

MRACC Meeting Minutes No. 269 (March 17, 2010)

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, March 17, 2010, 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**: Ulysses Davis; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Eric Lau; **GSD**: (did not call in); **NCEP**: (did not call in); **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: (did not call in); **Raytheon**: Chris Marshall; **NRC**: Heiko Crowe; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of AWIPS Software Releases:

OB9.2.3: Initial beta testing revealed an issue associated with the fix for WarnGen DR 29030. A new DR 21077 was written and checked in prior to installation at sites SGF and DDC. Readiness review slides have been sent with a suspense date of March 18. Deployment will start on March 22. The NCF will perform the install remotely and should not impact operations.

OB9.2.4: There are three important GFE DRs fixed in this release. Software Integration and Test (SWIT) is projected to begin on March 18. Deployment is projected to start May 5.

OB9.2.5: This is a special SCAN release that will fix DR 20981:SCAN – Cannot display storm cells. The code that was causing the issue has been identified and developers are analyzing the solution. Deployment is projected to start in May.

Also, GOES 13 is scheduled to replace GOES 12 as the GOES East satellite on April 14. GOES 13 will drift into its final location (75 degrees west longitude) by April 26. Since the affected NDM file contains the final location information for GOES 13, the Fog Monitor fog detection code will not correctly identify fog in the GOES East visible imagery between activation on April 14 and final position on April 26.

b. Status of AWIPS Migration Activities: We had a preliminary readiness review last week which decided to delay the end of TO11 into the May time frame. DR8 was released on March 15 and it contained 70 plus DRs. They will deliver DR9 on April 5 and a FIT will be held here in Silver Spring from April 6-8. We plan on having an RFC FIT at the same time. Raytheon has an optional release date of April 19 and it could be a DR10. An assessment will be made on April 12. On May 3 they will deliver a TO11 final. The main readiness review will be held on May 7 and will go through the current state of AWIPS Migration to see if we can hold a system readiness review on or about May 10.

So far there is no automatic slip of the entry into the field OT&E come mid September and the

deployment next March, 2011.

c. Status of 8-Bit WSR-88D Products on the SBN: At the February 3 RACC Meeting, it was discussed how the NWS would be centrally collecting and disseminating a set of 8-bit WSR-88D radar products. The central collection and dissemination of these radar products is being implemented in 2 Phases. Phase 1 introduces the 8-bit Reflectivity and Velocity products for the WSR-88D's (2) lowest elevation angles. The implementation schedule for phase 1 is detailed in the Power Point file attached to these minutes. Phase 2 introduces the remaining 8-bit Reflectivity and Velocity products for the WSR-88D's higher elevation angles plus the Enhanced Echo Tops product and the Digital Vertical Integrated Liquid product. Testing for Phase 2 began on March 17 at the following WFOs: LMK, JKL, RLX, RNK, MRX and OHX. Testing will run through March 29. The tentative schedule for implementing Phase 2 is contained in the Power Point file.

The 8-bit WSR-88D radar products will become replacements for 4-bit radar products that are currently centrally collected and disseminated on the SBN/NOAAPort and the Radar Central Server. There will be a transition period in which both the 8-bit and 4-bit radar products are centrally collected and available on the SBN/NOAAPort. The NWS plans to stop the central collection and dissemination of the low resolution 4-bit radar products in December 2010.

Once the 8-bit radar products from a given WSR-88D radar are available on the SBN/NOAAPort, these products will be automatically ingested and stored by AWIPS because the 8-bit radar products are transmitted under WMO headers that AWIPS is configured to ingest. Once the 8-bit radar products from a given radar are available on the SBN/NOAAPort, then there is no need for an AWIPS system to perform a dial One-Time-Request to acquire these products from a non-associated WSR-88D radar.

After Wayne's presentation, Eric Howieson requested that Southern Region be moved up in the Phase II deployment schedule so that these products will be available earlier during their severe weather season. Josh Watson requested that Eastern Region be moved up in order to fill in the week vacated by Southern Region. And then finally Mike Istok requested that Pacific Region be combined with Alaska Region so that we finish the deployment sooner (Pacific Region is considering this request). After the RACC, Wayne sent out an adjusted deployment schedule for review.

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

Alaska Region: We began the downloads for DR8 on our SCAT and hope to get it installed this week.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: We are working on our xyplex replacement this week on our headquarters system. We are going ahead with the LX replacement tomorrow. We have DR8 up and running and localized as OKX.

Pacific Region: Sites HFO and GUM did the NOAAnet migration this week and we will install it on our headquarters system tomorrow. We plan on installing DR8 on the headquarters system tomorrow.

Southern Region: We have DR8 up and running on our headquarters system.

Western Region: We downloaded DR8 and plan on installing it on our headquarters system tomorrow.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2010. 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.