



JUST WHO STARTED THOSE RUMORS?

Yesterday, Gen. Johnson sent out an "all hands" email claiming that "rumors and misinformation spread over the past several months that we are planning to close or part-time offices or reduce staff are not true." NWSEO immediately investigated the source of those rumors and discovered that they were started by . . . guess who! Here is a reprint of the November 2005 Four Winds which reported on General Johnson's speech to the NWSEO National Convention:



JOBS MAY BE LOST, JOHNSON TELLS NWSEO CONVENTION

NWS Director D.L. Johnson refused to give delegates to NWSEO's national convention any assurances that current NWSEO employees will keep their jobs if the NWS completes the restructuring of field operations now being planned.

Gen. Johnson addressed the delegates at the Phoenix convention on Saturday, November 5. At the conclusion of his remarks, NWSEO President Paul Greaves reminded Gen. Johnson that former NWS Director Joe Friday agreed during the MAR conducted in the 1990's that there would be a job for every NWS employee in the restructured NWS. Mr. Greaves asked Mr. Johnson whether he would make the same assurances to current NWS employees, and he immediately and unequivocally responded "NO."

As reported in earlier editions of the *Four Winds*, Gen. Johnson has appointed three teams to report to the NWS corporate board in mid-December with plans to restructure IT services; aviation forecasting and a new field "concept of operations." Versions of these plans under consideration include elimination of over 400 forecasting positions and hundreds of IT positions. NWSEO has a representative on each team to defend the interests of NWS employees.

Earlier this week, the House and Senate Conference Committee issued a final report on Commerce Department appropriations for the fiscal year which began October 1. The Committee Report included a prohibition against "consolidation, rationalization or reduction in service hours at Weather Service forecast offices." Committee staff informed NWSEO that the word "rationalization" in the Report was a typographical error and was intended to prohibit "regionalization" of forecasting. This language was adopted by the Conference Committee at the urging of NWSEO, which presented scientific evidence to the Committee that the quality of forecasting decreases with distance.