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SOUTHERN TOPICS

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Working Together To Save Lives

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

As this month's *Southern Topics* goes to press, yet another torrential rainstorm has struck the Hill Country in south-central Texas. Heavy rain and extensive flooding in the San Antonio and New Braunfels areas resulted in at least eight deaths, an estimated 48,000 damaged homes, hundreds of dramatic high water rescues, widespread power and telephone outages and hundreds of delayed flights. A total of 346 flash flood warnings were issued during the several day event (243 from WFO Austin/San Antonio). President Bush has declared 24 Texas counties as disaster areas and six other counties are under consideration.

Rainfall totaled as much as 35 inches, with the 24-hr total of 9.52 inches at San Antonio International Airport on July 1 making that the second rainiest day in the city's history. The one-day total also made this month the rainiest July on record for San Antonio (the previous record was July 1990 with 8.29 inches).

Response by the affected field offices and Southern Region Headquarters staff was outstanding. During the event we responded to numerous inquiries and interviews with local print and broadcast media throughout Texas - as well as multiple interviews with the *New York Times*, AP, The Weather Channel, *USA Today* and CNN. The magnitude of the event resulted in national and international attention.

JOHN HOPE, 1919-2002. We were saddened last month to hear that John Hope had died on Thursday, June 13. John became a nationally known weather personality in recent years as The Weather Channel's on-air hurricane expert, but his expertise was honed many years ago during his long National Weather Service career. John joined the U.S. Weather Bureau after World War II as a forecaster in Memphis. He became part of the NASA/NWS Project Mercury Weather Support Group in June 1962, just after the earliest manned flights, and he remained with that group (which became the Spaceflight Meteorology Group after Project Mercury ended) through all of the subsequent Gemini flights. When the SMG operations were consolidated at Kennedy Space Center in the late 1960s, John remained at the National Hurricane Center, and by the time of his retirement from the NWS in 1982 he had become a well recognized tropical storm expert, skilled in both forecasting and research. Not something that is done this way any longer, but it has been said that for his daughter's high school graduation in 1969, John gave her a very unique gift -- he named a hurricane after her...Camille.

John was a personal friend to many in the Weather Bureau and certainly, to both Dan Smith and I from the earliest days of our own National Weather Service careers beginning back in the National Hurricane Center. We will miss him.

IFPS

IFPS Web Site. A new NDFD section has been added to the IFPS Web site thanks to Jack Settelmaier (SSD). You can find conference call, RAP and RPP information and prototyping efforts on this page: *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/msd/ndfd/ndfdmain.html*

Monthly Conference Calls. Reminder: On the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Central Time we conduct the SR IFPS conference call. Dial-in information is sent to the MICs, SOOs and IFPS focal points. These calls provide needed updates, allow for important questions, and help everyone to stay current on IFPS progress across the Southern Region.

CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

KUDOS FOR WFO SAN JUAN. On June 4, 2002, the emergency management office from the Carolina Municipality in Puerto Rico dedicated the first week of the 2002 hurricane season to the WFO San Juan staff. The plaque presented to the staff read as follows: "For Your Distinguished Services in Protecting Life and Property of the Citizens of Puerto Rico." For more information and pictures of the presentation ceremony, see the WFO San Juan home page.

MARINE

Marine Directives. All WSOM chapters are being converted into a new numbering and naming system called "Directives." The previous Marine Chapters (including the new D-07) have been converted to the new Marine Directives (NWSPD 10-3, 301, 302, 303, 304, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 330, and 331) and have been signed (only 10-320, the Coastal/Lakeshore Flood Services Directive is still under review at this time). They became effective May 21 at 0000UTC. All directives can be found online at *www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/index.htm*. (The NWS will no longer be mailing out hard copies.)

The associated PNS is at: *http://205.156.54.206/om/notifications/scn02-21marinedir.txt*.

There are a few differences between the new CWF and old CWF and also the new Directive can be confusing. If you have any (more) questions, please call or email Melinda Bailey.

New PMO. Chris Fakes accepted the Port Meteorological officer position in Houston, replacing Jim Nelson who retired in March. Chris already has his hands full, but if you get a chance please welcome him aboard (no pun intended). His email is chris.fakes@noaa.gov or he can be reached at Jim Nelson's old number.

Chamber of American Shipping Awards Ceremony. WFO New Orleans MIC Paul Trotter represented the NWS at the Chamber of America Shipping Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was well attended with over 200 participants. Major awards were presented to the shipping industry recognizing outstanding safety records and heroics at sea. Over 95 percent of the awards reflected personal employee risk, echoing the NWS theme of "service before self." The sacrifice of securing life and property against numerous odds was echoed throughout the theme of each award. Several were weather related, including one for heroics during tropical storm Allison. Some awards were related to hazmat conditions and others related to ships at risk at sea. Paul noted, "By partnering with the Chamber and also joining in the awards program, the NWS can enhance its overall marine program. By citing ships on positive weather practices, we can in the process enhance the VOS program and help ensure vital, consistent and timely marine observations."

PUBLIC

Heat Test for Six Offices this Summer. Another test and evaluation will occur this summer of the recently developed Operational Heat Stress Assessment System to be used as guidance in issuing heat-related products. Last year, WFO New Orleans was involved, but this year, in addition to New Orleans, the guidance/system has spread to Jackson, Shreveport, Lake Charles, Little Rock, and Memphis. The dates are from May 15 through September 30, 2002. Guidance for forecasters is based on air masses, not just the morning low and the afternoon heat index. After the test period is complete we will be evaluating how it went. Last year, WFO New Orleans had a fairly "cool" summer and no heat products were issued.

Public Meeting at NWSH. SRH CWWD public program manager Melinda Bailey attended a week-long meeting last month at NWSH to discuss all of the Public Directives with other regional and NWSH public program managers. In all, 12 Directives were reviewed and many concerns and action items were resolved. The Directives are currently still under review.

CCF TIMES. As a reminder, CCFs need to be transmitted twice daily by 0958UTC and 2158UTC (per WSOM Chapter C-20).

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

Ashburn, Georgia, NWR Site Unveiled. A press conference was held on June 24 at the Turner County Commission Office to announce the completion of the Ashburn, Georgia, NWR transmitter. WFO Tallahassee WCM Bob Goree in conjunction with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) conducted interviews with two local newspapers, a Tifton, Georgia, radio station, and the FOX TV affiliate, WFXL, in Albany, Georgia. The press conference was attended by Gary McConnell of GEMA, the local Georgia state senator, as well as a representative of the United States Congressional District.

