

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 159 (10/5/05)

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, October 5, 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**: Neal DiPasquale, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Sean Wink; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo; **FSL**: Rich Jesuroga, Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig, Timm Decker, Mark Albertelly;

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

a. Briefing on New AWIPS Contract: Deirdre Jones of the OS&T's System Engineering Center (SEC) briefed the focal points on the new contract awarded to Raytheon. She spoke using the Power Point briefing package put together for this conference call. This excellent package is included as an attachment to these minutes. One good question that was asked of Deirdre was will the training of the Raytheon employees (on an ongoing basis to keep up on current software) be the same as done in the past. Deirdre took the action item to inquire with the appropriate Raytheon project manager on this matter.

b. Status of OB6: Edwin Welles briefed the group on the latest status of OB6. Back in August, the OB6 beta sites were refusing to install OB6 because of ongoing problems. By the time we might get to the SVR date in October, it was possible that we would not have had a stable OB6 load to deliver to the field. The best option to deal with this problem was since the SVR is a critical date in the schedule and we couldn't move it, it was best to stop beta deployments. This would give Raytheon time to get comfortable with the build and its supporting software. So we decided to get to the SVR with the software as is and do a maintenance release (dealing with critical DRs) to follow on top of the OB6. The field sites would get a single DVD containing the OB6 software and the separate maintenance release to be installed on top of OB6. As a result, the SVR #2 for OB6 is currently scheduled for January 26 with national deployment in early February. (See the attached Gant chart for the detailed schedules.)

A question was asked of the timeframe for a site installing all three phases of OB6. Edwin answered that all three phases would be done in short order and take maybe up to a week for a site to accomplish. Also, the existing beta sites will get any upgrades between now and Nov. 15 via ATANs.

c. LSR Format Change Delay: The format change for the LSR was supposed to have occurred on October 4 but has been delayed until February 8. The software was pushed out to the LX and XT boxes that were affected by the delay of the format changes. But there were problems reported as a few came in with the incorrect format. Mike Moss of the SST emphasized that sites need to place this pushed software on any non-standard boxes that generate the LSRs. Mike sent an e-mail to the AWIPS list server today detailing the problem and the need for sites

to take the appropriate action.

d. DX3&4 Deployment: Franz Zichy stated that the DX software changes won't be available until OB6 comes out but that build is currently delayed until next February. NGIT plans to ship out the new DX3 and 4 boxes by the end of their contract this month. So that the field sites will know what to do when they receive this shipment, a mod note will be issued telling the sites the situation with getting the new boxes and not being able to install the software until OB6 comes out.

e. Firewall Replacement: Mary Buckingham briefed the group on the latest status of the firewall replacement project. A total of 5 sites have installed it and we are looking for another OB6 site. We are proceeding through the OAT sites as best we can. There are many possible solutions to the same problems and we are sorting through all of it. A lot more work needs to be done.

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

Sanford Garrard: Since long-fused VTEC will be activated on November 1, all WFOs must have OB5.1 installed before this VTEC activation. I generated a list of WFOs that yet need to install OB5.1 and sent this list out to the regional focal points. The OS&T would like all WFOs to have OB5.1 installed by October 14.

Central Region: Concerning NWRWAVES, the final version 2.3b is ready for testing early next week and should be available to the beta sites by the end of next week. It may be ready for field implementation by the end of this month. Sites can now join the list server.

Site EAX installed a beta version of OB6 last week.

Eastern Region: Two sites in the region (BOX and ALY) installed a beta version of OB6 last week.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: Site EYW moved its operation to a new building recently and thanks goes to NGIT for all their helping with the various problems that popped up (e.g., losing a hard drive on LDAD).

Also, the regional headquarters received a firewall management workstation yesterday and we were not sure if we were supposed to get this hardware. The response was in the affirmative as the regional focal points will manage the configuration for their sites once this project is up and running.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

FSL: Joanne Edwards will be our new AWIPS focal point here at FSL.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We recently installed beta 6 of OB6. We experienced in one particular case an extreme slowdown of the SFMP processing and are looking into the matter.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 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.