

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 173 (4/26/06)

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 26, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NEXRAD Hotline**: Mark Albertelly;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB6/OB6.1: There are a total of 86 WFOs and 5 RFCs that have installed phase 3 of OB6. A maintenance release OB6.1 is being put together which will include a total of 17 patches. A tentative alpha-beta schedule is set for May 22-31. We will coordinate with the regional focal points on setting up sites for this testing. A deployment date for OB6.1 is tentatively set for June 15.
 - b. Status on Emergency Releases: Concerning the Key West site ID change: the software will be installed at Raytheon today with full testing tomorrow. We will install the software at sites EHU and MFL for further testing next week. If all goes well, we plan on installing it at Key West on May 17. Concerning NWRWAVES: a draft mod note is going out today and the final is expected within a week. We have extended the beta sites for the testing so more sites can install the new software sooner.
 - c. Radar Service Backup: Wayne Martin prepared a Power Point presentation on configuring AWIPS to provide WSR-88D service backup functionality. The RPG Build 8 and AWIPS Build OB6 introduced a new means of establishing a dedicated-like connection across the AWIPS WAN which will be called a "WAN Dedicated" connection. While it is anticipated that WAN Dedicated connections will be used primarily for routine operations, WAN Dedicated connections also afford the ability for one WFO to provide a WSR-88D Service Backup functionality for another WFO. The emphasis of this discussion will be on WSR-88D Service Backup and the role of the **wmoSiteInfo.txt** file. Please refer to the attached file **WSR-88D Service Backup.ppt** for the details of Wayne's excellent discussion.
 - d. OB6 WarnGen Bug in Airport Weather Warning: OB6 has a bug that prevents WarnGen from creating the Airport Weather Warning (AWW) product. GSD has provided a WarnGen workaround to the regional focal points. Mike Graf is polling the Regional Aviation Focal Points for their comments on this workaround. The Eastern Region will use the WarnGen workaround until the software fix is deployed with OB8 (at least late Spring 2007). There is only one Eastern Region site (ILM) that uses WarnGen to create the AWW. The workaround will need to be used until OB8 is deployed. If the workaround is not acceptable and you want to try to get the fix included with OB7, please contact Mike Graf and work through the AWIPS DR team. It should be noted that to get the fix into OB7 at this time, the understanding is that the

problem needs to be deemed operationally critical.

e. Regional LDAD Firewall Consoles: Phil Cragg gave a brief discussion on the progress of the implementation of consoles for all regional headquarters systems. The presentation is contained in the attached Power Point file titled **regional LDAD Firewall consoles.ppt**.

f. Site Preparation for HazCollect: There are some complications given how legacy transmission of Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEMs) evolved while HazCollect was under development. These complications result from having a legacy means of transmitting the NWEMs, which sites still have active, and the activation of the AWIPS HazCollect functionality with the deployment of OB6. This results in NWEMs being transmitted twice. Pete Pickard led a Tiger Team (which included field personnel) to provide some options for a way forward regarding the technical issues that have surfaced with the deployment of OB6. We hope to have a solution for AWIPS that helps the legacy Emergency Manager (EM) coordination process continue during deployment, prepares the way for HazCollect to go operational by June 30, and informs EMs about the implementation process/schedule and the future of NWEM distribution for the Dept. of Homeland Security and NOAA.

Mike Moss detailed that sites need a new set of PILs to be added to trigger tables and the CRS data bases. In order for sites to not have any conflicts with existing PILs, a lot of work must be done at the sites to prepare for HazCollect coming up by June 30. An OAT will begin at one site come May 8 with several more sites joining in later in the month.

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

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: We need a mod note for Guam to interface the AWIPS system to the FAA at that site. We recall it being mentioned in the RC but we cannot find it. Susan Reiley took the action to look up this RC and to give the information to Bill Ward.

ACTION Minute 173-1: Susan Reiley will find the RC that deals with Guam interfacing their AWIPS system to the FAA. Susan will relay the RC number to Bill Ward.

Southern Region: Again, Eric stressed the need for the NWS to write a mod note for the regional headquarter's offices to install the regional LDAD firewall consoles.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: We are continuing to work on the Notification Server problems and are making some progress towards finding solutions. We will forward any information on solutions as soon as possible to Frank Lucadamo who will forward it to the RACC mailing list.

ACTION Minute 173-2: Joanne Edwards will forward information on the Notification

Server problems to Frank Lucadamo.

NWSTC: We have training for OB6 on our web site. We are putting together a training package for the engineering side of the NWS for OB6 and this should be ready soon.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We sent the WES 6.0 out to the WFOs this week and all the sites should receive it by next Monday. Some training will be soon available on a web site for the WES 6.0.

NEXRAD Hotline: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2006. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.