NWR Expansion Continues. The installation of the Fountain Hill, Arkansas, transmitter was completed late last month and is currently operating in a 30-day test period. This transmitter will serve the Crossett and Monticello areas of Arkansas. In Tennessee two USDA funded NWR transmitters at Lobelville and Centerville were in the installation process by the month's end. Three additional NWR sites have also been identified. They include an NWS site in Stillwater, Oklahoma; a USDA site at Guyman, Oklahoma; and an emergency management funded site at Cherokee Village, Arkansas. USDA grant funds were also allocated for an improved NWR site at Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Voice Improvement Project (VIP). Southern Region WFOs continue to experiment with both the male and female voice versions. A few offices are already leaning toward preference of one voice over the other. President Bush, while visiting the NOAA Headquarters complex in Silver Spring, Maryland, made a public statement that he listened to NWR broadcast at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. This area is covered by the WFO Fort Worth NWR VIP broadcast voice (male) broadcast by the Waco, Texas transmitter.

NWR Display Available by Request. WFO Atlanta sat up one of the three available Southern Region NWR displays at the Sumter Electric Membership Cooperative annual meeting. The display allowed WCM Barry Gooden to exhibit NWR receivers from a number of manufacturers. Over fifty persons in attendance stopped by the display and obtained NWR pamphlets showing transmitter coverage areas by county.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS AND OUTREACH

Ten Year Hurricane Andrew Anniversary. WFO Miami WCM Jim Lushine participated in a Hurricane Preparedness Expo, sponsored by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), to commemorate the upcoming tenth anniversary of Hurricane Andrew. The Expo was held at the Cutler Ridge Home Depot store in south Miami-Dade County, where some of the worst devastation wrought by hurricane Andrew occurred ten years earlier. Tom Gallagher, Florida Insurance Commissioner, presented a Certificate of Recognition to WFO Miami for their outstanding hurricane outreach activities in preparation for the next big one to impact south Florida. Local congressional representatives, several of the local media and CNN attended and promoted the Expo.

Hurricane Expo in the Keys. WFO Key West MIC Matt Strahan and WCM Jon Rizzo participated in the Florida Keys chapter of the American Red Cross Hurricane Expo at the Tavernier Towne Shopping Center in Tavernier, Florida. A variety of hurricane, marine weather services and NOAA Weather Radio brochures were given to the public as part of a hurricane awareness and preparation campaign. The expo provided a venue for meeting officials of Monroe County Emergency Management and Sheriffs Departments, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

NWS Partners with Home Improvement Centers in Mobile. WFO Mobile WCM Gary Beeler, forecaster Jeff Garmon, hydrometeorological technician Gene Jacobi and administrative assistant Debbie Burton participated and manned NWS booth displays at two hurricane outreach expos in Mobile. Participation at the hurricane outreach expos were multi-agency and conducted at Home Depot and Lowes home improvement centers. Over 300 hurricane information packets, which included safety brochures, hurricane tracking charts, and NWS URL labeled pencils were distributed to customers at the successful expos.

West Coast Floridians Learn about Hurricanes at Expo. WFO Tampa Bay forecaster Frank Alsheimer manned a booth at the Pasco County/Suncoat News annual hurricane expo. Frank used a multimedia presentation at the booth which highlighted coastal storm surge, the deadly effects of tropical cyclone winds, and flooding. The popular expo drew at least 2,000 local residents and media.

Brownsville Participates in Multi-Agency Hurricane Fair. WFO Brownsville WCM Jesse Haro, DAPM Jim Campbell, and HMT Samuel Martinez manned a display booth and participated in the annual Brownsville Hurricane Fair sponsored by the local police department and library. Jesse provided the keynote address concerning South Texas tropical cyclone history and the 2002 seasonal forecast. Over 1,000 people, including partners from the Red Cross, emergency management and city officials stopped by the booth to talk with the WFO Brownsville representatives and pick up the new "Action Guide on Tropical Cyclones and Inland Flooding."

Career Day in Deep South Texas. WFO Brownsville forecaster Kurt Van Speybroeck, DAPM Jim Campbell, and administrative assistant Rachel Gutierrez participated in the Russell Elementary Career Day. The trio spoke to nearly 400 students about careers in the NWS and meteorology. The presentation sparked several students to relate stories of severe weather they had witnessed, while others were more curious about meteorologist salaries and the required level of education to become a meteorologist.

Annual Central Florida Hurricane Seminar a Success. WFO Tampa Bay forecaster Ron Morales was one of three featured speakers at the annual Highlands County Hurricane Seminar in Central Florida. Ron spoke to 150 attentive local residents about NWS operations and support during tropical cyclones. Also speaking at the event was former NHC director Bob Sheets and local weathercaster Jim Farrell from WINK-TV in Ft. Myers, Florida.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

One New StormReady Site. The StormReady program continued to grow in the Southern Region during June! Florida added one more county as WFO Miami recognized Collier County as StormReady. There are now 28 new StormReady sites in Southern Region in FY02.

NWS Spearheads Multi-Agency Hurricane Exercise in Louisiana. WFO New Orleans WCM Frank Revitte and SOO Mike Koziara helped spearhead the multi-agency and statewide 2002 Louisiana Hurricane Exercise held at the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge. The NWS team provided hurricane briefing information that included tropical cyclone tracks, animated storm surges, wind fields, and rainfall totals for a simulated category 4 hurricane that impacted the New Orleans metropolitan area and southeast Louisiana. During the exercise the WFO New Orleans team briefed participants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Dept. of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Red Cross, Salvation Army and a host of other players including state and local emergency management. The exercise helped prepare those agencies involved in disaster recovery for the potential of a catastrophic hurricane disaster to impact the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Hurricane Evacuation Workshop in the Keys. WFO Key West MIC Matt Strahan, SOO Andrew Devanas and WCM Jon Rizzo attended the Hurricane Evacuation Study Manager's Workshop at Hawks Cay Resort in Duck Key, Florida. Representatives from the Red Cross, various state and local emergency management agencies, the National Hurricane Center, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attended. Key points discussed included improvements to modeling and storm surge impact databases, sheltering, and evacuation message dissemination.

WFO San Juan Conducts Hurricane Course. WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica conducted a condensed version of the FEMA hurricane course for 60 emergency managers and coordinators from San Juan. Rafael discussed the uncertainties and limitations involved in tropical cyclone forecasting and the meteorological decisions associated with landfall hurricanes. An exercise on plotting and tracking a hurricane based on reconnaissance, satellite and radar fixes was also provided to the emergency managers.

Alabama Emergency Management Activities. WFO Birmingham hosted a one-day seminar for 30 Alabama emergency managers. Topics presented to the attentive group included new products related to IFPS, Adopt-a-County program, communications, new brochures, radar utilization, and a review of microburst threats. Key action items were for the initiation of quarterly conference calls and the development of a technology team between WFO Birmingham and local emergency managers.

MICs Ken Graham (WFO Birmingham), John Gordon (WFO Huntsville), Randy McKee (WFO Mobile), and Paul Duval (WFO Tallahassee), collectively provided a presentation on the future development of the Alabama Mesonet and graphical products at the yearly Alabama Emergency Management Association conference. After the presentation, an open forum was conducted to obtain feedback from emergency managers. Over 100 people attended the conference.

