Weather Briefing, 20150224

At this time the upper level, 500mb low is centered over Las Vegas, with a strong vorticity maximum extending westward over our area. We currently have scattered radar returns over the hilly regions surrounding EAFB. This low will exit decisively today and be a distant memory by the time of the range flight on Thursday. It will be replaced by a north-northwesterly flow, in which pulses of vorticity will be embedded. Weather for the range flight will be nominal, with possible crosswind gusts of up to 10 knots in the afternoon (well within limits). The vorticity pulses will lead to jet stream cirrus, and a thin layer is forecast near 300mb on Thursday. Timing of these pulses has some uncertainty, so this thin cirrus is not a sure thing.

For low clouds off the coast (we are not going there, I know), the NAM is the outlier, forecasting a stratus deck. The other models (GFS, GEOS-5) do not forecast any low cloud. All models forecast some cirrus probability.

Another substantial upper level low develops in the NNWly jet and moves into California late on Friday, leading to unsettled showery weather over our region for the late Friday/Saturday/Sunday time frame. Shower probabilities end on Monday, leading to nominal takeoff/landing conditions for a Tuesday flight. A bit early to forecast clouds at this stage, but the flow at the surface is from the north with an onshore component.