

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 189 (12/13/06)

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, December 13, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations outside of Silver Spring) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Carl Gorski; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. Status of OB7.2: The User Acceptance period (beta) continues with the final System Verification Review scheduled for January 12. Beta installations on WFO systems have been taking between 3.5 and 6 hours to complete. WFO GID installed on Tuesday, December 12. They had some issues with the OH and AX script not being delivered as executable on the DVD and a few other minor install issues. WFO MAF and Alaska Regional Headquarters are installing today. The next install is the Northwest RFC (site PTR) on December 21. We will have the Systems Verification Review (SVR) on January 8. If all goes well, regular deployment is expected to begin around January 24.

We are looking at obtaining training material for testing at beta sites as early as possible in the future. This will affect software loads beyond OB7.2.

We are looking to test the tropical cyclone (TCV) changes in OB7.2 at site CAR.

- b. Demo of Software Developer's Portal and Meeting Place Express: A high level overview demonstration of the Software Developer's Portal through the Meeting Place Express was given to the focal points and the attendees in the SSMC2 building. It was reiterated that the portal was not a list server but a collaboration suite between users and the software developers. Chat rooms make it possible to have applications experts answer questions from the field. The Raytheon contractors are offering to provide more detailed demonstrations of the portal if the Regional Focal Points request it. [Editor's note: An e-mail was sent to the regions after this RACC offering more demonstrations to the regions.]

The current license for logging onto Meeting Place Express is 25 users. However, the license can be expanded to as many users as deemed necessary. There is no limit to the number of users of the portal. We aim to eventually integrate Remedy, Meeting Place Express, and the portal along with the NOAA servers. Thus, a user can log on to a whole host of services. The maintenance will be shared between the government and Raytheon.

The rollout of the portal will be on-line in about 2 weeks with full availability after the New Year.

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

Central Region: We are continuing to test OB7.2 on our BCQ system, otherwise, nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: If a site goes down, there are procedures to push radar data out from a site to the other sites so nobody misses any radar data. The ROC recently sent out an e-mail but the ITOs were missing from the mailing list. The Regions will supply the missing information to Mark Albertelly. A discussion arose on when the radar WAN backup should be invoked. The consensus was not for any short term outages but for more long term outages, using Hurricane Katrina as an example.

Also, site BGM recently issued a Tornado (TOR) Warning which had an incorrect VTEC ETN. Prior to this problem, the site had dropped its PostGres text database, which caused the incorrect ETN. They mistakenly thought that WarnGen used a VTEC Table like GHG. WarnGen does not and relies on the PostGres test database for tracking and incrementing VTEC ETNs. Therefore, it should be noted that sites need to call the NCF to drop the text database. The NCF has the correct procedures to save off and restore the local warning products for that site and their neighboring sites.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: Carl Gorski complained that it took up to 3 hours for a site to go into IFPS Service Backup. The sites involved in this Service Backup are experienced sites. This is an ongoing issue that needs to be resolved.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2007. 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.**