Flood Mitigation Efforts Continue in the Southern Appalachians. WFO Morristown WCM Howard Waldron provided Dawn Isham and Suzanne Simmons, of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, an overview and tour of NWS operations. One of the primary reasons for the emergency management visit was to learn how the NWS improved outreach across WFO Morristown's five county area of responsibility in extreme southwest Virginia. Ms. Simmons has worked closely with the office in Morristown on the southwest Virginia flood mitigation project prompted by floods this past spring.

Louisiana/Texas Emergency Management Seminar. WFO Shreveport MIC Lee Harrison conducted a seminar with Emergency Managers (EM) from three Louisiana parishes and two Texas counties held at the Caddo-Bossier Emergency Operations Center. Lee discussed the test of the new Heat Stress parameters, the new voices on NWR, and the use of the WFO Shreveport home page to access and display the latest weather information including the ever popular radar loop capability. The workshop was well received by the EMs and they expressed interest in using the radar in their daily operations.

MEDIA/PUBLIC/EXTERNAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Shadow the Meteorologist Program in Appalachia. WFO Morristown, for the fourth consecutive year, provided a local middle school science teacher an opportunity to shadow NWS meteorologists as they analyzed, forecast and provided weather warnings to the communities of the Southern Appalachians. The purpose of this experience was three-fold. First, the opportunity provided the teacher, Donna Winstead of Westview Middle School in Morristown, a better

understanding of how their National Weather Service serves the public. Second, the experience provided Ms. Winstead an opportunity to more effectively mentor other teachers on the inherent difficulties in weather forecasting. Third, it provided an avenue in which the teacher could better relate the importance of a student's current education to the potential job skills required in the future.

FAM Float Helps Forecasters Interact with Marine Customers. WFO Key West MIC Matt Strahan, WCM Jon Rizzo, ITO Patricia Schmidt, forecasters Chip and Laura Kasper, and intern Brandon Bolinski participated in a familiarization float onboard the Discovery, a 78-foot steel-hulled glass-bottom vessel operated by Undersea Tours, Inc. The Discovery normally provides tours of the coral reef and its unique aquatic sea life for visitors. This event provided a unique opportunity for various NWS personnel to interact with the vessel's operators and their response to various weather conditions, such as wind, sea state and hurricane preparation.

WFO San Juan Partners with Electric Company. WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos and WCM Rafael Mojica met with members of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority to discuss their Lightning Detection System Project. The project, funded by the Government of Puerto Rico, is comprised of five lightning sensors to be deployed around the island within the next six months, once the contract with Global Atmospheric, Inc. is signed. The power company plans to share lightning data with the WFO via a dedicated computer.

WFO Huntsville Develops Another Partnership. WFO Huntsville staff met with the Army weather contractors at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville to develop another partnership. Redstone Arsenal has tentatively agreed to provide a few upper air weather balloon launches for WFO Huntsville, which will be budgeted into the WFO's yearly operation budget.

New WCM Briefs Newspaper CEO on Tampa Bay Hurricane Threat. WFO Tampa Bay WCM Dan Noah and forecaster Frank Alsheimer, attended and presented information regarding hurricane safety and preparedness at a round table discussion with members of the *St. Petersburg Times*, local emergency services and law enforcement. In addition a brief tour of Florida's largest daily newspaper circulation headquarters was given by the *Times* staff, including a meeting with the CEO of the *St. Petersburg Times* about the Tampa Bay hurricane threat.

Tampa Bay WCM a HAM. WFO Tampa Bay WCM Dan Noah participated in the Lakeland Amateur Radio Field Day. Dan, who has been an active amateur radio operator since his days in North Dakota, made several contacts with the HAMs, who voluntarily man station WX4TBW at the NWS office in Ruskin during long-term severe weather operations.

Hurricane Preparedness Workshop in Deep South Texas. WFO Brownsville WCM Jesus Haro provided the keynote address at the Annual Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for Port Isabel, Texas. Jesse focused on tropical cyclone history for deep south Texas and the 2002 Atlantic Basin forecast. About 50 people from the American Red Cross and various disaster preparedness agencies, including the mayor of Port Isabel, Texas, attended the workshop.

Middle Tennessee Learns about Tornado Preparedness. WFO Nashville MIC Derrell Martin and the Davidson County Emergency Management discussed the need for tornado preparedness during a public service documentary on the local cable community access channel in Middle Tennessee. Derrell discussed how tornadoes can cause catastrophic devastation, how the NWS can forewarn the public using high/low tech tools such as Doppler radar and Skywarn Spotters, and how the public can receive warnings via NOAA Weather Radio.

Visitors from down under Learn Cooperation American Style. WFO Morristown provided a tour and presentation to representatives from the fire agencies of Australia and New Zealand. The group from down under was extremely impressed in the working relationship and cooperation demonstrated between WFO Morristown and the U.S. National Forest Service in data exchange.

Multi-National Group Learns about South Florida Hurricanes. WFO Miami WCM Jim Lushine provided an interesting presentation to the diplomats of ten foreign consulates on historical, present and future tropical cyclones to affect South Florida. The two-hour hurricane preparedness meeting was hosted by the Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

AHPS IMPLEMENTATION. The ABRFC, in collaboration with WFO Pueblo, operationally implemented Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) at seven river forecast locations upstream from Pueblo Reservoir in the upper Arkansas River Basin. The Arkansas-Red Basin RFC produces the AHPS information (i.e., deterministic and probabilistic hydrologic forecast information) for WFO Pueblo and WFO Pueblo delivers the AHPS information via their AHPS Web page. ABRFC will generate probabilistic stage, flow and volume forecasts for these seven locations on a monthly basis after issuance of CPC hydrometeorological outlooks. The forecast window for the probabilistic forecasts issued from January through June will be a six-month period from April-September. The forecast window for probabilistic forecasts generated from July through December will be the next 90 days. Thanks to the ABRFC staff involved for their contributions in implementing AHP services at these river forecast locations.

AHPS BROCHURE. In the next few weeks, a new AHPS brochure will become available for distribution from the National Logistic Supply Center. We encourage all offices to request enough copies of this brochure for office outreach activities. The brochure number to request is NOAA/PA 20058.

RFC DROUGHT-RELATED INFORMATION. All SR RFCs now have gridded precipitation departure from normal and/or percent of normal information online for various time durations. The RFCs used their archived gridded multisensor precipitation estimates and gridded precipitation normal information from the PRISM dataset to compute this information. Further information about the procedures used to generate this information is available at:
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abrfc/prism1.htm

Here are the RFC Web pages containing this information:

ABRFC - *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abrfc/prism1.htm*
WGRFC - *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/wgrfc/depart_norm/monthly_summary.htm*
LMRFC - *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/precip/stage3/month_total_st3.shtml*
SERFC - *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/monthly/monthly.htm*

SERVICE HYDROLOGIST GIVES PRESENTATION TO AREA STUDENTS. WFO Morristown service hydrologist Brian Boyd gave several presentations at local schools in the Morristown area. He has been asked to return each year to give these talks to the school children. Brian taught 87 students about the National Weather Service mission, as well as careers in meteorology and hydrology.

