Surface weather outlook for the rest of the week is favorable. We should be flyable through Friday and longer. For today, an issue is the band of convection/clouds sloping SW/NE from the northwestern Gulf of Campeche (GOC) to Tampa, Florida. Currently a convective system is at about 21 N in the northwestern GOC. Though it is slowly moving north, we do not expect significant development too far north of its current position, due to the general slow southward movement of the trough over the northern Gulf and the confluent upper level flow over the western Gulf. At this time (8:30 CDT satellite images), limited IR cloudiness in the 22-24 N region along the western Gulf coast is dissipating. An earlier version of this briefing was more pessimistic about blowoff. At the northern end, there may be some thin cirrus at the lower altitudes of the flight track due to blowoff from an MCS now decaying over Nebraska. Surface winds will be from the east-northeast somewhat weaker than yesterday as the surface high to the north of us moves slightly westward. For tomorrow, expect clear skies over the MLS flight track down to 24N, and that is likely to be thin cirrus. At this point expect no convection north of 22 degrees. UT/LS pattern shows the streamer of high sloping WNW/SSE intersecting the middle of the Texas Gulf coast. Surface winds will be light as the high is almost on top of us. For Friday, there is some low cloud forecast over east Texas due to a disturbance traveling southwestward along the east side of the SW/NE sloping ridge. It is premature to assign much significance to this feature. High cloud over Oklahoma forecast for Friday is likely thin and could be leftover moisture from the previous night’s MCS’s. The trend of the forecasts (from the previous model run to the current one) shows the tropopause break to our northwest losing definition, while the upper level SW/NE sloping trough to our east is gaining strength. The GFS forecasts a cloud development over central Georgia, with substantial high and low cloud. Models agree on the basic trend of developing the sloping trough at upper levels over this region, but it is a bit early to count on any associated cloud development. Convective activity over the Rockies is forecast near the tropopause break to our northwest. Surface winds will be light, but from a more climatological direction (south to east).

Attached figures show the latest satellite picture for today, and 350K PV plots for Wednesday and Friday.
18 UTC on 22 June, 2005 at 350.0 K

00 UTC on 25 June, 2005 at 350.0 K