



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce recent appointments in two senior-level Southern Region positions: Former WFO Huntsville SOO **Tom Bradshaw** will join the SRH staff as Chief of the Meteorological Services Branch of CWWD; and **Andy Patrick**, former SOO at WFO Corpus Christi, is the new MIC of WFO Brownsville.

Tom joined the NWS as an intern at WFO Albuquerque 13 years ago. He served as journeyman and senior forecaster at WFO Birmingham before becoming the SOO at Huntsville when that WFO was established in 2002. Tom's experience and leadership were critical to the staff training and the operational development of the new office during spin-up. With the Huntsville WFO collocated in the National Space Science and Technology Center on the University of Alabama - Huntsville campus, Tom has also worked closely with NASA and university scientists on many projects. His background and leadership skills will serve him well as he assumes his new responsibilities next month. Tom replaces Jud Ladd who was recently promoted to Chief of the Climate, Water and Weather Division.

Andy launched his NWS career as an intern at WFO Tampa in 1987. Three years later, he became a forecaster at WFO Tulsa, and was promoted to senior forecaster in 1994. He transferred to WFO Corpus Christi in 1995 to serve as SOO. During his career Andy has gained considerable experience in dealing with a wide range of events, including severe storms, hurricanes, floods, winter storms and marine weather forecasting. Andy has served as the SR's representative on the national Interactive Forecast Preparation System Science Steering Team (ISST) and the DSPO's Digital Service Project Training and Outreach Team. He also serves on the Southern Region team to promote the BLAST program and the Spanish-language brochure team. At Brownsville he will replace Shawn Bennett who was recently appointed MIC at WFO Tampa Bay.

Please join me in congratulating Tom and Andy on their new assignments.



WFO KEY WEST GROUNDBREAKING. Last week we broke ground for a new, hurricane-resistant Weather Forecast Office in Key West. The site is a half mile from the shoreline and six-and-a-half feet above sea level - high ground for the Keys. The interior floors will be an additional seven feet above the grade, 2.5 feet above the anticipated Category 5 storm tide.

Joining WFO Key West MIC Matt Strahan and me for the ground-breaking ceremony were NWS Director D.L. Johnson, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Thaddeus Cohen from the Florida Dept. of Community Affairs, Craig Fugate, director of Florida Emergency Management, Capt. James Scholl, Commanding Officer of the NAS Key West, Monroe County Commissioner Charles McCoy, Emergency Management Director Bill Wagner, and Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley.

CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

SMG WEATHER USERS FORUM. The Spaceflight Meteorology Group (SMG) held the second Weather User Forum (WUF) at the Johnson Space Center on March 23. The WUF concept is to meet with SMG customers a few times a year for discussions about shuttle-related weather issues. This forum is an organized and systematic process for gathering customer input and feedback to help SMG provide better products and services. Action items resulting from the forum are tracked, updated and reviewed between meetings. Improved and enhanced SMG products and services have already resulted from the first WUF meeting held in August 2003.

Attendees at March 2004 WUF included Flight Directors, Astronauts, Flight Dynamics and Trajectory flight controllers, Guidance and Procedure flight controllers, Landing Support officers, Ascent and Descent winds analysts, USAF launch weather officer, Kennedy Space Center Weather Projects Manager, and the Applied Meteorology Unit (AMU) program manager. Weather operations topics included shuttle weather flight rules, upper wind forecasts, emergency landing site forecasts and weather equipment hardware/software upgrades.

JSC Flight Directors gave a special presentation on the impact of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board return-to-flight (RTF) requirements on shuttle weather support. Another presentation was given by the AMU on their launch imagery study to support RTF requirements.

MID-SOUTH AVIATION CAREER DAY. CWSU Memphis forecaster Larry Boatman represented the NWS in the annual Mid-South Aviation Career Day event held on March 30 in Memphis. The event is sponsored by the FAA Memphis ARTCC and Memphis ATCT and the Mid-South Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The event was held at the Tennessee Technology Center located on Memphis Airport property.

WFO EL PASO CONTRIBUTES TO CITY'S EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN.

