

## MIC Greetings

Steven L. Apfel

Time has certainly flown by in the past 8 months since my wife and I arrived in Glasgow, and we greatly appreciate everyone's warm hospitality. You have all helped us feel right at home, and we both look forward to a long stay in the great state of Montana. In fact, Northeast Montana reminds me of my home state, Nebraska, with the gently rolling hills and strong ties to agriculture and the local community. Small town life has indeed been a change for us, but I feel that we have adjusted well with everyone's help.

My background with meteorology started in the 1960s as a kid growing up in Norfolk, Nebraska. Every morning, I would wake up, run down to the kitchen and listen to the local National Weather Service radio show. Weather had always fascinated me, and I knew it was the right career for me. I kept an intense spirit of determination with me through my tour in the US Air Force, and I saved every penny I could to put myself through college. After attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, I nearly went back into the USAF as a weather officer, but the National Weather Service was calling my name. Since then, I have traveled across the country, from Ohio, to Nebraska, Nevada, and now Montana. After over 22 years of Federal Service, I have never forgotten the fact that all of you, my customers, are the most important part of my job.

My assurance to you is that my staff and I will do the very best we can to meet your needs as our customers. Our mission in the NWS is to protect life and property, and provide you with the very best possible products and services. This includes all watches, warnings and advisories, and weather, hydrologic and climate forecasts. I have a staff of 22 professionals who work as a dedicated team to ensure that you are all our number one priority. I look forward to visiting with as many of you as possible in the coming months, and I appreciate your trust in me and my staff. I will be working at the NWS booth during the Valley County Fair on August 14-15, so please feel free to stop by and say hello!!