

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 198 (5/2/07)

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, May 2, 2007, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Jim Podischek, Heather Galan; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB8.1: We have had 5 beta installs up until today. The WSH test bed site NHOR installed yesterday while site BOX is installing today. The installations have been completed in 3 hours and have gone well. A question was asked about being able to display the POES satellite data. It seems that CONUS sites that have installed OB8.1 cannot display it while an OCONUS site can do so. A trouble ticket was opened up and the NCF is working this problem.

Sanford Garrard has updated the installation instructions from the recent Pacific and Eastern Regional Headquarter's site upgrades. Mike Rega has updated and sent out to the beta sites the information on the new WarnGen capability associated with OB8.1.

The first beta teleconference call was held this past Monday and will continue through June. The primary objective of this meeting was to provide the beta site representatives an overview of the procedures, roles and responsibilities and plans for the OB8.1 Beta Testing Phase. One new activity designed to enhance the formality of the testing for the OB8.1 software is the tracking of official products generated with AWIPS at operational sites during the test period. Also, we will be keeping track of trouble tickets associated with OB8.1 and Raytheon will assist by using a spreadsheet for this purpose. Jamie Vavra encouraged all the regional focal points and even the upcoming beta site representatives to call into these calls. Jamie also emphasized a change in the procedure for a beta site reporting a trouble ticket. When a site calls into the NCF, they should state that they are a beta OB8.1 site and the trouble ticket will be handed off to the appropriate personnel unlike in the past whereby a site was told to ask for certain people.

- b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases: Karen Tepera of Raytheon reported the following status of upcoming releases:

Maintenance Release OB8.1.1: A readiness review is set for September 18. National deployment should begin shortly thereafter.

Major Release OB8.2: We are progressing with the SWIT. The developer's organizations are doing their part and we are expecting field forecasters coming in to test in the middle of June.

Major Release OB8.3: The SREC is currently reviewing the requirements.

SMTP: The sendmail emergency release is being pushed out today and alpha testing on the SMTP project will resume.

OB9: The schedules and content is being coordinated to see how it impacts the AWIPS 2 schedule.

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

Olga Brown-Leigh: Olga asked the focal points a question concerning the radar service backup. Have your sites gone to the ROC web site to download the help files to update the ORPG files for the radar service backup functionality? The reason this is being asked is that during the last two exercises on radar service backup, several sites took over 2 hours to go into a test mode to invoke the radar service backup functionality. It is important that sites download these files. The ROC ORPG Backup Help Files are located at the following URL:
http://www.roc.noaa.gov/ops/orpgBackups_web.pdf

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: We can call up the POES satellite data here at site PBP. Otherwise, we have nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: Southern Region asked about the requirements for the replacement Archive Server. Jim Lane stated that the upcoming purchase for the Archive Server is a format, fit and function replacement. The disk space on the replacement will be big enough to allow the site to archive seven days worth of data again. But with the new larger data sets coming along, it may not be able to archive seven days worth of data for long. The new RFC Archive Server that is being purchased is more disk space than the planned WFO Archive Server because of the special requirements of the RFCs. Jim stated that any requirements changes for larger disk space should be included the Archive Server OSIP project and that project need to get reinvigorated. These requirements would likely be able to be implanted in the planned Archive Server in about the 2nd or 3rd year after deployment.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: We are shifting the Learning Management System (LMS) from E-Learn to the Commerce Learning Center (CLC). The on-line training will not be available through the LMS for a period of time. We are looking for ways to make the engineering training available through the Training Center web server. During this period, we will not have a way to report a person

has completed training until the new LMS comes back on line.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 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 Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.