El Paso Area WFO MIC Bill Alexander participated in El Paso's preseason Extreme Weather Response Plan meeting. The plan provides guidelines for mitigating the effects of extreme heat on its elderly citizens. During each of the past two years, nearly a dozen elderly and indigent people have succumbed to heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or dehydration during the summer. The group in attendance represented the city's electric power company, its office of emergency management, the city attorney, office of public health, general assistance, and other related agencies. The NWS will provide, in addition to its normal suite of products, written materials in Spanish and English to advise the elderly and their caretakers about steps to prevent heat related health problems.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS AND OUTREACH

WFO Corpus Christi Participates in Career Fair. Staff from WFO Corpus Christi participated in a large local career fair entitled, "Dare to Dream." The objective of the career fair was to demonstrate the importance of staying in school and to expose children to the many exciting career opportunities that exist in the Corpus Christi metropolitan area. There were many exhibits and hands-on activities organized by local businesses, civil services, and military services. Over 10,000 children from area elementary and middle schools attended the event. The NWS booth was manned by WCM John Metz, SOO Andy Patrick, ASA Mani Medrano, HMT Larry Maifeld, and forecasters Jason Runyen and Mike Gittinger. The Corpus Christi staff handed out brochures, answered questions about meteorology careers, and demonstrated a wide range of meteorological equipment that was on display, including an inflated weather balloon and attached radiosonde. Children also participated in a soda bottle demonstration that simulated a tornado and had the opportunity to win prizes by throwing a small ball through the eye of a model hurricane.

WFO Brownsville at Onion Festival. Lead forecasters Tim Speece and Matt Lorentson staffed a booth at the Onion Festival in Weslaco, Texas. The event was attended by approximately 10,000 people. Tim and Matt shared the mission of the National Weather Service in deep south Texas with many interested attendees and distributed safety and awareness literature.

2nd Annual Texas Hurricane Conference. Numerous NWS forecasters provided support for the 2nd Annual State of Texas Hurricane Conference held on South Padre Island. Over 300 people attended the conference in order to address and learn more about specific hurricane preparedness issues. Southern Region director Bill Proenza and NHC director Max Mayfield were keynote speakers. Brownsville WCM Jesus Haro participated in a round table discussion of hurricane preparedness issues pertinent to deep south Texas.

WCMS John Metz (Corpus Christi) and Gene Hafele (Houston) provided a seminar on how to use the SLOSH program to interested attendees. John and WFO Houston MIC Bill Read also provided a presentation on NWS tropical cyclone-related products and on an evacuation decision-tree for the Houston-Galveston area.

The event received significant coverage from media on the U.S. and Mexican sides of the border. All of the major television stations (English and Spanish) in the Rio Grande Valley covered the event as well as the Televisa network from northern Mexico. Additionally, the event received coverage from newspapers in Brownsville and Matamoros, Mexico. Regional WCM Walt Zaleski, Austin/San Antonio MIC Joe Arellano and Brownsville WCM Jesus Haro provided interviews for the local media.

NWS Booth at Island Science Exhibit. WFO San Juan forecaster Ernesto Morales joined local Univision Television 11 weather broadcasters in a science school exhibit highlighting the planet Mars. Over 600 high school students attended the activity and observed the NWS booth and display. Students were interested in how to become a meteorologist and future NWS job opportunities.

Hurricane Preparedness Fair for Families. WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica visited the Western Puerto Rico municipality of Hormigueros to participate in a hurricane preparedness fair at the elementary school as part of the earth week celebrations. Around 300 students and family members visited the weather booth and participated in the conferences.

