

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 190 (1/3/07)

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, January 3, 2007, 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**: Joe Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Carl Gorski; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter, Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

- a. Status of Testing OB7.2: We are approaching the end of the Beta Test Phase evaluation on test platform and at headquarters and field sites. Raytheon is conducting formal testing of AWIPS OB7.2, the System Acceptance Testing (SyAT) on their test platforms until January 8. There are four additional beta test sites at which the OB7.2 software will be installed later this week and early next week. The next OB7.2 Beta Teleconference will be held on January 8 and will focus on the readiness of the release for the national deployment.

The System Verification Review (SVR) meeting for OB7.2 is scheduled for Friday, January 12. There are approximately 15 open Critical Discrepancy Reports (DRs) for which fixes must be provided in OB7.2, so there is a potential that the release may not be ready for national deployment by January 12. Raytheon anticipates being able to build and test these software fixes in time for the final planned installation of the software at Wilmington, NC (ILM) on January 10.

Several of the OB7.2 beta site representatives are actively going through Raytheon's test procedures and have found several software defects that Raytheon did not identify during their testing. Jamie Vavra commended all the site representative's efforts in helping out in this regard. In addition to the test procedure completion, we have asked for volunteers to test software fixes for selected DRs for which field testing of the fixes is required. We need to receive responses from the volunteers by January 5, and so far have only received a response from staff at WFO LUB.

Carl Gorski of the Western Region asked about the status of two fixes that Virgil from beta site BYZ recently provided to Raytheon. One fix is for the Climate F6 product, and the other is a fix for one of the Fire Weather formatter defects. Virgil needs to know whether he should make the fixes available via the AWIPS Local Application Database or if the fixes are already included in the software that will be nationally deployed in future releases. Jamie will follow up with Raytheon developers to find out the deployment plans for those two software fixes.

There is one lessons learned found during the national deployment of AWIPS OB7.1 that we request be shared with staff at operational sites in each NWS Region. During the installation of the OB7.1 software, staff from selected operational sites opened the Installation Instruction

document in PDF, and then used the cut and paste method to place commands from the installation instructions into the AWIPS terminal window. Since the instructions are provided in PDF and are not compatible for processing in Linux, this practice impacts the execution of commands. The copying from outside of AWIPS into AWIPS introduces errors by adding erroneous but invisible characters into the commands, and compromises the ability of the NCF to monitor the installation progress. This practice was not widely followed during the national deployment of AWIPS OB7.1, but an NCF installation staff member brought this concern to our attention. We request the assistance of the AWIPS Focal Points in notifying the field staff to refrain from copying directly from the displayed Installation Instruction document into the AWIPS terminal command line.

b. Summary of Recent OCONUS GFS40 Activation: The three SBN activations of NCEP's OCONUS GFS40 products are now mostly behind us. There are a small number of residual issues still being cleaned up (NCEP and Raytheon/Keane are handling those issues). Brian Gockel was the coordinator as related to the SBN analysis back a few years ago. The main responsibilities for these activations was with NCEP, the TOC and within the AWIPS community. Brian was asked to give the Regional Focal Points a briefing on a summary of these SBN activations. Brian prepared a Power Point file for this briefing titled "OCONUS GFS Activation Summary – RACC – Jan 3 2007." (This file is attached to these minutes.)

The Power Point file is well written and self explanatory. To summarize the suggested areas for improvement for future activations:

- Raytheon will look at what is part of the baseline software at the OCONUS sites.
- The Pacific Regional Headquarters has an additional workstation and it could be possibly be used as a test bed. Bill Ward answered in the affirmative.
- Some clean up of the AWIPS PVCS baseline (e.g., remove from PVCS, files that are not part of the install).
- Standardize OCONUS installs and train developers on the OCONUS installs (e.g., have an NCF person dedicated to these types of installs).
- Standardize regional/site localization practices.
- Feedback of corrections into all of the "in the pipeline" releases that are upcoming.
- The data management function (that concerns these activations and coordination and ensures testing is done) has been transferred to Raytheon as part of the new contract.

There is a spreadsheet of "new" AWIPS OB5/6/7 products. In July, when the TOC moratorium ended, we had 23 product additions to make to the SBN. So far, we've gotten through about 13 products, so 10 remain to be activated. The addition of the two NESDIS products may be problematic due to bandwidth concerns (GINI-to-NCF). The Regions asked that this spreadsheet be sent to them. Brian took the action to forward this information to the focal points. **[Editor's note: this action was completed.]**

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

Alaska Region: We appreciate all the hard work that Brian Gockel has done as the coordinator for these GFS40 activations.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: There is a problem with the notification server at many OB7.1 sites in our region. There are maybe 1/3rd of our sites that need the server restarted daily. Radar and satellite loops are failing to auto update and the green times are out of date. This was a serious problem a while back. But, we thought it was taken care of in OB6.1.3, but now its back in OB7.1, as the notification server has been moved from PX1 to DX1. Kevin Johnson stated that this likely a different problem, which has been documented in a trouble ticket. Kevin Johnson of the NCF believes a fix is in OB7.2.

Pacific Region: We appreciate all the hard work that Brian Gockel has done as the coordinator for these GFS40 activations.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: We would appreciate the status of the fixes found in OB7.2 at BYZ. Jamie Vavra will follow up with Raytheon developers to find out the deployment plans for those two software fixes.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2007. 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.