

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 170 (3/15/06)

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, March 15, 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**: Joseph Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Sean Wink; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **OCWWS**: Shannon White
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

- a. Status of OB6 and Other Software Issues: There are a total of 51 sites that have installed phase 3 of OB6. We are allowing 4 sites per day at the end of this month in order to accommodate those affected WFOs and the Indiana time zone change in early April.

Also, the updated version of NMAP that works with OB6 needs approval from the Central Region before we can deploy it. Once that approval is given, a deployment plan is in place and ready to go.

Concerning the System Manager's Manual (SMM), Ron Smith (of the AWIPS Support Branch – OPS21) reported that there is a pilot program to make the SMM a living document. The idea is to rapidly place any updates into an on-line version of the SMM and not be required to wait until the next build comes out. Thus, to save cost of printing, we would like to forgo sending hard copies of the SMM to all operational sites and is this proposal okay with the regions? Joe Palko asked that this proposal be written down and forwarded to the Regional Focal Points so they can discuss it with their sites. Ron Smith took this action item.

ACTION MIN 170-1: Ron Smith to send proposal to the Regional Focal Points asking them if sites can forgo hard copies of the SMM in turn for having a living document placed on all AWIPS systems.

- b. AWIPS COTS/Freeware for OB7.1: Stowell Davison put together this package and it was distributed before this RACC. It lists the OB6 version, the OB7 version, and whether each part is native to the operating system or an AWIPS delivered version of the freeware in OB7. It looked acceptable to the participants of this call.

- c. Implications of MDL and SEC Software Maintenance Transition: Edwin Welles put together this Power Point briefing package as a result of an action item from the previous RACC call. The action item was for Edwin to put together a briefing package detailing the organizations responsible for their software maintenance support. The briefing package is attached to these minutes and is called "RACC_SW_Maint_TransitionV2.ppt."

The highlights of the briefing package is that the SEC software and most of the MDL software has been transitioned to Raytheon, the OHD and GSD software transition is in FY06/FY07, and that all software is to be maintained by Raytheon in FY08. Also touched upon was the support for the transitioned software. A site still should call the NCF and open a trouble ticket to get software support. If a site wants more information on the status of a recently opened trouble ticket, they can call the NCF and find its status. If a site wants more information, the regional focal points can get in touch with the development organization focal point. The list of development organization focal points has already been distributed to the Regions.

Also, the operations and maintenance responsibility will move from the OS&T office to the OPS office at Weather Service Headquarters in Silver Spring. The details will be worked out in an AWIPS Program Management Responsibility Transfer document to be finalized this fiscal year.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: We have noticed lately notification server problems at several of our sites within the region. We are pleased that the problem is being investigated.

Eastern Region: We had one site recently experienced a notification server overload but that was a one time event at that site.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We had serious issues with the firewall mod note and subsequently, WSH pulled it to look into the issues we brought up. Also, is there talk of an OB6 emergency release due a critical DR dealing with NWRWAVES. Edwin Welles reported that Raytheon is looking into the matter of an emergency release and there is nothing definite yet.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We sent out last Friday the final beta version of WES 6.0 to six WFOs that have been involved in testing this version. We have received several calls from the Central Region about the WES computer and the problems with the windows locking up and with spontaneous lockouts. We are working on this problem.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 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.

