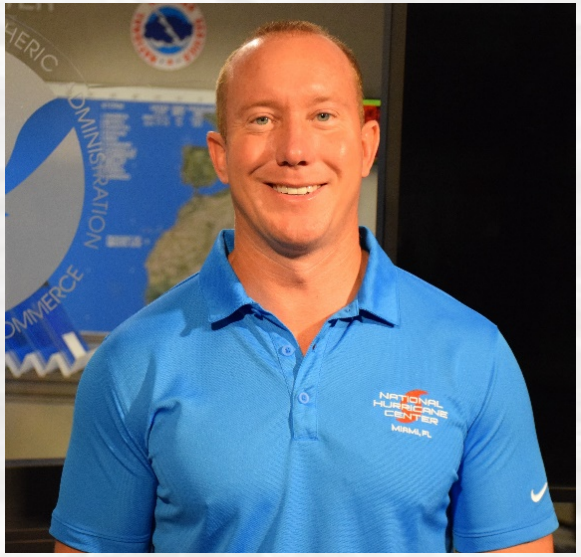
Dave Zelinsky

Robbie Berg

The 2020s

Chris Landsea

Dave Roberts



Brian Zachry

The 2010s

- Avila, Lixion (1989 - 2020)
- Beven, Jack (1999 - present)
- Berg, Robbie (2008 - present)
- Blake, Eric (2006 - present)
- Brown, Daniel (2006 - present)
- Brennan, Michael (2008 - 2017)
- Cangialosi, John (2009 - present)
- Franklin, James (1999 - 2008)
- Kimberlain, Todd (2008 - 2017)
- Landsea, Chris (2005 - present)*
- Latto, Andrew (2018 - present)
- Pasch, Richard (1990 - present)
- Roberts, Dave (2003 - present)**
- Stewart, Stacy (2000 - present)
- Zachry, Brian (2019 - present)*
- Zelinsky, Dave (2017 - 2020)

* Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist

** Navy Hurricane Specialist

The 2010s

Richard Pasch

Michael Brennan

Jack Beven

Lixion Avila

Daniel Brown

The 2010s

James Franklin

Stacy Stewart

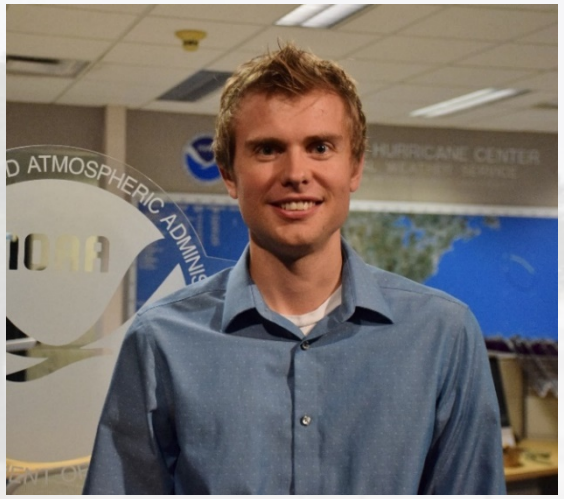
John Cangialosi

Eric Blake

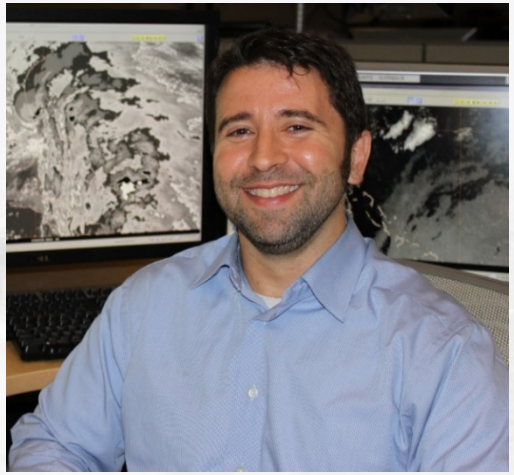
Robbie Berg

The 2010s

Andrew Latto



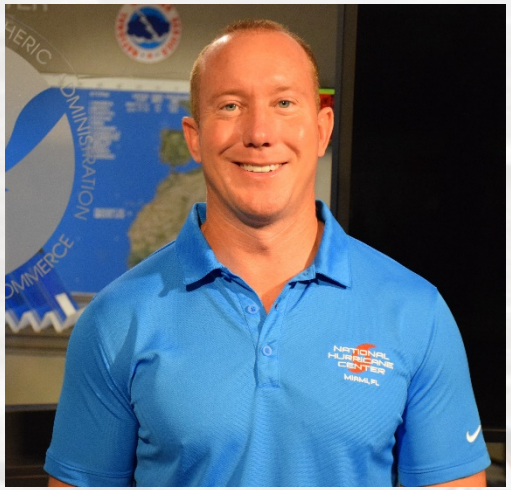
David Zelinsky



Todd Kimberlain

Chris Landsea

Dave Roberts



Brian Zachry

The 2010s

Robbie Berg, Dan Brown, Lixion Avila, Dave Roberts, John Cangialosi, Eric Blake, Todd Kimberlain, Richard Pasch, Mike Brennan, Jack Beven, Stacy Stewart, Chris Landsea, James Franklin (2013)

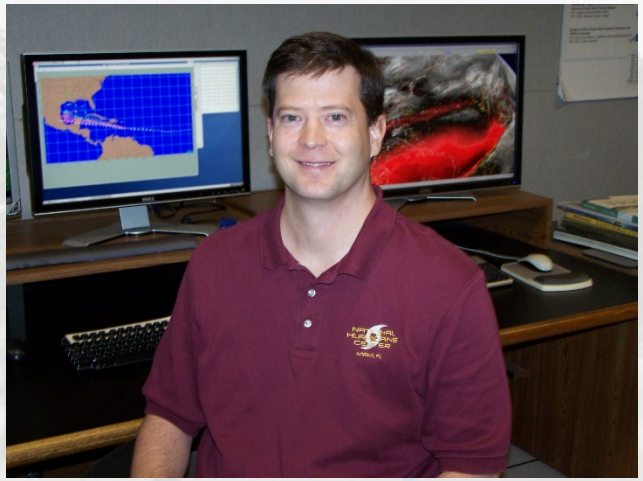
Dan Brown, Eric Blake, Robbie Berg, Dave Zelinsky, Jack Beven, John Cangialosi, Lixion Avila, Richard Pasch, Mike Brennan, Andy Latto, Stacy Stewart, Dave Roberts (2019)

The 2000s

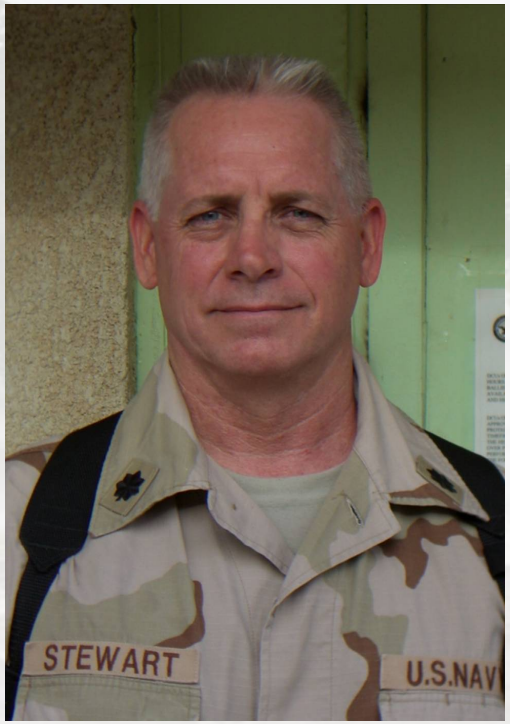
- Avila, Lixion (1989 - 2020)
- Beven, Jack (1999 - present)
- Berg, Robbie (2008 - present)
- Blake, Eric (2006 - present)
- Brennan, Michael (2008 - 2017)
- Brown, Daniel (2006 - present)
- Cangialosi, John (2009 - present)
- Franklin, James (1999 - 2008)
- Jarvinen, Brian (1996 - 2004)*
- Kimberlain, Todd (2008 - 2017)
- Knabb, Rick (2005 - 2008)
- Landsea, Chris (2005 - present) *
- Lawrence, Miles (1974 - 2005)
- Mainelli, Michelle (2006 - 2008)
- Pasch, Richard (1990 - present)
- Roberts, Dave (2003 - present)**
- Rhome, Jamie (2006 - 2008)
- Stewart, Stacy (2000 - present)

* Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist ** Navy Hurricane Specialist

The 2000s



Daniel Brown



Stacy Stewart

James Franklin

Eric Blake

Michelle Mainelli

The 2000s

Lixion Avila

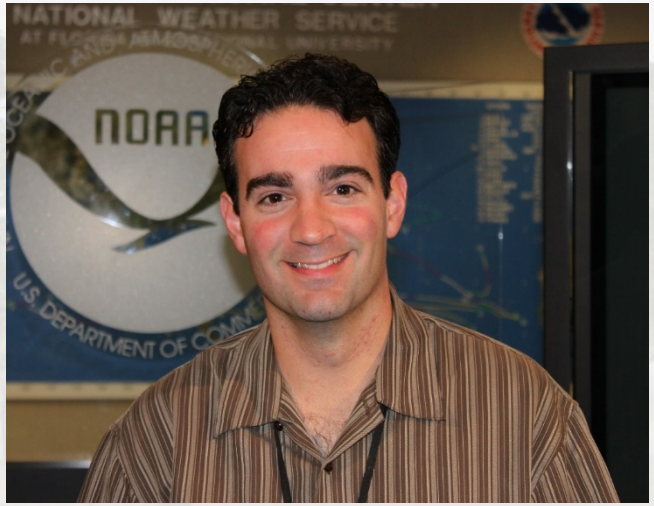
Richard Pasch

Jack Beven

Michael Brennan

Rick Knabb

The 2000s



John Cangialosi

Robbie Berg

Todd Kimberlain

Jamie Rhome

Chris Landsea

Brian Jarvinen

The 2000s

Dave Roberts, Max Mayfield, Billy Wagner and Lixion Avila

The 1990s

- Avila, Lixion (1989 - 2020)
- Beven, Jack (1999 - present)
- Case, Bob (1982 – 90)
- Clark, Gil (1956 - 90)
- DeMaria, Mark (1997 - 98)*
- Franklin, James (1999 - 2008)
- Gerrish, Hal (1983 - 92)
- Guiney, John (1997 - 99)
- Jarvinen, Brian (1996 - 2004)*
- Lawrence, Miles (1974 - 2005)
- Lyons, Steve (1995 - 97)*
- Mayfield, Max (1988 - 98)
- Pasch, Richard (1990 - present)
- Rappaport, Edward (1990 - 98)

* Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist

The 1990s

Hal Gerrish with Bob Sheets

Bob Case

Jerry Jarrell with Paul Hebert

The 1990s

John Guiney

Max Mayfield

Lixion Avila

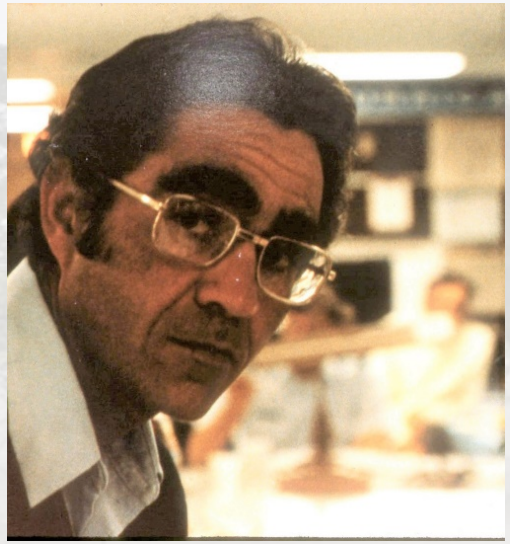
Richard Pasch

The 1990s

Ed Rappaport prepares the 5am advisory as the eye of Hurricane Andrew nears Miami, Fla.