WFOs Birmingham, Huntsville and Nashville team up for 30th Anniversary Ceremony of the 1974 Tornado Outbreak. A 30th anniversary ceremony was held in Athens, Alabama, to commemorate the super tornado outbreak of April 3, 1974, and to remember those who were lost during the tornado outbreak. Various dignitaries, including SRH director Bill Proenza, Western Region deputy director Jim Campbell, who worked the event from Birmingham, members of Congressman Cramer's staff, media from the region and other survivors of the tornado outbreak participated in this event. WFO Birmingham MIC Ken Graham and WFO Huntsville MIC John Gordon co-emceed the highly successful event. The event also generated an exceptional amount of media exposure, as the majority of the Huntsville and Birmingham television stations participated and filmed the event. A Web site was also created for the event and is located at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/April1974/april74outbreak.html> and at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/april1974/april74outbreak.html>

NWS Huntsville Participates in "50 Years of Tennessee Valley Weather" Event. WFO Huntsville MIC John Gordon and forecaster Priscilla Bridenstine participated in the joint WAAF-TV Channel 48/NWS event in Huntsville. Around 150 people attended this regional weather outreach activity, that detailed significant weather events of the past 50 years in the Tennessee Valley.

WFO Huntsville Visits Kids in Albertville. WFO Huntsville participated in Kids Quest held at the Crossroads Mall in Albertville, Alabama. The office showcased the tornado machine at the expo. Staff members helped educate kids and their parents on tornado safety. Meanwhile, lead forecaster Chris Darden and forecaster Priscilla Bridenstine helped staff the booth at the event and interacted with families throughout the area.

Alabama Hurricane Workshop. WFO Mobile, along with Bob Goree from Tallahassee and Jason Wright from Birmingham, staffed an NWS booth at the Alabama Hurricane Workshop held in downtown Mobile. Emergency management personnel from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and from MEMA attended the workshop. The NWS booth had an excellent location and a constant stream of EMs visited by asking questions and just chatting. Hurricane specialist Jack Begins from the Hurricane Center was a speaker at the workshop and assisted by staffing the NWS booth after his presentation. The workshop was a perfect example of several NWS offices working together for a common goal.

Hurricane Hunter Aircraft Tour. WFO Mobile forecaster Dan Darby coordinated the logistics and visitation of a Hurricane Hunter Aircraft at the local Mobile airport. The public and media anxiously awaited to see and tour the arrival of aircraft that penetrates the eyes of tropical storms and often performs a myriad of scientific studies.

Every major network and PBS and local newspapers visited the aircraft. Over 200 school-aged children toured the aircraft during the morning while another 800 public visitors view and toured the aircraft during the afternoon. The aircraft was later opened for viewing to over 800 of the public. Also, the public was treated to a view of the mobile "Emergency Command Center" from Florida Escambia County EMA.

Total Wellness Extravaganza. WFO Mobile participated in a day long wellness extravaganza held at a local church, that included the Red Cross and other local disaster agencies. About 800 people attended the event. Many attendees stopped by the NWS booth, staffed by the IT, ASA and SCEP employees, to ask questions about the upcoming hurricane season. Over two hundred hurricane tracking charts and other informational items that included the WFO Mobile Web site address, were distributed to the public.

SKYWARN Training in Miami. WFO Miami forecaster Thomas Warner and HMT Bob Ebaugh conducted two 3-hour SKYWARN training sessions at WFO Miami. Each session had about 30 attendees composed of mainly HAM radio operators from Miami-Dade County. The first session in the morning focused on basic spotter training and the afternoon session was the intermediate class. Coincidentally, the sessions were extremely timely since a two-day outbreak of severe weather occurred across South Florida shortly thereafter.

WFO Tampa Reached Thousands at MacDill Air Fest. WCM Daniel Noah and ASA Melody Jacobs visited with attendees and handed out 3,500 pieces of outreach material during the first weekend of April. Their display highlighted the advantages of weather radio and the dangers of lightning. One of the largest air shows in the Department of Defense, MacDill's air show is held each year to highlight the missions, traditions and heritage of the military services. Nearly 750,000 people crowded the flight line during the MacDill 200 4 Air Fest. The two-day event was hosted by a variety of civilian and military aerobatics demonstration teams.

