Weather Briefing 20140226

Focus will be on conditions near CA for next Tuesday’s flight.

Good conditions and clear skies expected for today’s range flight, which may be underway by the time anyone reads this.

As advertised, a strong upper level wave along the northwest flow aloft will impinge on the area, with cool, showery conditions over the broad SoCal area. Precip probabilities have come down a bit – whether we get rain or not at EAFB depends on the exact track of the system. Another wave follows, this one producing precip probabilities and midlevel cloud cover into Tuesday afternoon. Current forecasts (5-6 days out) indicate that the cloud cover will be past us by 10 AM Tuesday, with dry “scoured out” conditions over SoCAl coastal waters, leading to ghost-like (sorry) cloud conditions. However, as I indicated yesterday, there is a concern about crosswinds. Post-disturbance conditions lead to west or northwest flow, which means crosswinds (runway is 240). Current surface forecasts indicate cross-components near GH limits, or slightly over. Conditions are likely to be worse in the afternoon, with solar heating producing downward mixing of winds aloft. Also the wind is more northwesterly then, with a stronger cross component.

Also, if the timing of the system is slower, we will be in a moist batch of air with significant mid level cloud, with possible icing conditions.

The limited product suite I have at my disposal suggests reasonably cloud free conditions along the Mexican coast (broadly).

Recommendation is to proceed with a Tuesday flight with our eyes open, primarily for TO conditions.