NWS MEETS WITH TEMA. NWS staff participated in the TEMA East meeting in Alcoa, Tennessee last month. Participants from WFO Morristown were MIC Jerry McDuffie, WCM Howard Waldron, service hydrologist Brian Boyd, and from Lower Mississippi RFC were HIC Dave Reed and senior hydrologist Keith Stellman. Jerry, Howard and Dave gave short presentations about StormReady, the current drought status, spotter training, and the establishment of a new NWR in Campbell County. In addition, a hazard awareness CD was distributed to the group of East Tennessee emergency managers.

NWS/TVA MEETING. The annual NWS/TVA meeting was held on June 13 in Knoxville, Tennessee. NWS attendees were Kandis Boyd (SRH hydrology program manager), Brian Boyd (WFO Morristown service hydrologist), Mike Murphy (WFO Nashville/Huntsville service hydrologist), Keith Stellman (LMRFC senior hydrologist), Dave Reed (LMRFC HIC) and Jerry McDuffie (WFO Morristown MIC). There were eight representatives from the TVA. The meeting concentrated on increasing communication through exchanging information and utilizing resources.

TALLAHASSEE RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION MEETING. A meeting was held by the city of Tallahassee Storm Water Department on May 30 to discuss the creation of a new rainfall distribution consisting of rainfall frequencies and storm distributions that affect Leon County and the city of Tallahassee. Recent experience with tropical storms Helene, Barry and Allison, and the March 3, 2002 flood in Leon County has indicated a need for better storm duration curves for the drainage design criteria in the area. The project is being funded by the city of Tallahassee and managed by Blas Gomez from the city's Storm Water Department. The actual work is being done by Engineering Methods & Applications (EMA) Inc. from Jacksonville, Florida. Blas Gomez is coordinating his efforts with Geoff Bonin, chief of the Hydrologic Data Systems Branch at NWS Headquarters. At this recent meeting Blas invited a number of local agencies to participate in this project including Joel Lanier (service hydrologist WFO Tallahassee), a variety of representatives from the city of Tallahassee Stormwater Department, Leon County Department of Growth Management, Northwest Florida Water Management District (Nick Wooten), USGS (Stewart Tomlinson), Leon County Public Works (Theresa Heiker), and the Florida Department of Transportation. David Divoky from EMA, Inc. gave a thorough presentation of what statistics might

be relevant. A major goal will be to determine from the data what statistical approach should be taken. In either case, the main focus will be to discriminate between tropical events versus non-tropical events in developing spatial and temporal rainfall duration and intensity statistics. The project is expected to be completed in about one year.

FLORIDA STATE STUDENTS VISIT THE SERFC. Dr. Henry Fuelberg and his students Greg Quina, Bryan Mroczka, Joe Marzen, along with WFO Tallahassee service hydrologist Joel Lanier met with Reggina Garza, Judi Bradberry and John Feldt at the SERFC. The students are using data from the FSU/FDEP Historical Gage Radar Project in their theses. A main focus will be in the St. Johns River Basin. The students will be generating precipitation estimates using the Multisensor Precipitation Estimator application data to run the NWSRFS model currently loaded on a workstation at WFO Tallahassee. Reggina and Judi gave the students a short course in running IFP including setting up Hydrologic Command Language code, as well as NWSRFS operations. It goes without saying, that when they are done, these fellows will be well-prepared for a future in operational hydrology. Joel Lanier and Jim Noel, senior service hydrologist at WFO Atlanta, had the opportunity to coordinate on some software which Jim provided to WFO Tallahassee which will help quality control precipitation data.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

CRYSTAL-FACE. This month will see the culmination of a large NASA field project centered in South Florida. The Cirrus Regional Study of Tropical Anvils and Cirrus Layers - Florida Area Cirrus Experiment (CRYSTAL-FACE for short) is investigating the physical properties and formation of convectively generated tropical cirrus clouds. An overview of the field campaign can be found at *http://cloud1.arc.nasa.gov/crystalface/science.html*. Understanding the production of upper tropospheric cirrus clouds is essential for the successful modeling of the Earth's climate. This is a large effort involving five aircraft, polarimetric radar, cloud radar, and other *in situ* instruments, as well as satellite overpasses, to study the microphysics and dynamics of cirrus clouds. The data gathered will help improve the representation of the radiative effects of cirrus in climate models, which is currently a source of large uncertainty in simulations of current and future climate change.

WSR-88D data and supplemental upper air flights from our WFOs will be key components for this effort. Working with WFOs Miami, Key West and Tampa Bay, SRH staff members Gary Petroski (SOD/SIB) and Paul Kirkwood (CWWD/DET) made the necessary special arrangements for NASA to access the WSR-88Ds. In addition, participating University of Miami researchers have made arrangements with WFO Miami to access their forecasts for flight briefing purposes.

UNIVERSITY ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE PROGRAMS. The National Weather Association recently posted on their Web site an updated list of universities which offer degree programs in the atmospheric sciences. They verified points of contact, email and phone numbers, and addresses. Their list can be found at *http://www.nwas.org/links/universities.html*, and it may be useful when responding to inquiries regarding this subject.

On a related subject it might prove helpful to make a note of the following URL, which is the OPM Web site that lists the "X-118" educational standards for meteorologist (GS-1340) positions with U.S. Government agencies: *http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-IV/B/GS1300/1340.HTM*

The URL listing educational standards for Hydrologist (GS-1415) positions is the same, except the final "/1340.HTM" should be replaced with "/1315.HTM."

NEW TEXAS PROFILER INSTALLATION. Site preparation work began in June and - the snakes having been chased off of the site - and installation is progressing nicely for the relocated wind profiler which FSL is erecting in south-central Texas (the site will be called Ledbetter). Recent pictures of the activities are available on the side bar of the profiler home page at *www.profiler.noaa.gov*, under the banner "Ledbetter, TX Profiler Installation." Ledbetter is actually a relocation of the Platteville Colorado 404 MHz profiler, that system being replaced with a 449 MHz profiler. The site is on land which SRH helped arrange from the Lower Colorado River Authority and all engineering work is being done by the profiler office. Data from this profiler will fill a significant upper air "hole," and will be of great use to forecasters. Relocation of the profiler is at no cost to the NWS. We will be providing ET support from the WFO in New Braunfels under a reimbursable contract with FSL, just as with other systems in the NOAA network.