Bob Case, Lixion Avila and Gil Clark

The 1990s



Miles Lawrence

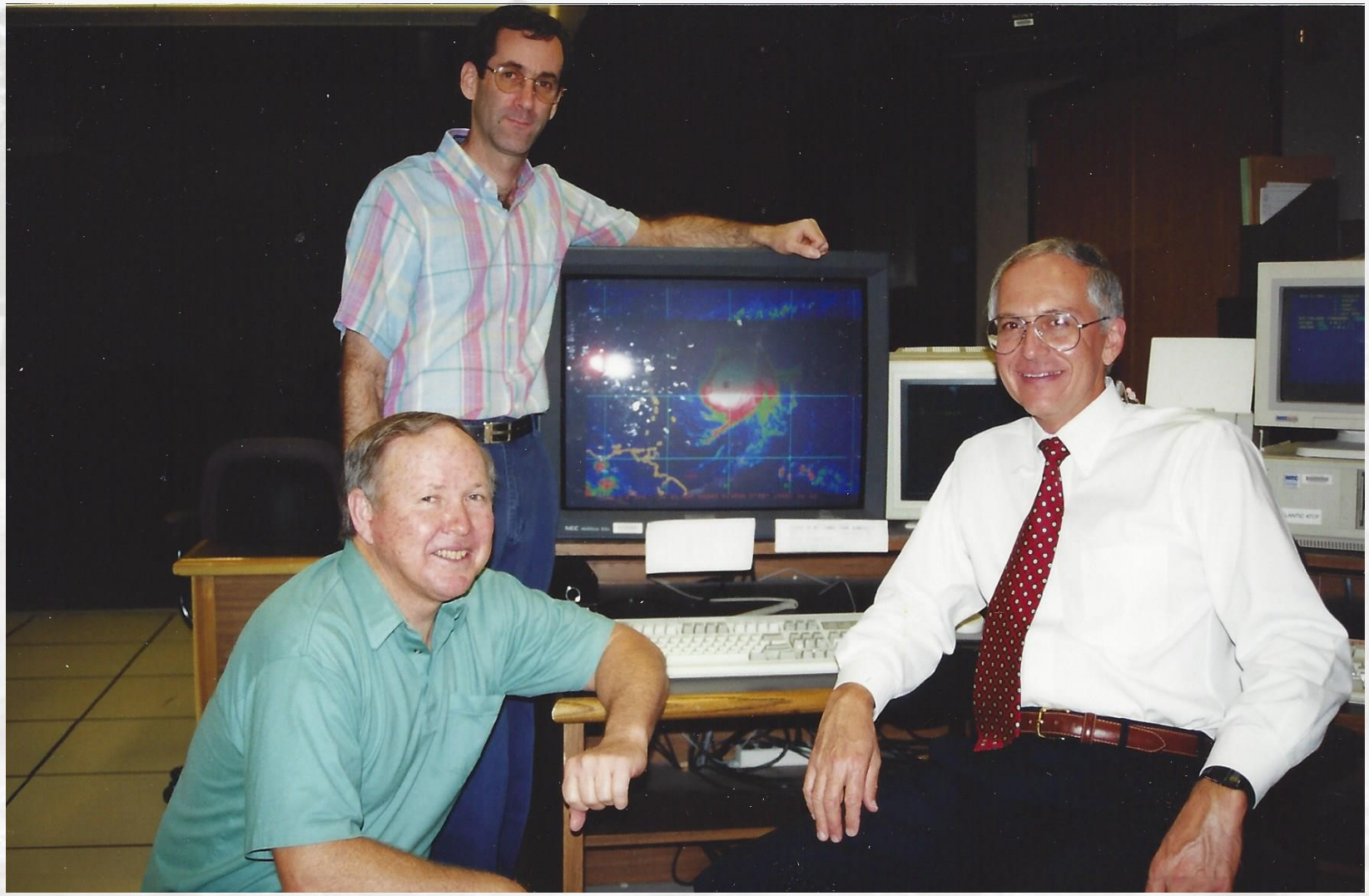
Brian Jarvinen

James Franklin

Steve Lyons

Mark DeMaria

The 1990s



Brian Jarvinen, Ed Rappaport and Max Mayfield, Sept 19, 1998

The 1990s

(Back) Jack Beven, Richard Pasch, Jerry Jarrell, Max Mayfield, Miles Lawrence
(Front) James Franklin, John Guiney, Lixion Avila