Career Day - Miami Style. WFO Miami HMT Bob Ebaugh participated in a career day event at the Dante Fascell Elementary School, a predominantly Hispanic elementary school in Kendall, Florida. Bob's presentation included information on careers with the NWS and NOAA, and also included extensive hazardous weather awareness, safety and preparedness information. Bob continued later in the week with participation in career day at the Jose' Marti Middle School in Hialeah, Florida. This presentation also included career information, with extensive hazardous weather awareness, safety and preparedness.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

STORMREADY

An additional eight new StormReady recognitions were added to the Southern Region roster for the 2004 fiscal year. WFO Lubbock recognized Terry and Cottle counties in the Texas Panhandle, including the communities of Plainview, Brownfield and Paducah, Texas. Meanwhile, WFO Jackson recognized Rankin County and the communities of Clinton and Pelahatchie, Mississippi as StormReady.

Southern Region has 22 StormReady communities thus far in FY04.

Tornado Exercise a Success in Lubbock. WCM Ed Calianese and the emergency management coordinator for the city of Lubbock hosted a two-hour tornado tabletop exercise for Lake Alan Henry. Since the lake is owned by the city of Lubbock but resides in a remote area of another county, preparedness efforts for this community are challenging and involve a number of organizations from different jurisdictions working together. Ed put together the exercise scenario, which not only included a realistic time-line of product and information dissemination from the NWS (based on the Happy, Texas tornado in 2002), but also produced photographs which illustrated what the sky would have looked like during the different phases of the scenario. Participants in the exercise included MIC Justin Weaver, the Garza County judge, several EM officials from Lubbock and Garza counties, first responders, and officials from the Brazos River Authority. The exercise revealed several areas of needed improvement including communication and dissemination of information throughout the lake community.

Redstone Arsenal/ Marshall Space Flight Center and NWS Tornado Test Is a Success. WFO Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman participated in a large severe weather training simulation with several federal, state and local governmental entities at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. The goal of this training simulation of a tornado event at Redstone Arsenal was to determine each agencies interaction and to improve the Redstone Arsenal/Marshall Space Flight Center's warning dissemination system.

Huntsville and Birmingham team up at Alabama Winter EMA Conference. WFO Birmingham WCM Jason Wright and WFO Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman provided an extensive overview of new services, products and technology infusion to all of the Alabama EMA directors at the annual Alabama EMA conference in Montgomery. Both WCMs staffed a booth and answered several meteorological and product dissemination related questions.

Media EMA Open House. WFO Mobile had an open house for local emergency managers and the media. It was held on April 15 (tax day) and was billed as “Have a burger on Uncle Sam (Gary).” There was no agenda for the get-together which was low key and personal. The invite provided an opportunity for media and EMA personnel to interact with WFO Mobile forecasters without the pressures of deadlines. WFO Mobile had an excellent turnout from their local emergency management and media partners and plan to host this type of unique outreach event on an annual basis.

NOAA ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES HONORED.

Huntsville Recipients. Local Huntsville residents Anthony Guillory and Paul Meyer recently received NOAA’s Environmental Hero Award during brief ceremonies at WFO Huntsville. Held on April 22 in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations, the ceremony honored Guillory and Meyer, both atmospheric scientists for the NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center, for their outstanding efforts to enhance the NWS surface observing capabilities in northern Alabama and adjacent states.

Devoting their own time and financial resources, Guillory and Meyer have significantly contributed to the development of a regional observing network in the Tennessee Valley. They single-handedly site surveyed, assembled and installed eight meteorological observing stations, and are proceeding with plans for four additional sites. Data from these citizen-owned sites are communicated to WFO Huntsville (and other WFOs) via the ham-based Automatic Position Reporting System, and comprise a segment of FSL’s Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System. Avid amateur radio operators, Guillory and Meyer have displayed strong leadership in strengthening the bond between the ham radio community and the NWS throughout the Tennessee Valley. WFO Huntsville wishes to congratulate Anthony and Paul for their large contribution to the NWS mission. Great job, guys!

WFO New Orleans Area. In April, as part of Public Service Recognition Week, the WFO/RFC facility in Slidell, Louisiana opened its doors to invited public dignitaries from the service area to commemorate the opening of the present facility. St. Tammany Parish president Kevin Davis, the mayor of Slidell, Ben Morris, a staff member of U.S. Representative Billy Tauzin (R-LA), and much of the New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness were in attendance.