ROML UPDATE. Southern Region ROML S-02-2002, "Participation in Meetings and Publications of Professional Societies," has been distributed to all offices. This ROML supercedes ROML S-5-96 on the same subject. Important changes from policies contained in the previous issuance are the following:

a) All travel authorizations associated with attendance at scientific meetings and conferences must be obtained from SRH prior to participation.

b) The government purchase card is the preferred method of payment for page charges associated with preprint volumes or formal (refereed) publications. It is no longer necessary to use a supply, equipment or service order (form CD-404).

AMS MEETINGS NEXT MONTH. During the week of August 12-16 the American Meteorological Society will conduct three significant conferences in San Antonio. They are the 21st Conf. on Severe Local Storms, the 19th Conf. on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, and the 15th Conf. on Numerical Weather Prediction. Southern Region forecast offices should be well represented. Attached to this month's *Topics* is a summary of papers and posters authored or co-authored by SR forecasters which are scheduled for presentation http://www.srh.noaa.gov/topics/attach/pdf/ssd02-22.pdf. In addition, the region has been asked to provide daily weather briefings for participants. WFO Austin/San Antonio has accepted the challenge of arranging those.

E-PAPERS. Agenda for the San Antonio AMS meetings mentioned above are posted on the AMS Web site at *www.ametsoc.org/AMS*. By now the AMS has also no doubt posted most of the papers themselves. We encourage all forecasters to peruse those presentations.

WFO Mobile SOO Jeff Medlin has posted a synoptic discussion of the October 13, 2001 Central Gulf Coast tornado outbreak to his office's Web site. The event is significant because eight tornadoes - five F0s, one F1, one F2 and one F3 - occurred within Baldwin County (Mobile) alone. They account for 13 % of all 71 reported tornadoes in that county during the 1950-2001 period of record. Jeff's summary is at *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mob/101301main.html*. Senior forecaster Dan Darbe will be presenting the radar evolution of the shallow mesocyclones associated with this outbreak at the Severe Local Storms Conference next month.

WFO Miami MIC Rusty Pfost has submitted a paper to the NWA's new "electronic journal" on the subject of tornadoes associated with hurricane Michelle in 2001. A copy can be found at *www.srh.noaa.gov/mia/michelle.html*.

CHANGES TO ETA MODEL AND GUIDANCE. Several changes and additions were made to NCEP's Eta model and its output during the past month.

New Eta-based MOS. Starting with the 1200 UTC model cycle on June 11, MDL will begin disseminating new model output statistics (MOS) guidance based on the Eta model. The MOS guidance is available on the AWIPS Satellite Broadcast Network and the Internet. Please go to: *http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/changes/jun11eta.htm* for more details, including the new WMO headers, which have been revised recently.

Animated Model Output Soundings. A new Web page is now available with animated model output soundings (*http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/etasoundings/snding.html*). Forecast soundings are available every six hours out to 60 hours from the 0000 and 1200 UTC model cycles, and out to 48 hours for the 0600 and 1800 UTC cycles. Forecast soundings are available for all radiosonde locations, and the page updates at approximately 0445, 0915, 1645, and 2115 UTC. This is not an "operational" product, so occasional minor glitches in the processing or missed cycles are inevitable. Meteorograms and time-height cross-section displays of these soundings are available at: *http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/meteograms/*

New Severe Weather Forecast Parameters. Three new post-processed fields will be added to the Eta GRIB output beginning at 1200 UTC on July 2, 2002. The additional fields will not be added to the AWIPS Satellite Broadcast Network at this time but are available to anyone who downloads the Eta grids from either the NCEP or NWS servers or UNIDATA's CONDUIT.

New computations of convective available potential energy (CAPE), convective inhibition (CIN), and helicity (HLCY) will be available on all output grids that already contain the existing CAPE, CIN and HLCY fields. The current computations will not be eliminated; rather, the three new fields will be additions to the output files.

Research at the Storm Prediction Center has indicated that a mean lowest 100 mb parcel may best represent an environment with a well-mixed boundary layer. The Eta model computes average parcels for six 30 mb layers above ground, so to take advantage of these existing computations, the mixed-layer for the new CAPE/CIN computations is constructed by averaging the thermodynamic properties of the three lowest 30 mb layers (giving a 90 mb mixed layer).

The current helicity computation uses the Bunkers dynamic method of computing the storm motion vector and then determines the helicity over the lowest three km using the Davies-Jones *et al.* method. While the 0-3 km storm-relative helicity is a good indicator of the potential for storm rotation and general tornadic threat, the 0-1 km value is a better parameter to assess the threat of significant tornadoes.

Crisis Change Package. On June 19 a crisis change package was implemented. The first change involved increasing the frequency of physics calls from every 540 seconds to every 300 seconds. This was found to fix the problem of near surface 2 meter temperatures getting excessively hot during the day. This was observed in (at least) Florida, Texas and California where temperatures exceeded 40 degrees C. Details are available at:
http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/casestudy/hotFL/heattrap.htm.

The second change involved correcting a small code error in the land-surface model which will increase the amount of evaporation over very dry soil. While the dry soil was connected to the abnormally high temperatures in these cases, this small code error was determined NOT to be a factor.

The NCEP does expect that two meter temperatures will remain too warm (in the 2-3 degree range) due to three remaining factors - all being addressed at the Environmental Modeling Center. The first factor involves a slight high bias in the amount of incoming solar radiation (sometimes exacerbated by a low bias in cloud amount); the second involves the lack of a wetlands land use type which causes an underestimation of the green vegetation fraction which yields too little evaporation (and near surface cooling); and the third involves a low bias in the precipitation data (too often based only on radar estimates which can underestimate precipitation intensity) used in the assimilation which leads to too dry soils which again yields too little evaporation (and near surface cooling).

The final change involves a latent defect in our radiation code that up until now had never shown itself. This bug caused failures of the Eta Data Assimilation System several times last month. This was tracked down to treatment of very thin clouds that resulted in division by zero. This was fixed by eliminating treatment of very thin clouds and changing the code to eliminate the possibility of ever dividing by zero.

The model now uses several more processors on the IBM SP computer to compensate for the increase in work done by calling physics more frequently. This has resulted in no change in the model completion time.

PREPARATIONS FOR NEW NCEP COMPUTER. The transition to the next NCEP Central Computer System (CCS) will begin in July, when IBM provides access to a small, single node test system. The Production Management Branch (PMB) will move all operational code and scripts to the test system and perform an initial recompile and testing. In October, half of the CCS will be installed in the IBM Gaithersburg facility. At that time all operational codes will be frozen while the PMB establishes parallel operations on the CCS. The moratorium on changes to the production suite can be expected to extend at least through the normal holiday moratorium period. More details on the transition and moratorium will be provided as they become available.

