

Eric Christensen

Senior Marine Meteorologist National Hurricane Center

Eric Christensen is a Senior Marine Meteorologist at the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) of NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida.

Christensen received a Bachelor of Science Degree from The Florida State University (1988). He began his career as a weather officer in the United States Air Force. Christensen, serving in New Mexico, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of Panama. The three-year tour in Panama provided him with valuable practical experience forecasting for the Caribbean Sea, Central America, and the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Christensen began his career with NOAA when he transferred to the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) in 1994. After intensive training on seamanship, vessel handling and basic hydrography, he was assigned to the NOAA Ship RAINIER, a hydrographic survey ship conducting nautical charting primarily along the rugged coastline of Alaska.

After two years at sea, Christensen accepted a position as a forecaster with NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) in Guam, where he gained experience in forecasting marine weather in the tropics, including typhoons.

He transferred to the NWS forecast office in Mobile, Alabama in 1999. He also joined the USAF Reserve's 53rd Weather



Reconnaissance Squadron (the "Hurricane Hunters") at nearby Keesler AFB, Mississippi, where he became a part-time reservist serving on the Hurricane Hunter's WC-130 aircraft as an Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer, flying into the center of tropical cyclones.

Christensen accepted a position as a Lead Forecaster in the NWS forecast office in Miami, Florida in 2003. He transferred to the TAFB in 2006, working as marine forecaster and tropical satellite analyst, and was promoted to Senior Marine Meteorologist in 2008. Duties include forecasting for ocean-going vessels in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and the tropical and sub-tropical waters of the western Atlantic Ocean and eastern Pacific Ocean. Other responsibilities include conducting Dvorak satellite analyzes of tropical cyclones, and outreach to mariners. He has been active in developing digital forecast capabilities for marine weather applications for several years.

Christensen continued to serve in the USAF Reserve Hurricane Hunters after relocating to Miami. He has flown numerous reconnaissance missions to include flights into major hurricanes such as Katrina, Ivan, and Jeanne. He served in other capacities during his time as a reservist, including a deployment to Iraq in 2010. He retired from the Hurricane Hunters in 2013.