The highlight of the program was the award presentation, on behalf of NOAA administrator Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher, to one of NOAA's 31 Environmental Heroes, Soraya Flores Guirrerri. Mrs. Guirrerri, who is employed with the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, was honored for her vital role of providing area weather support to her native country of Honduras during the ravages of Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

In addition, HMT Gary Vaughan was presented a certificate and pin to commemorate 35 years of federal service. A special appreciation certificate was also presented to Camille Koziara, wife of SOO Michael Koziara, and Tanya Zeigler, wife of forecaster Freddie Zeigler, for their contributions and support over the years in supplying the office with baked goods and pastries as extended family members.

MEDIA/PUBLIC EXTERNAL SUPPORT

NWS/Media Team up to Train Storm Spotters in Madison County. WFO Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman and WHNT-Channel 19 meteorologist Dan Satterfield trained nearly 75 storm spotters in Madison County, Alabama. Tim completed much of the SKYWARN and weather spotting portion of the presentation while Dan provided a detailed explanation of radar interpretation of recent significant severe weather events and also provided the group safety rules at the closing of the event.

North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME). WFO Brownsville WCM Jesus Haro and senior forecasters Kerry Jones (WFO Albuquerque) and Joe Rogash (WFO El Paso) participated in coordination meetings in Tucson, Arizona for the North American Monsoon Experiment. The three will serve as forecasters for the project later this summer. The NAME program aims at improving the understanding and prediction of warm season precipitation over the desert Southwest and Rocky Mountains. Partnerships have been forged between U.S. federal agencies such as NOAA, NASA, and the National Science Foundation, as well as Mexican agencies such as the Commission Nacional del Agua (CNA - ‘National Water Commission’), the Servicio Nacional Meteorologica (SMN – ‘National Meteorological Service’) and the Instituto Mexicano de Tecnologia del Agua (IMTA – ‘Mexican Institute for Water Technology’). These initial meetings served to highlight coordination between agencies and specific forecasting duties.

NOAA Agencies in Tampa Combined Forces to Promote Science. The NWS, NOAA Fisheries, and the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center had booths at the Florida Aquarium to promote science during the Excellence in Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering Education Week. Senior forecaster Frank Alsheimer and ET Dave Chaffin promoted the importance of science in the National Weather Service.

Huntsville Share-Fair. A share-fair was held on May 24-25 at WFO Huntsville with participation from a half-dozen surrounding WFOs, the Southeast RFC in Atlanta and SSD. WFO Paducah in CR was also represented. The participants shared innovative and interesting projects they or others at their offices are involved in. There was much interest in these “best practices” and considerable discussion ensued after each presentation. A number of ideas for improving collaboration among offices were also discussed. Topics included unique AWIPS local applications, local research projects, creative outreach activities, HAM radio procedures, and development efforts on a regional Intranet Web site. It was obvious that the gathering was well named ... sharing was the obvious outcome. As part of the meeting the participants were also provided with updates on various projects and data sets that will become available to their offices through the collaborative partnership at Huntsville involving the NWS, NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge and Lower Mississippi RFC Participate in the Public Service Recognition Week Mall Activity. On May 6, as part of the Public Service Recognition Week activities that take place annually in the New Orleans Federal Executive Board area, the National Weather Service was one of 48 government service agencies booths present at the Lakeside Mall in Metairie, Louisiana. The Mall Outreach Committee was chaired by WFO New Orleans service hydrologist Patricia Brown-Jones. Senior forecaster Robert Ricks gave a presentation on hurricane preparedness, NOAA Weather Radio and local concerns, followed by questions and answers. The booth was staffed by WFO forecasters Freddie Zeigler, Robert Ricks and LMRFC hydrologist Gina Tillis. Mall attendees helped themselves to weather preparedness brochures, career track material and NWR information. Many visitors were positive in their comments with several praises of thanks offered by some of the public who are regular users of NWS products and services. Hurricane tracking maps were a very popular item.

PUBLIC

National Public Program Meeting. At the beginning of April, the Regional Public program managers and the National Public program managers spent a week together in Atlanta. The participants viewed presentations ranging from verification to VTEC to the ordering of headlines to the new requirements process. The week also included a trip to the Weather Channel. Additionally, many sessions were dedicated going through the Public Directives (10-5 series). This annual meeting is a great avenue to bring up issues in the public arena and is a great opportunity to share and collaborate with other regions on best practices.