UPGRADE OF NCEP GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM. An upgrade to the Global Forecast System (GFS) is tentatively scheduled for late July. In addition to an increase in the resolution from T170/L42 to T254/L64 during the first 84 hours of each forecast, the GFS will make more use of data from polar orbiting satellites. The background covariances will be updated to account for the increase in resolution, and some minor code corrections will be made. Details of the upcoming change can be found at: *http://sgi62.ncep.noaa.gov:8080/tpb97/TPB02/html/v1.html*

NEW TRAINING DIVISION CHIEF. Dr. Percy W. Thomas has been selected as the new Chief of the Training Division in the NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services. The function of the Training Division is to ensure NWS staff receives the training required to attain/maintain proficiency in providing accurate and timely forecasts and warnings to the public.

Dr. Thomas comes to the NWS with an outstanding background in education and training. In his last job at Soujourner-Douglas College, Baltimore, Maryland, he served as vice president for Graduate, Professional Studies, and Applied Research. He has held positions at several institutions of higher learning, including Johns Hopkins and Morgan State University.

Dr. Thomas holds a Doctor of Science degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, a Master of Education degree from Coppin State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. He also attended the Executive Leadership Institute in Newport Beach, California.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION BRANCH

UPPER AIR. WFO Tallahassee reports the ART1 system installed on the Love Building at FSU is ready for test flights. Plans were to have the system operational at the new site by July 1. The current ART1 system at the airport location will be removed this month and returned to the test site at Sterling, Virginia, which supplied the system for the Love Building.

Late last month two offices experienced azimuth drive motor failures. NLSC is out of stock on this item and does not have a time frame as to when the motors will be available. One office was able to order the next larger lowest replaceable unit which has the motor in place. This action will cause the office, through no fault of its own, to indicate a high number of good working parts returned to NLSC, but this is the best solution to the problem at this time. The other office was trying to rebuild the motor on-site when NWSH/OPS, responding to a call from the SOD chief, found a spare motor in the system. This type of outage and the scramble for spare parts will only increase in frequency and duration until the new upper air system is fully deployed.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS. We are very concerned about the stability of WorldComm (MCI). We do not feel that we will lose service at this point, but if the company should declare bankruptcy, there is the possibility our telecommunications budgets will be severely impacted. We are scheduled to get a 25% rebate in July on all telecomms spending to date with MCI. Our budget projections have that rebate factored in.

Two NWR circuits were installed and tested by MCI this month, with more to follow. We have experienced some delays due to new building delivery issues and lease issues. We are working with the regional NWR program manager to identify where delays may occur in order to better coordinate the delivery of communications to the sites. Once we determine suitable dates and time frames for delivery of circuits, our telecomms manager (Cecil Tevis) will work with the local telcos and MCI to insure the circuits are delivered on time.

Cecil and Mario attended the MCI "flat files' training in June. The training was valuable in that it gave him more insight into the billing process and how we are billed for different services. During the training MCI used actual billing data to provide real-life examples of current billing issues. Problems that occurred in past months which caused the over-billing issues which we are currently working to resolve with MCI were discussed.

In mid-June, we had a video conference with NWS Headquarters, MCI and the other regions to update progress concerning credits for the over-charges by MCI of various circuits and services. Southern Region has identified credits which have been issued by MCI in the MORRIS billing system, and we are in the process of reconciling these credits back to specific circuits and services. This process will be challenging because of the lack of MCI billing consistency for these circuits (i.e., some circuits are credited to hierarchy codes and some are credited to billing Ids). Currently, for WFO Huntsville, we have ordered the T1 line that will support the Frame Relay service for the regional WAN with its associated PVCs. This T1 will also support the AWIPS program. Other communications circuits will be ordered in the coming weeks to get this office operational by February 2003. The cabling, to support the communications circuits, will be installed in the coming weeks. A site survey of the new facility is being conducted to insure this cabling is installed per building code requirements. Once the results of this survey are known, we will order the lines to be installed by the local carrier.

AWIPS. Build 5.2.1 and path 5.2.1.1 have started to be fielded. Only a couple of issues have been noted thus far and deficiency reports have been written to fix them in the next patch.

The Linux communications processors (CP) have been declared successful and test sites are now starting phase two of the Linux migration with the installation of the Linux pre-processor. Southern Region Headquarters will be installing the pre-processor in late July. Based on our experience with the CPs we feel the pre-processor will also be a success.

The national version of the archiver system software developed by Southern Region should be available with AWIPS Build 5.2.2, with installation scheduled to begin in September.

OBSERVATIONS AND FACILITIES BRANCH

SURFACE OBSERVATION PROGRAM. Southern Region received 40 requests from the aviation community for new certificates and cancellation or changes in type of surface certificates last month.

UPPER AIR OBSERVATION PROGRAM. Several of Southern Region's upper air sites had an excellent month in May, with twenty of twenty three offices rating above the national average of 286.33. WFO Key West had the top spot in the region in May with an excellent rating of 297.46. WFO Lake Charles came in second with 297.31 followed by:

Shreveport, Louisiana	297.28	Fort Worth, Texas	293.93
Tampa Bay, Florida	297.26	Midland, Texas	293.86
Jacksonville, Florida	296.47	Tallahassee, Florida	293.26
Norman, Oklahoma	295.88	Miami, Florida	292.90
New Orleans, Louisiana	295.63	Atlanta, Georgia	288.34
Nashville, Tennessee	294.97	Little Rock, Arkansas	287.51
Del Rio, Texas	294.56	Jackson, Mississippi	287.45
Albuquerque, New Mexico	294.42	San Juan, Puerto Rico	286.91
Brownsville, Texas	294.05	Amarillo, Texas	286.82

Special recognition goes to the Data Acquisition team at WFO Lake Charles. Several months ago, MIC Stephen Rinard challenged his entire staff to focus and work together to become the best upper air site in the nation. This teamwork and dedication paid off in May 2002 when their 12- month average rating reached 296.64 claiming the top spot in the nation. The WFO Lake Charles data acquisition team has set a new Southern Region standard of excellence. Honorable mention is given to WFO Miami for their 12-month average rating of 292.24. The office average places the team tenth in the nation.

NWS Headquarters continues to hold the delivery of RSOIS systems until the RSOIS base station data display unit is corrected. John Monte, RSOIS COTR, is working with the RSOIS vendor, Coastal Systems, to come up with a solution to an intermittent display problem. Until the problems are corrected and the deployed units replaced, NWSH will not ship RSOIS systems for installation.

On May 30, 2002, Alton Abernathy, data acquisition program manager and Charlie Lake, regional systems specialists along with focal points from all regions attended a Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) deployment meeting hosted by the RRS program manager, Tom Roberts, at the Sterling Research and Development Center. During that meeting, several questions and concerns were expressed regarding the deployment plans for the RRS. Discussions focused on issues such as production time-lines, installation roles and responsibilities of government and responsibilities of the installation contractor, funding, operational continuity, and the preliminary installation schedule.

OPEN RPG BUILD 2.0 TEST SITES. After coordination with the Radar Operations Center, WFOs Amarillo and Atlanta have been selected as test sites for implementation of the new Open RPG Build 2.0. The test will begin the last week of July.

