

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 194 (3/7/07)

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, March 7, 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**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker, Mark Albertelly; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White; **NCF**: Kristen Delak

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB7.2.1 and OB8.1: The OB7.2.1 Maintenance Release is scheduled to be beta tested on the following operational systems: PBP, BCQ, BYZ, DTX, LUB, PHI, and RHA. These are the known prerequisites which must be completed prior to the OB7.2.1 installation:
 1. AWIPS OB7.2 and Kernel 42 installation as per Software Mod Note 65A.
 2. AWIPS LX Replacement Procedure as per System Mod Note 33.
 3. AWIPS SBN CP Replacement Procedure as per System Mod Note 32.
 4. AWIPS OB7.2.0.1 Security Patch installation as per Software Mod Note 66.

The draft Mod Notes for the LX and CP replacement installations will be provided to beta site representatives by Mary Buckingham. Raytheon plans to accelerate the hardware shipment for these devices. The precise delivery dates for the hardware is not yet available. As soon as the hardware arrives at the beta site, the sites should request that the focal points schedule the installation of the hardware on the AWIPS Oracle Calendar, preferably for a date during the week of March 12-15.

Here is a proposed OB7.2.1 installation schedule:

Thursday, March 15: BCQ, RHA

Monday, March 19: PBP

Monday, March 19 - Thursday, March 22: PHI, BYZ, DTX, LUB

Although it is not necessary to schedule the installation of the OB7.2.1 Maintenance Release on the Oracle Calendar, the focal points should notify Jamie Vavra of their planned installation date. The draft Mod Note for the OB7.2.1 Maintenance Release is not yet available from Raytheon. WSH will provide the draft document for your review as soon as it becomes available. After the installation of the OB7.2.1 Maintenance Release at your site, please report any issues identified to the NCF and open a Trouble Ticket. Also, after evaluation of the release, please prepare a report of issues identified at the beta site and send to Jamie Vavra and Sanford Garrard by

Friday, March 23.

A Readiness Review to determine whether the OB7.2.1 Release is ready for the national deployment is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27.

Concerning OB7.2, Sanford Garrard stated that several data products will be coming out soon but have not yet been activated. However, the GFS BUFR Soundings will be activated on March 8 and an announcement will be placed on the AWIPS infolist.

b. Status of Latest Software Releases: Karen Tepera of Raytheon stated that they are ready to proceed with beta site selection for OB8.1. Jamie Vavra will send out an e-mail to the focal points looking for sites to do initial testing. We will looking for beta sites that meet one of the following criteria; Hydro VTEC 1 sites, CRS Build 12 OAT sites, WSR-88D Build 9 beta sites, and 2005 Field Evaluation of Warning by Polygon sites.

Concerning OB8.2, the SREC requirements are being prioritized for this release. We will also finalize the DRs for this release and publish the list. We are putting the planning of OB9 in place but it depends upon the strategy for AWIPS II.

c. Status of the Daylight Savings Time (DST) Change: Kevin Johnson of the NCF has installed the DST upgrade software at the Pacific and Western Regional Headquarters yesterday, and is installing it at the Eastern and Southern Headquarters today and expects to install it at the Alaska and Central Regional Headquarters tomorrow. As of this morning, a total of 41 operational sites have installed the software. A subset of this change includes the Pulaski County change in the state of Indiana. This county is going back to the Eastern Time Zone from the Central Time Zone. The installation of this subset software has been completed at the Central Region Headquarters, and at sites IND and IWX. Site GRR expects to install it tomorrow.

d. Status of AWIPS/MPLS Pilot Project: To summarize briefly, the NOAAnet project will establish a new agency-wide network infrastructure by converging and consolidating legacy networks onto a single, common, and centrally managed and funded platform replacing point-to-point circuits with potential for any-to-any connections. It will combine the AWIPS WAN and the Regional Frame Network into NOAAnet. It will also provide an infrastructure where additional NOAA/NWS programs may securely and cost effectively combine their legacy networks.

The pilot project used 6 sites in the initial MPLS network. Its objective was to measure performance of AWIPS WAN communications on the MPLS WAN, provide Proof-of-Design for the NOAAnet MPLS project, and plan and conduct a full migration to all AWIPS sites. Major milestones and scheduled completion dates were included in the presentation package that was distributed before this call. The pilot project began on August 21, 2006 but was suspended a month later. It was restarted on January 8, 2007 and terminated on February 9. This termination was the result of the OCIO, the NCF and the OAT team meeting to declare the pilot project was a failure and to suspend it. The MPLS technology worked well but the operational support side failed.

We have workarounds to address the design that the OCIO was using. Unless the OCIO goes with a new design, we will go to another OAT to test out before a national deployment.

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

James Washington: As a heads up, the NCF will be sending to the regional focal points a preliminary study of the modem nest and how it is used in LDAD and their connections. We would appreciate the focal points passing this memo along to their sites and then filling in the attached spreadsheet. The information would then be relayed back to the NCF.

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: Site OAX received their LX replacement and turned the mouse scroll wheel on and discovered this action would crash D2D. The default setting is for the scroll wheel to be off and a word of caution to the other regions that sites should not change this default setting.

Eastern Region: Raytheon sent out to the Regional Directors the offer to buy new E-AWIPS workstations. This was sent out without the regional focal points knowledge and there was a consensus that they would like to be in the loop the next time this offer is distributed. Karen Tepera took the action to relay this to the appropriate Raytheon personnel.

Pacific Region: Russ Ingraham sends out weekly updates on the upcoming hardware projects. We appreciate this information and suggest it would be helpful if he could in the future provide a time line.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NEXRAD Hotline: The question was raised as to whether it might be possible to systematically start WAN dedicated connections from the "host" radar to the service backup WFOs as part of the AWIPS Build installation process. The process will take offices a long way towards being ready for WAN dedicated operations for the coming convective season. Offices will also gain from that exercise when NEXRAD Build 9 deploys. The Build 9 RPG "refresh" entails about 8 hours of down time while the legacy ORPG hardware is upgraded. The more offices we can get familiar and comfortable with WAN dedicated operations the better. It was suggested that Mark Albertelly contact Randy Chambers at the NCF to get things moving once again.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 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 Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.