MARINE

WFO Mobile Participates in Sustainable Beaches Summit. Lead forecaster John Purdy gave two presentations at the first Sustainable Beaches Summit held March 29-31 in Sandestin, Florida. The summit was hosted by the Clean Beaches Council, a national nonprofit organization devoted to educating the public about the environmental health of America's beaches, and co-sponsored by NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, EPA, and the Center for SeaChange. Purdy was one of several speakers providing expertise on beach flag warning systems during the opening workshop. His presentation entitled "Rip Current Threat Assessment" provided background information on WFO Mobile's involvement in the warning process, including forecast strategies and product dissemination. Purdy was also involved in an education, outreach and literacy breakout session on sea level rise and the impacts of weather and climate. The focus of his second presentation covered hurricane climatology for northwest Florida.

Rip Current Workshop. A Rip Current Technical Workshop was held in Jacksonville in April, and bringing together university researchers, NWS marine forecasters and Sea Grant extension specialists. Presentations highlighted the science behind rip currents, efforts to improve forecasts around the country, and outreach efforts. The workshop also helped each organization identify data gaps, partnership opportunities, and future research needs to enhance and improve rip current prediction and forecasting.

NWS rip current forecasting pioneers Jim Lushine of Miami and Randy Lascody of Melbourne; and Florida Sea Grant extension staff members were presenters. Lushine and Lascody discussed the NWS Surf Zone Forecast, the Rip Current Outlook, and statistics on rip currents. The highly successful collaboration between Sea Grant researchers and NWS forecasters was highlighted and serves as a model for additional Sea Grant/ NWS collaboration around the nation.

FIRE WEATHER

WFO El Paso Conducts Outreach in Preparation for Fire Season. Preparing for fire season has kept Tom Bird, fire weather program manager and incident meteorologist, quite busy. Most recently, Tom was the featured guest on *Smokey's Corner*, a popular hour-long weekly radio show. The show originates out of Ruidoso, New Mexico, just miles away from where the real Smokey Bear was rescued in 1950. The show focused on the partnership between the National Weather Service and the land agencies, fire weather services and products, and the role of meteorologist on wildfires. Since 2000, at least one large wildfire has threatened Ruidoso each year with several homes lost. Several listeners called in to ask questions of Tom. Last month Tom, along with WCM John Fausett, appeared on *Good Morning El Paso*, a morning television news show. They stressed the importance of weather forecasting as it relates to fighting wildfire and firefighter safety. In addition Tom prepared and conducted a preseason office brown bag with invited meteorologists from the Southwest GACC. The emphasis of the training was to ensure all forecasters understood new national and local policy. A couple of visits to area dispatch centers and S-290 weather units taught at three wildland firefighter academies round out the activity.

CLIMATE

Drought Conditions Develop/Worsen Across Georgia. The latest issuance of the Drought Monitor Network product shows that much of central and south Georgia is now in what is classified as a "Severe Drought." Many official reporting sites across the state, such as Athens and Alma have received only 20-25% of their normal March through May rainfall. Climatologically, this should be the wettest time of the year.

Conditions are not expected to improve, with the latest CPC monthly outlook for June showing a higher than normal probability of below average rainfall. SR WFOs have been aggressively issuing Public Information Statements covering the situation. In addition, WFOs routinely issued Daily Climate Summary products twice daily for all ASOS sites across Georgia which allow one to track the situation.

AVIATION

Aviation Team of the Mid-South Wins National Award. The Aviation Team of the Mid-South was the recipient of the 1st Quarter NWSH Aviation Service Branch Quarterly Aviation Team Award in April. The team consists of forecasters from the Memphis WFO and CWSU. They won the award based on their efforts to foster aviation safety and to reach out to general aviation pilots by hosting the "*Wind and Wings Weather Workshop*" in March. Pilots from three states attended the workshop. Topics covered ranged from the dangers of Low Level Wind Shear and microbursts to the interpretation of WSR-88D data. The event also allowed the NWS to receive important feedback from our aviation customers and fostered better communications between both parties.