WEATHER AND RADAR PROCESSOR IMPLEMENTATION. SRH has forwarded to the Radar Operations Center a point of contact (POC) at each WFO in SR. This POC is critical because if the FAA has any operational problems with WSR-88D data in its new Weather and Radar Processor system at Air Route Traffic Control Centers, it's possible the NWS WFO POC may be contacted. In addition, each WFO must now include the appropriate FAA ARTCC POC in all future NEXRAD Unit Radar Committee (URC) meetings which must be held twice per year.

TEXAS DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION AWOS INITIATIVE. In conjunction with local airports around Texas, the Texas State Dept. Of Transportation (TxDoT) has installed 16 state-owned AWOSs at airports throughout Texas, with 16 more scheduled for installation this summer. SRH is working in partnership with TxDoT, the local airports, and private vendors to facilitate the longline dissemination of the surface data from these state-owned systems at no cost to the NWS. At present, seven of these sites have already begun routine longline dissemination via the FAA NADIN/WMSCR into the NWS GATEWAY and eventually to field WFOs. This reliable data at previous data sparse areas which the NWS is ingesting at no direct cost can then be used to enhance WFO forecasts, warnings, and services at the local level, as well as be used for inclusion in the running of local forecast models.

WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS AIRPORT ASOS INSTALLATION. In response to a new FAA requirement, SRH is working with NWSH and the FAA Southwest Region to site, install and commission a new ASOS in West Memphis. Once commissioned, the ASOS will be maintained by personnel from WFO Memphis. The location of the Combined Sensor Group and the Acquisition Control Unit have already been determined and the required form which permits the installation of this system at the airport has been submitted to the FAA Southwest Region.

OPERATIONAL USE OF RADAR BIAS. WFO Lake Charles has developed procedures to use hourly operational radar rainfall biases provided by the Lower Mississippi RFC into the forecast decision making process. Besides the obvious flood potential, the bias assists the forecaster to determine the proper radar Z/R relationship for a particular event.

NEW NEXRAD VCP BEING TESTED. Several new NEXRAD Volume Coverage Patterns (VCP) are currently being tested by the Radar Operations Center using the Keesler AFB WSR-88D. The final report on the testing should be complete by the end of July 2002. If approved, it appears as though a new VCP should be fielded operationally with Open RPG Build 4 which is currently targeted for field installation in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2003.

The most likely new VCP to be fielded would have 14 cuts with a four minute (246 second) update time. This proposed VCP is a faster and denser (at lower elevation angles) scan designed to sample deep convection. It would have more cuts at lower levels with new scans at 0.9 degrees and 1.8 degrees.

WFO Jackson is assisting with the testing by recording the base data from surrounding NWS NEXRAD sites which are being used for data comparison purposes.

CENTRAL COLLECTION OF LEVEL II NEXRAD DATA. The ROC continues to move forward with plans to begin the collection of NEXRAD LEVEL-II (base) data from a central collection server. This would replace the use of the existing jukebox recording devices and all associated recording tapes. The AWIPS WAN would be used to get the data to the central collection server. The current implementation date is in about 12 to 18 months.

FACILITIES COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. In the previous 30 days, 53 work requests have been submitted, 106 work orders have been issued, and 83 work orders were completed and closed. There are 302 facility work orders open.

FACILITIES DRAFTING SUPPORT. Drawings were completed for electrical room configuration and uninterruptible power supply installation for the proposed Key West forecast office. Coverage maps for NOAA Weather Radio were updated with the recent transmitter additions.

WIRE WEIGHT GAUGE SAFETY SURVEY. Surveys of wire weight river gauges used by NWS employees and coop observers continues in the SR following the May 6 meeting between OSHA, NWS and the NOAA Office of General Counsel where it was affirmed by OSHA that bridge guardrail heights must meet a minimum height of 39 inches. Due to the large number of gauges and limited time available for hydro personnel to travel to remote sites, this survey may take most of the summer months to complete. Personnel participating in this survey include hydro focal points, service hydrologists, HMTs and DAPMs.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES. Funding approved by the Corporate Board for safety equipment, supplies, and services has resulted in spending at the office and region level for items such as personal protective equipment, environmental waste disposal, new or revised fuel spill plans, fall protection equipment, flammable storage cabinets, and other related materials. This activity is ongoing and will continue as funds are available.

KEY WEST 15% DESIGN REVIEW. The Key West 15% pre-design review was held in late May at the architect and engineer's office in New Orleans. Following revisions of preliminary plans and specifications from that meeting, the follow-up meeting on-site in Key West will be held on July 17. The next design review stage is a 35% review to be held in late September.

NWS NATIONAL NOISE SURVEY. The second phase of the NWS noise survey will begin the week of June 24 in Fort Worth and Dallas as the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) places recording noise dosimeters at NWS facilities including the WFO Fort Worth, the RDA shelter and generator at Spinks Airport, and the ASOS sites at Love Field and DFW airports. The next site to be surveyed will be Albuquerque WFO, RDA, and ASOS, then the PHS will move on to other sites outside of Southern Region. It is possible that some employees exposed to high noise levels at the ASOS sites and in the generator shelters may be required to participate in a hearing conservation program.

NOAA ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT VISITS. A team of NOAA inspectors will be visiting six SR offices in mid-July to assess compliance with OSHA and EPA regulations found in DOC, NOAA, and NWS policies, directives, and handbooks. The sites to be visited will include WFOs Jacksonville, Miami, New Orleans, Lake Charles, Houston-Galveston, and Austin-San Antonio. Previously, WFOs in Norman and Tulsa were visited by the same team. A separate team of MASC personnel performed a less formal review for ECS compliance at WFOs Fort Worth, Little Rock, Memphis, Nashville and Morristown.

HOUSTON/GALVESTON PROJECT. Pending no further delays, Galveston County is planning to award a construction contract for the new Emergency Management and Communication Center (EMCC) in late October 2002. The new facility is expected to open in April 2004. The County would be solely responsible for all the construction costs associated with the new EMCC. The NWS will agree to provide the existing Houston forecast office building to Galveston County under a cost free agreement once we receive congressional approval asked for in the FY03 Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill.

TULSA. Over the last several months the Tulsa WFO/RFC has experienced above normal computer equipment failures which include power supplies, disk drives and CRTs. Most of these failures appear to occur during or immediately after the relocation of equipment, furniture, or installing new data cables. Actions already taken include, correcting grounding deficiencies at the generator, tightening loose electrical connections in the operations and equipment rooms, and closely monitoring the electrical power that serves all electronic equipment. A fourth site inspection conducted on May 14 and 15 revealed grounding deficiencies associated with the raised computer floor. The floor tiles are now believed to be the primary cause of several operational equipment failures. Planning is now underway to properly ground all floor tiles, correcting all known wiring deficiencies, and update the electrical distribution wiring.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DIVERSITY/EEO AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

WFO BROWNSVILLE. DAPM Jim Campbell, senior forecaster Kurt M. Van Speybroeck, and ASA Rachel Gutierrez participated in the Russell Elementary Career Day. They spoke to nearly 400 students about the NWS and meteorology. Several of the students related stories of severe weather they had witnessed, while others were more curious about meteorologist salaries and the required level of education to become a meteorologist.

