

James Franklin

Atmospheric Scientist National Hurricane Center

James Franklin is a part-time contract scientist at NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami. In his current position he develops software applications and provides administrative support.

Franklin received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1980 and 1984, respectively).

Franklin began his career with NOAA in 1982 in its Hurricane Research Division. During his 17-year tenure at HRD, he made more than 80 hurricane eyewall penetrations aboard the NOAA P-3 Hurricane Hunter aircraft, supporting research into hurricane motion and structure. He developed software packages used throughout the Nation's hurricane reconnaissance fleet to examine, process, and transmit Global Positioning System (GPS) dropwindsonde data.



Franklin joined the National Hurricane Center in 1999, serving for ten seasons as a Hurricane Specialist and eight seasons as Hurricane Specialist Unit Branch Chief before retiring from federal service in 2017.

During his NOAA career Franklin received more than a dozen awards, including the National Weather Service's Isaac Cline award and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Editors Award. He was twice chosen for the AMS Banner I. Miller award and was awarded the Department of Commerce Gold Medal on three occasions - for improvements to the accuracy of hurricane analyses through innovative application of GPS dropsonde data, for leading NOAA's operational use of the QuikSCAT satellite, and for his contributions to advances in hurricane modeling. He has published more than 20 scientific articles on hurricane motion, inner-core structure, forecasting, and meteorological instrumentation.

