

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 241 (February 4, 2009)

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, February 4, 2009, 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**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Phil Dutton; **PRH**: Eric Lau; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig; **NCF**: James Washington, John Seeger;

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

a. Status of Upcoming Software Releases (Matt Kensey):

OB9: We did a successful SVR on January 29. We begin national deployment on February 9. The NCF can support up to 10 sites per day between Monday and Thursday. We did regression testing of both the new IGC processes and they will be provided as post install steps by next Monday. Work was done on the new WarnGen executables and they will not be deployed yet. We will work with Bob Rood's shapefiles team and the executables will be sent out in the near future. An ATAN will be created and sites solicited to test the WarnGen executables. Bob Rood will coordinate with GSD to assist them with providing corrections to the GFE DRs discovered recently at site PTR. An ATAN will be issued soon.

OB9.1: We began regression testing of this update to the operating system. SWIT is expected to begin on February 23. Beta begins on April 6 and deployment to all sites starts on May 11.

OB9.2: We have identified approximately 45 DRs for this maintenance release. The period for identifying DRs continues until March 11. Beta is expected to begin June 8 with regular deployment to all sites around July 6.

b. Updating NCF Point of Contacts List (Wayne Martin): Wayne sent out to the Regional Focal Points for review the latest AWIPS Points-Of-Contact (POC) which pertains to their AWIPS system. If any of the POC information needs to be updated, email the updated information to ncf@noaa.gov.

Please E-mail any updated POC information to ncf@noaa.gov by Friday, March 6. In the subject line of the e-mail, indicate your AWIPS Site ID which will assist the NCF in updating the POC information for the correct office.

During the week of March 9, Wayne will provide an updated AWIPS_Sites.txt file to the Regional AWIPS Focal Points so that each office can verify that their information has been accurately updated.

c. TDWR Central Collection Project (Wayne Martin): An overview of the TDWR Central Collection: Michael Istok is leading a team to implement the central collection of products from the 45 Terminal Doppler Weather Radars (TDWR). The central collection of TDWR radar products will be similar to the central collection of the WSR-88D radar products. (More technical and background information is provided in the Power Point file attached to these minutes.)

On January 28, based upon the successful beta testing, all groups involved with this project decided to move from testing to deployment. The distribution of radar products from the remaining 38 TDWR radars will occur from February 17 to May 28. OB9 provides the new functionality for an AWIPS system to transmit TDWR radar products to the NCF. This functionality is controlled through a set of configuration files and these files are described in the attached Power Point file. The OB9 installation is a prerequisite for an AWIPS system that is authorized to transmit TDWR products to the NCF.

Wayne Martin is writing an AWIPS Mod note so that a site can perform the TDWR activation. Mike Istok will track the OB9 installations and after an AWIPS/TDWR site installs OB9, we will ask the site to activate the distribution of the TDWR radar products.

To conclude, the distribution of radar products from the remaining 38 TDWR radars will occur from February 17 to May 28. As the distribution of radar products from each TDWR is activated, products from that TDWR will be available for AWIPS ingest on the SBN.

d. Status of Hardware Refresh Projects (James Lane): Jim Lane sent out a preliminary spreadsheet before the RACC call. Some more changes will be made to the spreadsheet in the next few weeks. The highlights of the projects are listed below:

NAS replacement for WFOs – will be going into full deployment since the CRS issues have been resolved. Concerning the NAS replacement for RFCs, some testing was done at a RFC beta site and some issues need to be resolved in the next few weeks.

PX replacements – in 2 weeks, we go to the Southern Region headquarters for the first install. Then we go to the WFO at IND. Things should go smoothly.

Terminal Server replacement – this replaces the xyplex and deployment should begin before summer.

Modem replacement and rack consolidation replacement – should begin in mid to late summer and be finished by the end of year.

NAS tape backup – should begin late in this calendar year but the schedule may be updated.

REP refresh – deployment begins in August through the beginning of the rack consolidation.

Workstation refresh (preparation for AWIPS 2) – we start next month and full deployment ends in December. One note is that preceding this is the monitor refresh which will replace all monitors for the XTs and LXs.

The DXs: We will get the DCEP from Raytheon in the next 1-2 months and then we will have a time line for replacement DXs.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: A thanks goes to Jim Lane for the hardware briefing.

Eastern Region: A thanks goes to Jim Lane for the hardware briefing.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: A thanks goes to Jim Lane for the hardware briefing.

Western Region: A thanks goes to Jim Lane for the hardware briefing.

GSD: (did not call in)

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We added the fix for the All Tilts DR (DR 20732) to OB9. We have the final OB9 in place and it will go out with the WES9 in a few days. The OB9 training will be released this Friday (February 6) and the final version will be released in a few weeks.

NRC: (did not call in)

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2009. 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.