Jim Campbell presented a PowerPoint presentation on the operations of WFO Brownsville to 15 students in the Gifted and Talented class from Vermillion Elementary School. Later in the week, he presented the same presentation to 21 students from Incarnate Word Academy who toured the office. Senior forecaster Brian Miller gave a real-time weather briefing and HMT Dana Watkins led them to the upper air building where one lucky girl released a severe weather balloon. Jim received hand made "Thank You" notes from the teacher, Mrs. Hilsenbeck, and from each student. Mrs. Hilsenbeck stated that the students "came back to the school saying this was the best field trip ever." Jim also gave his presentation to 17 students and four teachers from Central Middle School and then led them on a tour of the office and upper air facility. WCM Jesus Haro presented a real-time weather briefing and showed the students the tools he used to produce his forecast.

Jim Campbell and ITO James Raley participated in a Career Fair for the South Texas Engineering, Math and Science program at the University of Texas at Brownsville. They spoke to 100 pre-college students about careers in meteorology and computer science. Arrangements were made by several other presenters for future tours of the Brownsville Forecast Office.

WCM Jesus Haro completed a lengthy taped television Spanish interview with the Univision affiliate in McAllen, Texas, regarding the forecast for the 2002 hurricane season. The WFO in Brownsville continues to have a great relationship with the Spanish media outlets in the Rio Grande Valley.

WFO MORRISTOWN. WFO Morristown once again hosted a local teacher for a week in June. Ms. Donna Winstead, who teaches sixth grade geography, spent the week working with the staff to learn what goes on in the work place that could be used to better inform her students. This is the fourth year that a county teacher has worked with the WFO. The program places teachers in various industries and work environments to give them more insight into what is needed in the work place, in addition to academics.

Service hydrologist Brian Boyd gave several presentations at local schools in the Morristown area. Brian's talks have been very popular with the schools, and he has been asked to return each year to give these talks to the school children.

WFO SHREVEPORT. DAPM Marion Kuykendall participated in Cultural Diversity Day at Overton Brooks Veterans' Hospital in Shreveport where different ethnic foods and attires were presented along with entertainment. The host was the EEO Advisory committee which consisted of the Black Awareness Program, Hispanic Program, Asian-Pacific American Program, Federal Women's Program, People with Disabilities Program, and Human Resources Management Service, along with the AFGE & NFFE.

WFO SAN ANGELO. MIC Buddy McIntyre gave a weather safety talk to the Rio Concho West Retirement Association. About 160 residents of the area showed up for their monthly dinner. The residents ranged in age from the 60s to the 80s, with one woman being 99 years old. Buddy was surprised to find that a little more than half of the residents had NOAA Weather Radios. He explained to them that there were many weather forecasts out there for them to look at, but we think the NWS is the most accurate...and they can get it from NWR.

Buddy also gave six weather safety/career talks to about 130 students at Jefferson Middle School in Abilene. Senior forecaster Gary Petti gave a tour to a group of 15 students and adults from a Presbyterian day school in San Angelo. They watched a tornado video, discussed severe weather safety, and toured the office.

DAPM Les Hiesler provided a luncheon for the WFO staff to celebrate Juneteenth. Les did all the cooking, providing a delicious meal honoring the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

WFO SAN JUAN. Again this month, the WFO conducted numerous office tours and talks. Following are just a few. DAPM Francisco Balleste and HMT Bob Cari conducted an office tour for 15 Boy Scouts from North Central Puerto Rico. HMT Antonio Castillo and Francisco Balleste conducted an office tour for 20 summer students from the Fajardo School to Work Alliance group. MIC Israel Matos briefed 38 members of the Cabo Rojo Health and Environment Committee on hurricane preparedness and the outlook for this season. And WCM Rafael Mojica participated in a radio interview with members of the Governor's Office for Special Needs people. Hurricane preparedness, with emphasis on special needs communities, was highlighted.

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS
June 1-30, 2002

Southern Region Losses

Name	From (Office)	Action/Transfer	From Title/Grade
Aubrey D. Wright	WFO FFC	Retirement	El Tech, GS-11
Morris Webb, Jr.	WFO ABQ	Retirement	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Debora Potts	WFO LZK	Resignation	ASA, GS-7
Peter Mohlin	WFO EYW	Transfer to ER	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Ed Landry	WFO MOB	Retirement	HMT, GS-11
David Manning	WFO TSA	Transfer to ER	Forecaster, GS-12
David Kosier	WFO MFL	Transfer to HPC	Forecaster, GS-12

Southern Region Gains

Name	To (Office)	Action/Transfer	To Title/Grade
Richard Black	WFO FFC	Transfer from CR	ESA, GS-13
Andrew Devanas	WFO EYW	New Hire	SOO, GS-13
Monty L. Davis	WFO MAF	Transfer from CR	El Tech, GS-11
Lance Wood	WFO HGX	Reinstatement	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Jose Irlas	WFO FWD	Transfer from WR	El Tech, GS-11
Nicolle Kempf	WFO TSA	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-7
Chris A. Fakes	WFO HGX	New Hire	PMO, GS-10
Kenneth Drozd	WFO ABQ	Transfer from CR	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Rhea Fryar	WFO LUB	New Hire	ASA, GS-7
Christopher Robbins	WFO FWD	Transfer from TPC	Forecaster, GS-11
Timothy Judd	WFO OUN	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-5
Rochelle Ott	WFO LZK	New Hire	ASA, GS-7

Within Region Transfers/Actions			
Name	To (Office)	Action/Transfer	To Title/Grade
Jon Zeitler	WFO EWX	Promotion from HGX	SOO, GS-14
Timothy Doyle	WFO MRX	Reassignment from SHV	Forecaster, GS-12
Gregory Flatt	WFO BRO	Reassignment from LCH	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Darone Jones	WFO BMX	Reassignment from CRP	Forecaster, GS-9
Freddie Zeigler	WFO LIX	Promotion from LIX	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Chip Kasper	WFO EYW	Promotion from EYW	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Eric Martello	WFO FWD	Reassignment from JAN	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Daniel Huckaby	WFO FWD	Reassignment from HGX	Forecaster, GS-9
William Murrell	WFO SHV	Reassignment from SHV	Forecaster, GS-11
Jennifer Braxton	WFO JAN	SCEP conversion from TBW	Met Intern, GS-7
Angel Montanez	WFO MOB	SCEP conversion from TAE	Met Intern, GS-7
Montra Lockwood	WFO LCH	Promotion from LCH	Service Hydrologist, GS-12
Lance Escude	WFO LCH	Promotion from LCH	Senior Forecaster, GS-13