

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 223 (April 30, 2008)

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, April 30, 2008, 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**: Joshua Watson, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Dave Cokely; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of FFMPA: There are a total of 50 WFOs that have completed the FFMP small basin processing through Tier 1 and their files now reside on AWIPS. There are 64 WFOs that have begun the process. The breakdown by region: AR - 3, PR - 2, ER - 13, WR - 9, SR - 8, CR - 15. Sanford Garrard indicated that his scripts that were run this morning showed that only 47 WFOs have completed through tier 1. He mentioned that it is possible that some sites are not downloading the small basin shapefiles into the proper place in the AWIPS system. Mary Mullusky took the action item to mention this to Ami Arthur.

b. Status of Beta Testing of OB8.3: Since the last RACC 2 weeks ago, 4 sites (WFO Taunton, MA [BOX], WFO Gray, ME [GYX], Pacific Region Headquarters [PBP] and Alaska Region Headquarters [VRH]) have installed the beta. *We sent an e-mail to several beta sites requesting the testing of several field test DRs. These DRs can not be tested at Raytheon.* The results should be forthcoming by the end of this week. Concerning maintenance release OB8.2.1.1, we will begin testing it at several beta sites next week.

c. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

OB8.2.1.1: Raytheon is wrapping up SwIT testing this week. There are 5 WFOs lined up as beta test sites between May 2-14 *????*. The readiness review is scheduled for May 15. Deployment is expected to begin on May 19. The NCF can support up to 15 installs per day.

OB8.3: We are nearing the end of the OB8.3 testing process. Currently, there are 6 open DRs and they are all from development organizations *????*. All critical DRs were put in yesterday and any remaining DRs will be placed in by next Tuesday. The SyAT is scheduled to begin the week of May 19 and the SVR on June 6. Regular deployment is expected to begin on about June 16.

OB8.3.1: The AWIPS Support Branch is collecting candidate DRs for this release. The period for identifying DRs continues until July 16. Regular deployment is expected to begin around August 25.

OB9: The Pre-Integration Test (PIT) phase is scheduled to begin around May 13. Forecaster testing during the PIT phase is planned for June 17-20. Regular deployment is expected to begin around January 21, 2009.

d. Status Update on ATAN 937: WarnGen/D2D Slowness: Over the past couple months some WFOs have reported that WarnGen and D2D appear to run slowly when the WFO is in severe weather operations. The WFOs have opened NCF trouble tickets to report the problem. For the past month, a group from Raytheon and the NWS has been discussing these slowdowns and possible reasons for this. The Raytheon/NWS group has a theory that the WarnGen/D2D slowdowns are occurring at the “TextDB_Server –read” process. To test this theory, AWIPS Test Authorization Note 937 was approved to install diagnostic software on a few selected WFOs that are likely to experience severe weather. The test sites are: WFO Charleston, SC (CHS), WFO St. Louis, MO (LSX), WFO Paducah, KY (PAH), WFO Springfield, MO (SGF) and WFO Tallahassee, FL (TAE). The diagnostic software was installed at these sites by April 18. WFO Wichita, KS (ICT) also received the diagnostic software on April 23. We requested that if these test sites experience slow WarnGen/D2D performance, they should open an NCF trouble ticket to report the problem. We are waiting for one of the test sites to experience a WarnGen/D2D performance problem. While we are monitoring the test sites, we are also gathering baseline performance metrics. Although we are focusing on the “TextDB_Server – read” process, we are also monitoring other metrics such as CPU and disk usage. We are also monitoring the “TextDB_Server –write” performance. Raytheon and NWS continue to monitor the performance at the ATAN 937 test sites.

e. Supplemental Model Products when Site SBN is Inoperable:

The model WAN backup testing ran from February 20th through March 13th. All models proposed (GFS, GFS40, NAM12 & SREF) in the ATAN were successfully tested between WFO Eureka, CA (EKA) and adjacent RFCs (RFC California-Nevada [RSA] and RFC Portland, OR [PTR]). The delay associated with each model over the WAN is different due to varying model sizes. The following shows the delay associated with each model over the WAN:

GFS	additional 14 minutes to the normal 75 to 85 minutes over the SBN
GFS40	additional 14 minutes to the normal 76 to 83 minutes over the SBN
NAM12	additional 1 hour 32 minutes to the normal 71 to 73 minutes over the SBN
SREF	additional 4 minutes to the normal 2 to 3 minutes over the SBN

The delay is based on the time difference between final model product over the SBN and final model product delivery over the WAN at WFO Eureka, CA.

The test successfully demonstrated the capability to send these four model products over the WAN whenever a site has a SBN receive failure. More details on this topic are provided in the attached PowerPoint file titled “EKA.ppt.”

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

Andy Nappi: Raytheon and Globecom were recently informed by satellite provider

SES/Americom that all AMC-4 users were being switched to AMC-2 due to a solar array circuit concerns with AMC-4. The transition is on schedule for May 1 at 2 AM EDT as long as no critical weather is expected. The switch is expected to take 10-20 seconds. The NCF and Globecom will monitor the system performances and will know within 5 minutes whether all receive sites are still operating nominally. If operation is not nominal, the switch will be halted and AMC-4 will be reinstated while troubleshooting continues. The switch would then be rescheduled for a future date and time. NWS management will be informed via post transition e-mail and subsequent summary after the system has been operating nominally from AMC-2.

Alaska Region: We installed the delta 5 of OB8.3 recently and are performing the appropriate testing of DRs that we have been asked to perform.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008. 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.