The 1980s

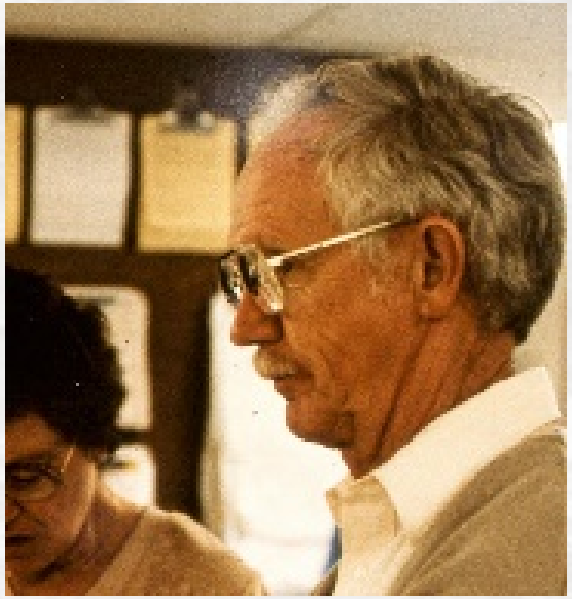
- Avila, Lixion (1989 - 2020)
- Case, Bob (1982 - 90)
- Clark, Gil (1956 - 90)
- Gerrish, Hal (1983 - 1992)
- Gross, Jim (1988 - 89)
- Hebert, Paul (1967 - 83)
- Hope, John (1968 - 81)
- Lawrence, Miles (1974 - 2005)
- Mayfield, Max (1988 - 98)
- Merrill, Robert (1981)*
- Pelissier, Joe (1967 - 82)
- Sheets, Bob (1980 - 85)

* Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist

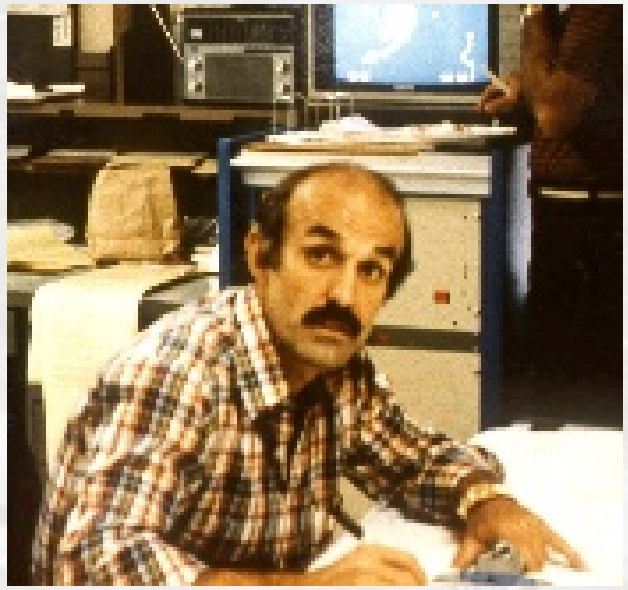
The 1980s

Neil Frank

Gil Clark



John Hope



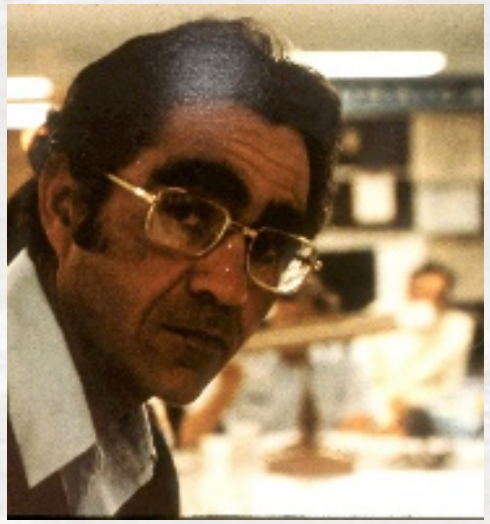
Bob Case

The 1980s

Hal Gerrish

Bob Sheets

Joe Pelissier



Miles Lawrence

Jim Gross

Max Mayfield

The 1980s

Lixion Avila, Bob Case, Miles Lawrence, Hal Gerrish, Max Mayfield (1989)

The 1970s

- Clark, Gil (1956 - 90)
- Frank, Neil (1963 - 73)
- Hebert, Paul (1967 - 83)
- Hope, John (1968 - 81)
- Kraft, Ray (1961 - 72)
- Lawrence, Miles (1974 - 2005)
- Pelissier, Joe (1967 - 82)
- Pike, Arthur (1973)*
- Sugg, Arnold (1958 - 72)

*Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist

The 1970s

John Hope

Gil Clark

Paul Hebert

Arnold Sugg

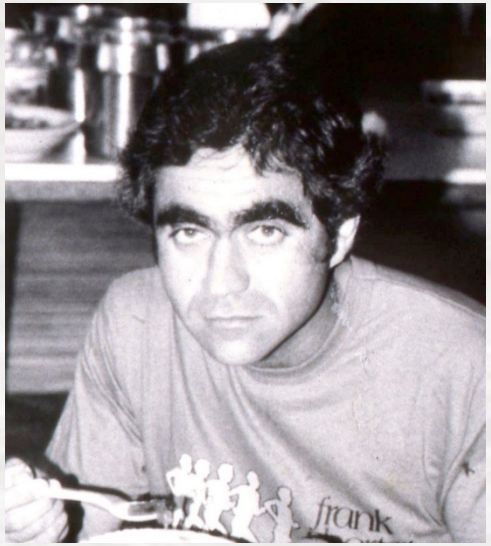
Ray Kraft

The 1970s

Paul Moore

Joe Pelissier

Neil Frank



Miles Lawrence

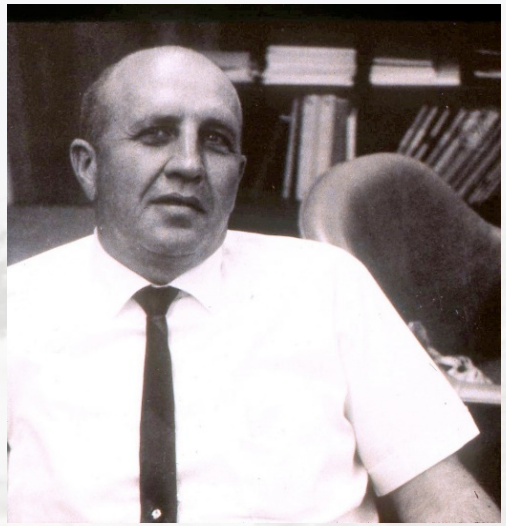
The 1960s

- Clark, Gil (1956 - 90)
- Davis, Walter (1958 - 60)
- Frank, Neil (1963 - 73)
- Hebert, Paul (1967 - 83)
- Hill, Elbert (1961 - 65)
- Hope, John (1968 - 81)
- Kraft, Ray (1961 - 72)
- Moore, Paul (1958 - 66)
- Pelissier, Joe (1967 - 82)
- Sugg, Arnold (1958 - 72)

The 1960s

Paul Hebert

Gil Clark



Ray Kraft

Arnold Sugg

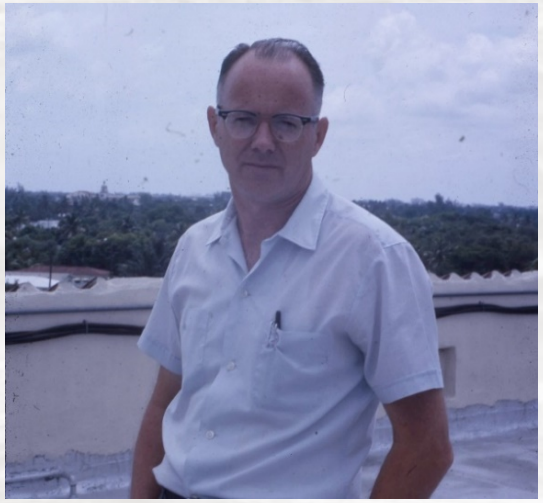
John Hope

The 1960s

Neil Frank

Elbert Hill

Joe Pelissier



Paul Moore

Walter Davis

The 1950s

Clark, Gil (1956 - 90)

Davis, Walter (1958 - 60)

McGehee, William (1958)*

Moore, Paul (1958 - 66)

Sugg, Arnold (1958 - 72)

* Auxiliary Hurricane Specialist

Specific years prior to 1958 are not yet indicated

The 1950s

Walter Davis

Gil Clark

Arnold Sugg

Hurricane Specialist Unit Supervisors

(Supervisors occasionally made forecasts)

Michael Brennan
2017 - present

James Franklin
2009 - 2017

Rick Knabb
2008

Ed Rappaport
2000 - 2008

Max Mayfield
1998 - 1999

Jerry Jarrell
1988 - 1997

Bob Sheets
1985 - 1987

Neil Frank
1973 - 1985

Arnold Sugg
1969 - 1973

This is a living document and will be updated as necessary. NHC welcomes any new or corrected information. Please contact us at nhc.public.affairs@noaa.gov