

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 147 (4/20/05)

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 20, 2005, 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**: Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sean Wink; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Ken Waters, Bill Ward; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo, Dave Holloran; **FSL**: Rich Jesuroga; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig, Tim Decker

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

a. Status of OB4.2 and OB5.0: As of this morning, there are 41 sites at OB4.2. OB4.1a has been installed at 98 sites. OB5 is on hold and there remains 17 sites beta testing this software. The beta installs for OB5 should resume next week.

A tiger team was formed to find out what happened at WFO JAN on April 6 during a severe weather outbreak. JAN was on a beta version of OB5 at the time and many performance issues occurred with this load. The AWIPS system and especially WarnGen was sluggish at best during the weather outbreak. The conclusions were over the use of the Local Warning Display product as it was on many panes. The use of this product can have a significant impact on the system, especially during severe weather. The SST sent out to the awipsinfo List Server and to the regional focal points a message on how to mitigate the impact of the Local Warning Display product. A patch for this will be put into upcoming OB4.1b in which the default Local Warning Display will be for the local CWA and not the legacy regional display (the local CWA plus the surrounding CWAs) and this change should improve performance a lot. There also will be a new menu item entitled Regional Warnings, which is the same as legacy regional warning. The tiger team recommends using this display on only one workstation, which is not used for issuing warning, for monitoring purposes only. The plans OB4.1b to be sent to beta sites for testing at the end of the week of April 26 and will go to existing OB4.1a the week of May 2. This patch will be included in OB4.2a for the current OB4.2 sites.

Bruno (NGIT) asked that a site wishing to install software outside the normal hours to please contact him about a week in advance so arrangements can be made for after hours support. This may be especially true for RFC sites.

b. LDAD Firewall Upgrades: We are spinning up on the upgrade for the firewall. The existing single firewall will be replaced by redundant firewall system. The OAT will consist of 5 headquarters test beds and 10 operational site test beds. The OAT will begin on May 9 and last until June 10. A deployment decision will be made on or about June 13. If approved, shipping should begin on July 12 and the deployment installs occurring between July 18 and Sept. 12. We plan on installing 5 sites per day. We plan to strictly follow the security policy as described in Appendix F of the System Managers Manual.

c. AS Rack Consolidation/Removal: We plan on moving the AS1 rack out of the AWIPS line. This will take anywhere from 4 to 6 hours for the ESAs to accomplish. The AS1 and AS2 boxes will be removed from the rack and the archive server will go into the AS2 rack. The Zyplex and remote switch panel will also go from the AS1 rack to the AS2 rack. All these actions should leave the AS1 rack completely empty. The AS1 rack can be removed from the area unless a site is getting TDWR and then it should be left in the area.

The disposal will consist of wiping the AS boxes clean of data. A site should follow the regional disposal guidelines. A site should take the AS1 rack off the property list but those sites getting TDWR should place it on the appropriate property listing.

We will have OAT sites for both the LDAD upgrade and the AS1 rack removal. We would like to have a regional site, several RFCs, a national center, an OCONUS site, and 5 WFOs as OAT sites. These sites must have OB4.2 installed before they do the rack consolidation.

More details on the LDAD firewall upgrade and AS1 rack consolidation projects need to be worked out. When the plans are finalized, they will be sent to the regional focal points.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We are disappointed to hear that the TDWR deployment has been delayed until next year due to money issues. What is the latest on sites unable to use Firefox to access the WSH OPS12 web page to obtain the mod notes, lessons learned, etc.? There has been no change since Al Wissman (Engineering Division) has been on leave the past few weeks. The RACC moderator will try to get Al to address the next RACC on this matter.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

FSL: nothing significant to report.

Training Branch: We have already placed the TDWR into the WES as we expected it coming in OB5. Also, we would like to obtain OB5 beta version 12 (final version) when it is available.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2005. 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.