

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 199 (5/16/07)

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 16, 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, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Craig Schmidt; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of OB8.1 and Upcoming Software Releases:

OB8.1: Two more sites have installed the beta version and we have a total of 5 WFOs testing the beta version. Raytheon is tracking reports of GFE slowdowns at the early beta sites. Site GYX was added as a beta site in order to test the IFPS Service Backup changes that were added as a result of the Hurricane Katrina service assessment. Service backup tests will be conducted between site BOX and site GYX during the GYX install on May 31. Additional problems and issues are being tracked at the weekly beta teleconference calls on Mondays. Scheduled installations over the next week are site IND on May 21, site TBW on May 22, sites ILM and PTR on May 23, and the OSFW on May 22. The System Verification Review is scheduled for June 29. Regular deployment is expected to begin on July 16.

OB8.1.1: This release is intended to fix critical issues discovered after the testing of OB8.1 concludes. The DRs will continue to be identified through August 16. Regular deployment is expected to begin on September 19.

OB8.2: The next milestone will be the Pre Integration Test (PIT) and Raytheon plans to have field forecasters come in on June 12-15.

OB8.3: The contents for this release are being worked on by the SREC.

b. Implementation of New TML Line in WarnGen: The new Time, Motion, Location functionality in OB8.1 WarnGen has to be turned off temporarily (via an OB8.1 post install step), since the Service Change Notice (SCN) was not sent out in time to allow proper notification during beta. Once the SCN becomes effective July 16, OB8.1 beta sites and early deployment sites can activate (via an ATAN) and begin using and testing the TML operationally. A decision will be made after appropriate testing to decide to implement the TML line at all sites. The details and a schedule will need to be worked out on how to get the TML line turned on at all sites. A couple of deployment options are available, including removing the OB8.1 post-install step or placing the turn on command in the OB8.1.1 maintenance release.

c. New Workstation Mouse Issue: The scroll wheel mouse that comes with the new LX workstations is an issue with forecasters. Jim Lane has received feedback for 3 regions that want the 3 button optical mouse instead. Raytheon has proposed adding an extra three button optical mouse for the graphics workstation in the new text workstation FMK, but it will be next year before the sites will receive the new text workstations. In the meantime, a fast track RC has been submitted to allow the site to use an old IBM 3 button mouse or go to NLSC for an 3 button rolling ball mouse from existing stock. We will eventually replace the existing stock at NLSC with a 3 button optical mouse and the timing is yet to be determined.

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

Central Region: We received the schedules for the preventive maintenance on the satellite equipment at our sites but it had arrived a bit late since most sites had already had the work done by the contractors. We would appreciate getting the schedules ahead of time so the site personnel can be available for when the contractors arrive at the sites. Karen Tepera of Raytheon took the action to pass these concerns to the appropriate people at Raytheon.

We would like some of our sites to get the ATAN #872 for the FFMP problem. We know the fix is in OB8.1 but sites that have not yet installed OB8.1 need this fix. Karen Tepera took the action item to discuss this with Raytheon personnel.

Eastern Region: We also would like to get the ATAN for the FFMP problem at our sites too. Also, some sites are complaining that when a LX workstation fails and they get a new replacement, a site needs to create new images and install security patches and update the kernel. These actions roll back the release ID on all the site's servers and workstations to the previous software release. Then the NCF will ping the site and subsequently scripts need to be run to update the release ID. Joe Palko asked that there be a better way to do this. Russ Ingraham of Raytheon took the action to work with Sanford Garrard and Joe Palko to improve this situation.

Pacific Region: Site GUM has been having a problem with their async scheduler dying on them. There used to be an ATAN that solved this problem. It was stated that the ATAN is not active anymore since the solution is part of the baseline in OB7.2.1. Thus, GUM will need to install OB7.2.1 as soon as possible to remedy the async problem.

Southern Region: Our region along with the Alaska region has been having e-mail issues of late since the two regions have external mail servers while Weather Service Headquarters in Silver Spring has something different. So please be patient while the problem is being solved. Otherwise, nothing significant to report.

Western Region: Nothing significant to report.

GSD: Nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: Nothing significant to report.

NRC: Nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 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.