Title: Intermittent Narrowband Communication Problems with FAA Systems

THIS EMRS NOTICE PERTAINS TO ALL FAA WSR-88D SITES AND THE FOLLOWING WFOs:

SAN JUAN, ANCHORAGE, FAIRBANKS, JUNEAU, AND HONOLULU

Sites in Hawaii have reported experiencing intermittent problems with narrowband lines failing to reconnect after a channel switch on FAA redundant systems. Analysis of the Hawaii conditions uncovered a messaging field problem between the RDA and RPG on all FAA redundant systems. A message field mismatch can cause a failure of the narrowband lines to reconnect after a channel switch.

ROC Engineering has confidence that performing a "RDA Restart" via the MSCF HCI on the non-controlling channel before initiating the channel switch will correct this problem. As a safety measure, ROC Engineering also recommends performing weekly or bi-weekly channel switches in clear air and performing a RDA restart on each non-controlling channel before the channel switch to insure the message field causing the problem is periodically reset on both channels. The FAA requests that this preventative measure channel switching be executed on Monday or Tuesday of each week so that the local FAA technical staff have time to order and receive parts within the normal work week to restore the radar to operational service in case of a hardware failure.

In the event the narrowband lines still fail to reconnect after performing this procedure, the ROC Hotline at 1-800-643-3363 should be contacted for follow-on support.

This problem will be corrected in the Build 10.0 software release now scheduled for deployment in May 2008. This Notification is effective for all FAA redundant WSR-88D radars until Build 10.0 software is installed on both channels.