

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 204 (July 25, 2007)

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, July 25, 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**: Joshua Watson; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Carl Bullock; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **ROC**: Tim Crum; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. Status of OB8.1, OB8.1.0.1 and OB7.2.1.1: The fix for the GFE tropical ETN issue will be in OB8.1 (via the immediate installation OB8.1.0.1 after the main install). The fix for this issue is being worked on for OB7.2.1.1. We suggest that coastal sites install OB8.1 early in the schedule. Concerning OB8.1.0.1, it is ready to go and we finalized the Mod Note 68 and it should be posted today or tomorrow. We will send out to the existing OB8.1 beta sites the instructions to upgrade to the emergency release.

OB7.2.1.1 will have at least 3 DR fixes (and possibly the GFE tropical ETN fix) and should be ready to go by the end of this week or early next week.
  - b. Status of Upcoming Releases: Karen Tepera states that three sites (BGM, GUM, and WNAR) need to install OB7.2.1. There are approximately 25 sites that need to install the FFMP Emergency Release. OB8.2 is in SWIT and the first alpha install is scheduled on August 22 on the Raytheon test system TBDW. Regular deployment is scheduled to begin in early January of 2008. Concerning OB8.3, the requirements are being reviewed and the DR selection process is beginning.
  - c. TDWR Supplemental Product Generation (SPG): The Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) is starting up again. The SPG is on the RPG and provides products to the AWIPS using the TDWR data. The deployment has been on hold for a few years but we expect to resume deployment this coming October to all remaining sites. The AWIPS AS1 cabinet that became available a few years ago as a result of the "AS1 rack consolidation" is required for this project. Any deployment questions should be directed to the deployment manager Roger Hall ([Roger.W.Hall@noaa.gov](mailto:Roger.W.Hall@noaa.gov), 405-325-2079). If anyone has an extra AWIPS AS1 cabinet, that could be shipped to site WFO Tampa Bay, FL (TBW), please contact Roger Hall.

### Questions:

- 1) Is there a deployment schedule? **Response**: Not yet.
- 2) What is the plan regarding central collection/SBN broadcast of TDWR SPG Products?

**Response:** We anticipate this to happen but it's not likely to occur before FY'09 due to funding constraints (comms to add products to the WAN, etc.). Also, because additional AWIPS software changes (AWIPS\_DR\_19194: "TDWR Radar ID Changes" and an AWIPS RC "Remove TDWR configuration files from AWIPS baseline and add them to the National Data files") would be needed to change the SPG radar IDs of Cleveland, Indianapolis, and Wichita so that the last 3 letters of the IDs are different than the WSR-88D (KCLE, KIND, KICT). Also, a project to centrally collect TDWR SPG products would need to go through OSIP.

**Note:** the new approved IDs are:  
Cleveland – (was TCLE) New: TLVE  
Indianapolis – (was TIND) New: TIDS  
Wichita – (was TICT) New: TICH

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Michael.Istok@noaa.gov.

d. Hurricane Katrina Special Supplemental Appropriation, 25 New NWWS Satellite Uplinks:  
The AWIPS network presently has 17 AWIPS systems that are configured to uplink products to the NWWS. Most AWIPS systems are not configured to uplink products to the NWWS so they send their products to their assigned NWWS uplinks. Products are sent to a primary NWWS uplink and a secondary NWWS uplink.

The proposal is to add 25 AWIPS systems as NWWS uplinks, mostly on the East coast and the Gulf coast. If a catastrophic event occurs in which one or more of these WFOs are disconnected from the AWIPS WAN, these WFOs will still be able to transmit their text products out using their local NWWS uplink. Computer Sciences Corp. (CSC) has ordered the satellite equipment which is expected to be delivered to CSC within the next 2 weeks. CSC is now scheduling site surveys at each of the 25 WFOs to determine appropriate location of equipment. The entire network is expected to be installed and operational by the end of August 2007. AWIPS System Modification Note 37 has been written to provide the AWIPS software changes that must be made to implement this functionality within AWIPS. Mod Note 37 activates the NWWS uplink functionality such that it is always on so the NCF/ESA/ITO does not have to activate the functionality during a catastrophic event. LWX is testing the draft version of Mod Note 37 on July 25. Mod Note 37 will be finalized and distributed shortly after the LWX testing.

See Wayne Martin's attached Power Point file titled "NWWS Processing in AWIPS."

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

Alaska Region: We were informed that our regional headquarters system needs to install the FFMP emergency release. If this will be in upcoming OB8.1, why do we need to install it? The WSH response is that it is a configuration management issue and that all emergency releases need to be installed at all sites even though the fixes are in the next major software release.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: Our last coastal site (AKQ) to install OB8.1 will be August 14. And we have moved two remaining sites up in the schedule to install OB8.1.

Pacific Region: Kudos to the NCF for assisting us with upgrading Guam's CPSBN server. Their DS1 and DS2 will not be de-commissioned for a while as some technical problems were encountered during the upgrade. We have scheduled Guam to install OB7.2.1 on August 7.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: How do we go about obtaining an extra E-workstation, Raytheon is offering? The WSH response is that Raytheon offered to sell these units to field sites only. Jim Lane took the action item to let Randy Schubach know who to contact about buying some E- workstations for the training center.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

John Seeger (NCF): In reference to the Firewall Firmware update, no problems have been reported at any of the sites that have had the firmware update installed (20 to date) so we need to schedule the remaining sites. John will send an e-mail to the Regional Focal Points with information on what will occur at each site during this upgrade. **[Editor's note: Action completed.]** John asks that the focal points relay this information to all their respective sites.

This process will take approximately 10 minutes. John would prefer to have the site e-mail him with a good time frame to do the install and then he will call sometime within that window and confirm before the upgrade occurs. Once the upgrade has completed, he will call again to update the firmware status. If the status indicates that no problems were encountered, he may leave a message if the person is not available but he won't start until he talks to somebody at the site.

Sal Romano (OCWWS): Sal asked the Regions about the priority of the need to do a study of the maximum number of sites that can use the radar service backup functionality without serious degradation to the WAN. The overwhelming consensus is that it is a high priority project.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 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.**