

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 165 (1/4/06)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, January 4, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale, Sanford Garrard; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB6 and Other Software Issues: We are installing OB6 (phase 3) at VUY. Later this week, we will install phases 1 and 2 at sites OUN and KRF. These will be the first operational sites to receive the full upgrade of OB6 (includes the NGIT DVD and the additional 54 patches). We will send the delta upgrades which contain the 54 patches to the previous beta WFOs and also to the NHOR system here at headquarters.

Also, a WarnGen issue recently occurred in OB6. After January 1, the ETN won't increment for tornado warnings, severe weather warnings, and special marine warnings. This was not an OB5 problem and we suspect it has something to do with the roll over date to a new year. MDL and the GSD are working on possible software solutions in addition to workarounds and a decision will be made shortly on which path to take. It is possible that an additional DR will be needed before we go final with OB6.

- b. All Tilts OB7 Proposal: The all tilts changes for OB7 were distributed to the RACC distribution list before this meeting. The changes were to basically use the arrow keys without using the shift key for easier All Tilts manipulation. But, these keys are already being used and if these changes were made, then the original functions of these keys would need to move to other keys. Several focal points had suggested changes to the proposed functionality from the last RACC meeting held on December 14, 2005. The Eastern, Central, and Alaska regional focal points gave it a "thumbs up" while there were no objections from the other regions. The next step is for GSD to implement the changes into upcoming OB7. Edwin Welles took the action item to inform Ed Mandel and Carl Bullock of the decision at this RACC.

ACTION ITEM Min 165-1: Edwin Welles to inform Ed Mandell and Carl Bullock of the decision to go with the final proposal of the All Tilts changes into OB7.

- c. Summary of AWIPS Development Process: Edwin Welles has summarized in a document the development process needed to assist Raytheon with future builds. This process has been discussed at two previous RACC meetings back in December. Edwin read his document to the group on the conference call and several regions had input. Edwin incorporated their comments and his latest document is included as an attachment to these minutes titled **RACCdevProcInput.doc**.

d. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Russ Ingraham: Russ will give a briefing at the next RACC meeting (on January 18) on what is planned to be in upcoming releases OB7 and OB8. Milestone dates will be included. Russ will send out this package (in Power Point) before the January 18 RACC meeting so everyone can review it.

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: On January 2, an earthquake occurred in the south Atlantic Ocean basin and as a result, a tsunami bulletin was issued from the Tsunami Center in Palmer, Alaska. However, the bulletin never made it onto the AWIPS system. It took an additional 30 minutes or so for all sites to receive the bulletin by other communication means. This length of time for sites to receive this bulletin seems unacceptable and is somebody back there at WSH looking into the matter? Nobody on this conference call was aware of this issue. Phil Mieczynski of the Alaska Region took the action item to see why the bulletin did not make it into AWIPS.

ACTION ITEM Min 165-2: Phil Mieczynski will look into why the tsunami bulletin (WEXX22 PAAQ) for the South Atlantic basin did not make it into AWIPS on January 2. –Action Closed. [Art Thomas and Tim Roulon here at WSH checked with Rich Robinson (in OCIO's Telecommunications Gateway). Rich found this particular product was not routed correctly from the Gateway to the NCF and made the change on the spot.]

Pacific Region: Our WFO at Guam is scheduled to change to the usage of Chamorro Standard Time at the end of February. Bill wants to make sure that all personnel are available at the site for this changeover. When can we schedule GUM to upgrade to OB6? Sanford Garrard replied that scheduling for OB6 will begin in early February and an e-mail detailing the process will be issued soon. Basically, we will schedule 2 sites per day (Monday through Thursday) for 2-3 weeks and then go to 3 sites per day after that.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We are finalizing the OB6 WES for field distribution. We really need an updated beta version of OB6 to complete the process. Edwin Welles has promised to get us the latest version of OB6 on disk from the contractors. Also, we have a plug in play solution for postgres and OB6 for the WES.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2006. If you know of any agenda

items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.