

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 228 (July 9, 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, July 9, 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; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Heather Galan; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Shannon Key, Bill Morris; **NCEP**: Joe Byerly; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of Upcoming Software Releases (Matt Kensey):

OB8.2.1.2: Super Res Emergency Release: The correction is not in OB8.3, but will be included in the OB8.3.0.1 emergency release and OB8.3.1 maintenance release. The NCF installed it at 6 beta sites on July 3. Initial testing at the sites indicated that the fix has corrected the issue. The Release Readiness Review is scheduled for July 16 with deployment to all applicable sites on July 17.

OB8.3: As of this morning (July 9), the release has been installed at 51 sites. The regional focal points are scheduling sites at up to 8 per install day. Marine sites are planning to complete the install by August 4 in order to prepare for the activation of the new Marine Weather Warning software on August 5. Once the OB8.3.0.1 emergency release is approved, the NCF will install OB8.3.0.1 at all OB8.3 sites.

OB8.3.0.1: Super Res Emergency Release: The beta sites are Tucson (TWC), Wilmington, OH (ILN), Norman (OUN) and Green Bay (GRB). The installation for GRB and OUN will be performed by the NCF on July 10 immediately after the install of OB8.3 at those sites. The installation does not impact operations. Initial beta testing at Wilmington did reveal a possible issue. The ASM at Raytheon is providing assistance and additional tests will be performed this afternoon. A Release Readiness Review is scheduled for July 16 with deployment to all applicable sites on July 17.

OB8.3.1: This release is in SwIT and 44 DRs have been accepted. The last day for accepting OB8.3 DRs is July 16. Software that has been checked in has been built and installed on the Raytheon Test system TBDW. There are three additional candidate DRs, that when accepted, will shift deployment approximately two weeks. Regular deployment is currently projected to begin around September 24, 2008.

OB9: The PIT phase is wrapping up and we are going into SwIT. We have the software loaded on two headquarter's systems (NHDA, TBW3) and plan on loading it on the RFC system (TBWR). The schedule is likely to be extended to accommodate the additional DRs in the

OB8.3.1 release. Regular deployment is projected to begin around February 9, 2009.

b. MWW and the OB8.3 Install (Shannon White): The coastal sites need to be reminded of two items as they install OB8.3. First, uninstall the MWW ATAN just prior to installing OB8.3, but keep the changes to the a2a (it prompts this as part of the uninstall). Second, if they load OB8.3 and the MWW does not appear, then the a2a is not updated. They will need to untar and run a script written by Greg Mann. Then they bounce the text database server to get the MWW to appear. The script will definitely have to be run at the sites that were not part of the MWW ATAN. If sites need to get the script, contact Shannon White.

c. Status of AWIPS II (Bob Rood):

TO8: It is winding down and the most recent TTR submissions include incorrect and partial implementation of D2D controls. The UFE continues and we need more participation for the generation of TTRs. Our goal for TO8 is to get familiar with the software and the test cases. We have activity dealing with variance reviews and we are working with some sites on the migration related of the WarnGen templates. We encourage UFE sites to test and install TO8, as we would like more sites testing the software.

TO9: Raytheon is wrapping up development and the delivery test is scheduled from August 8-15 in Silver Spring. The outbriefing is scheduled to occur on September 4 at 1 PM.

TO10: Concerning the comments on the proposals submitted to Raytheon, we expect a NWS response by the end of this week. We expect delivery of this task order in February of 2009.

The task order to develop the deployment plan and requirements was authorized. A kick off meeting will be scheduled to occur in the next few weeks.

d. Paring Down a Site's a2a File (Mike Moss): Sites need to downsize their afos2awips.txt (a2a) file. This file is used for sending products on the AWIPS WAN from a site. The motivations for paring down the a2a file are that the NOAA1 master a2a files has about 25000 entries and therefore, it is inefficient when used by several AWIPS software pieces (async scheduler, handleOUP, distributeProduct and textWish). The SST has also recently received a couple trouble tickets in which sites reported the inability to launch text windows on the XT. Paring down the a2a file at these sites solved the problems of launching text windows on the XT.

There are 72 out of 122 WFOs still using the master a2a file. Mike Moss of the SST is writing a script to help sites downsize (create a "local" version) the a2a file. The script would only be run at WFOs and would work from the master a2a file. The new script would be pushed to WFOs probably with the master a2a file. Instructions for running the script would be placed on the AWIPS info list-server.

e. Status of TML Line Deactivation (Mike Rega): Last year we added the Time Motion and Location (TML) line to WarnGen related products. Last summer we added the turn key script to all systems for the eventual turn off of the TML from all Hydro products and the stand-alone

Marine Weather Statement. We want the sites to run the scripts and disable the TML line for all hydro products and the stand-alone Marine Weather Statement by the end of this week. Mike Rega will provide the regional focal points a list of the WFOs who have not disabled the WarnGen TML line as of this morning. **[Editor's note: Action completed by Mike Rega.]** Please contact the WFOs in your region and ask them to run the TML turnkey. Instructions are posted at the following web page:

https://www.ops1.nws.noaa.gov/Secure/awips_install.htm

If a WFO has no personnel available to run the TML turnkey, or have any other questions, please ask them to contact Mike Rega (301-713-0070 x170) and he can run the turnkey. They need to contact Mike by Friday as he will be out of the office the week of July 14.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: In 2004, a request for change (DRG AB985) was approved to add the product /CCC/DNMWNO (*where /CCC/ is the local node*) to AWIPS as required by a DOC-DHS Memorandum of Understanding. The NCEP SDM would be responsible for transmitting the messages, and the receiving WFOs were to transmit the requested information on NWR manually. An OB3.2 post install step had the WFOs create a text workstation alarm for the product, but OB5 included a text trigger that ran a script to bring up the red banner on all workstations and play a sound when the product came in.

The last test message from the SDM in our database is from 2006. Is the DNMWNO product still in use, or has it been completely superseded by the Hazcollect products/system? If so, the product should be removed. If not, there is a problem because of Guardian; the original trigger script will no longer play the sound. Also, if it's still in use, the whole setup/procedure should be documented somewhere. OPS21 took the action to investigate this situation.

Also, we understand that Chapter 21 (System Shutdown Procedures) of the System Manager's Manual has been updated and was supposed to be posted by June 15. We have not seen it posted on the AWIPS systems yet. Frank Lucadamo replied that it has been updated on the one stop page web site and is in the process of being updated on the AWIPS system.

Pacific Region: After we installed OB8.3, we noticed that there were missing products on some of the satellite pull down menus. After some discussion, the consensus was for the region to call in a trouble ticket so the proper personnel here at headquarters could investigate the problem.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We released the WES 8.3 on June 27 and are now working on the alpha version of WES 9.0.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

NCEP: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 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.