Notes on Units of Measure

This document mainly uses English units (e.g., miles per hour [mph], inches, feet, or degrees Fahrenheit [°F]) when presenting all information. This decision to use English units was based on the fact that English units are still the standard in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (specifically, the National Climatic Data Center and National Weather Service) reporting and publications.

Throughout this document the term "normal" is used to indicate climatological normal, defined as an average value over a period of years of any meteorological element such as temperature, pressure, and rainfall. The convention uses a 30-year time period, ending with the last year of a given decade (such as 1951-1980, 1961-1990, 1971-2000). **The time period used for climatological normals for comparative purposes in this document is 1971-2000.**

Some useful conversions between English units and metric equivalents are:

1 foot (ft) = 0.3048 meter (m)
1 mile (mi) = 1.609 kilometers (km)
1 inch (in.) = 2.54 centimeters (cm)
1 mile per hour (mph) = 0.447 meter/second (m/s)
degrees Fahrenheit (°F) = (9/5 x °C) + 32
degrees Celsius (°C) = 5/9 x (°F -32)
1 langley = 1gm-cal/cm^2