

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 233 (September 17, 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, September 17, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **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):

OB8.3.0.2: This is the tropical hazards emergency release. The ETNs for the local office assigned to TR and HU hazards were being purged after 24 hours. The fix was tested and verified as ATAN 956 at all tropical sites. This release will baseline the fix at all sites. The release has been submitted to the stakeholders for approval. Once the release has been fully approved, the NCF will install at all OB8.3.0.1 sites. The install can be completed without impacting operations. Initial deployment is planned to be completed by September 22. Sites installing OB8.3 after September 22 will automatically receive OB8.3.0.1 and OB8.3.0.2 after the installation of OB8.3.

OB8.3.1: Beta testing at field sites continues through Friday. The DVD includes the OB9 higher resolution shapefiles that will be tested at selected sites prior to OB9. A few issues have been discovered in beta testing and are due to be checked in late today or early Thursday morning. The readiness review slides are planned to be submitted to the stakeholders on September 22. Regular deployment is currently projected to begin around September 29. All WFOs must complete installation by November 3 to prepare for the TAF format change at 00z on November 5. The NCF will support up to 10 sites installing per day.

LDAD Repartitioning: Beta installations are complete. The readiness review slides are planned to be submitted to the stakeholders on September 22. Readiness review is projected to begin around September 29.

OB8.3.2: A couple of recently identified defects have been given high priority for resolution. Two DRs are for WarnGen and one is for GFE. Initial analysis indicates that corrections for these DRs will require significant code changes and thus should be contained in a separate release. Raytheon is completing analysis, but expects the release to follow OB8.3.1 and precede OB9.

OB9: We are currently in the alpha phase. There are currently 34 open DRs in the release. Installations were completed at Central Region headquarters on September 10 and Southern Region headquarters on September 17. Forecasters are testing the software at Central Region

this week. The beta readiness review is expected in mid October. Regular deployment is projected to begin around February 9, 2009.

b. A2A File Reduction Exercise (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. It was noted that it can also slow down WarnGen at times. Mike Moss of the SST wrote 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 was pushed to all WFOs with the master a2a file. Instructions for running the script were placed on the AWIPS info list-server. Mike would like all WFOs to take advantage of the script to pare down the A2A file. He would like this action to be done by the end of this month. Mike will send a report to the regional focal points later this week or next week that shows which WFOs have not pared down their A2A file. Mike will also update the report on a weekly basis.

c. Security Scanning on LDAD Servers (John Seeger): John wanted the regions to be aware that security scanning on the LDAD servers in patching is done on a quarterly basis by Raytheon. The individual sites should not be doing this by themselves as it could cause problems later on in the regular AWIPS software install. John does not know if the problem is rampant but wanted to be proactive and let the regional focal points be aware of the situation.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We recently installed TO9 software on our headquarters' system and all went well. We also installed OB9 and it also went well without any problems.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

NCEP: We were told several months ago that several of our centers (TPC and SPC) will not get their own NOAA Net connections but instead will be piggy backed to their own WFOs. Joe Byerly stated that this will cause some local problems and asked who he could assist him with the situation. It was stated that Jami Casamento is the SEC engineer who is working this project

and Joe took the action to get in touch with Jami.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 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.