

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 167 (2/1/06)

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, February 1, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NCEP**: Steve Schotz; **NWSTC**: Dave Cokely; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickels

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB6 and Other Software Issues: The NMAP that was delivered for the OB6 baseline does not work with the new operating system. NCEP is working on solving this problem. Since the problem cannot be solved before the final DVDs are cut, then we will have to deliver the updated NMAP to sites at a later date without it being included in the final DVD being readied for field deployment. Steve Schotz reported that NCEP is working on the problem but is not optimistic about solving it. There is a need to run NMAP along side the other AWIPS applications on the same workstation and this requirement is needed for the RFCs and the OCONUS sites. The Alaska Region said they can't load OB6 in their region until this problem is solved and the Pacific Region stated the same. Bob Rood stated he would discuss this latest development with Edwin Welles to see if a teleconference call should be set up in a day or two to discuss options for resolving the NMAP issue as soon as possible. It's possible that a Tiger Team may be formed to assist NCEP. Field deployment of OB6 is set to begin next Monday, February 6, and it is premature at this time to decide if the deployment needs to be delayed.

Frank Lucadamo stated the DVDs will be shipped tomorrow to sites scheduled to begin deployment of OB6 next week. For the first three weeks, we will go with 2 sites per phase per day (from Monday through Thursday). After the first three weeks, we will proceed to go with 3 sites per phase per day. There will be an open day every other week of 2 slots per phase. Sanford Garrard stated that a site should separate phase 1 and 2 by a day or two in case of a needed recovery. But he cautioned a site to not separate them by too much time as phase 1 involves backing up of critical system files.

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

Robert Rood: Bob informed the focal points of the desire to involve the regions with an updated software development process. He would like a listing of the roles and responsibilities to come out of this process. Bob is planning on setting up a conference call with the regional focal points next week to begin this discussion. He will put together an agenda for next week's call so that everyone has a chance to bring some ideas to the call.

Mike Istok: Regarding the mesocyclone display failure when WSR-88D Build 8 beta testing

starts on sites still running OB5: the Build 8 beta test began at site OUN and will proceed at several more sites in the near future. The Digital Mesocyclone Detection (DMD) time-height displays do not work with the RPG Build 8 version of the DMD product if a site is on OB5. If OB6 trails behind Build 8 at the beta or other sites, there is a problem with the DMD product. Build 8 is set for field deployment in April but before a site can install Build 8, the open RDA system must be deployed at the radar site. The solution is for OB6 to go to sites that have finished installing the open RDA system at radar sites and before they receive Build 8.

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: The FAA issued a maintenance memorandum concerning critical weather days for the period between February 2-7 involving the Super Bowl and sites in the Great Lakes region. Is there any directive coming out of the Engineering Division there at WSH? No one from WSH on the conference call has heard nor seen any such directive.

Pacific Region: We would appreciate that any software and hardware to be shipped to Guam be done keeping in mind that it can take up to 10 days for items to physically appear at the site.

Southern Region: What is the latest status on the firewall project? Mary Buckingham replied that re-testing will begin this week at WSH. We plan to go to site LWX in a few weeks for testing. Upcoming this year will be new xyplexes, new printers, replacing the SBN CPs and workstations, and new LDAD servers.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: We have installed OB6, beta version 14. What is the time line for us to obtain the latest delta upgrade? Sanford Garrard replied the final CDs have been cut and he would arrange for the Training Center to get copies.

ACTION ITEM Min 167-1: Sanford Garrard will arrange for the Training Center to get the latest delta upgrade of OB6.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 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.