Southern Region Active in the Development of AWIPS Aviation Software. During the last week of April, WFO Morristown senior forecaster Dave Hotz traveled to NWS Headquarters and met with NWSH ASB and MDL concerning the future development of the AWIPS hosted AvnFPS concerning versions 3.0 and beyond. This next version of the AvnFPS will offer several new options to forecasters, including:

- alerts for potential LLWS events by comparing METAR winds from those in the WSR-88D Wind Profiler
- conditional climatology tools to aid in the preparation of TAFs
- use of guidance data, such as hourly ETA BUFKIT data to produce a TAF
- continued development of Smart Tools
- improved verification on demand features allowing both a WFO and individual forecasters to monitor their verification on a near real-time basis

WFO Austin/San Antonio Active at the Experimental Aircraft Association Southwest Regional Fly-in. The fly-in was held at the New Braunfels Municipal Airport in May. Senior forecaster and aviation program leader David Schumacher led the effort by WFO Austin/San Antonio to staff a booth, along with DAPM Bill Runyon, and general forecasters Monte Oaks and Jim Ellis, as well as senior forecaster Robert Blaha, ITO Mark Oliver and SSH Mark Lenz. MIC Joe Arellano and SOO Jon Zeitler also participated. Approximately 200 people, mainly pilots, visited the booth.

In addition, WCM Larry Eblen presented two aviation workshops each day. The first discussed flying hazards, relating weather to commercial and general aviation mishaps. The second workshop concentrated on the use of NEXRAD radar data to detect and avoid storms. It also included the use of NWS Internet resources for the pre-planning of flights.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

WFO TALLAHASSEE PARTICIPATES IN MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MIS) MEETING. SFO Tallahassee senior service hydrologist Joel Lanier participated in an MIS meeting with Leon County in April. The meeting was held to discuss the concerns related to the implementation of the Capital Area Flood Warning Network including data flow, base station backup, and county Web page design. During the meeting we viewed the design of other ALERT system Web pages and the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System Web page and looked at various ways of displaying rainfall and stage data. The meeting concluded with a review of NWS hydrologic data flow path a tour of the NWS office.

WFO JACKSON REMEMBERS THE 1979 PEARL RIVER FLOOD. WFO Jackson created a Web site for the 25th anniversary of the 1979 Pearl River Flood which devastated Jackson and others along the river. The Web site describes how thunderstorms repeatedly developed over east central Mississippi over a 36 hour period, and produced between 15 and 20 inches of rain over Choctaw, Winston and Okibbeha counties causing extensive record flooding. More information can be accessed at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/events/79flood/>

RIO GRANDE SNOWMELT MEETING. WFO Albuquerque service hydrologist Ed Polasko and WFO Pueblo Larry Walrod joined WGRFC senior hydrologist Paul Greer at the much anticipated Rio Grande snowmelt runoff forecast meeting in Alamosa on April 14. This meeting is the primary coordination event for forecasters and water managers along the Rio Grande.

WFO TALLAHASSEE PARTICIPATES IN THE CAPITAL AREA FLOOD WARNING NETWORK. WFO Tallahassee continues to work with Leon County and the Northwest Florida Water Management District during the final design and implementation phase of the Capital Area Flood Warning Network. Since the beginning of April, Sutron Corporation has been conducting Radio Path surveys to finalize the design and location of ALERT transceivers around the greater Leon County area and into neighboring Wakulla County. This involved installation of a temporary antenna on the ROAN tower on the roof of the WFO Tallahassee office as well as the Leon County Courthouse. Personnel spent considerable time testing signal strength between 26 proposed ALERT sites, the courthouse, WFO Tallahassee and a secondary relay site at the Douglas Building. This project will also incorporate another ALERT system already fielded by the city of Tallahassee.

In addition to the radio path survey, two other meetings (one hosted by WFO Tallahassee), have been held with Leon County Management Information Systems personnel to firm up the Web interface design. Leon County will be hosting a Web server at the Leon County Courthouse which will collect data from the base stations. Two base stations will service the CAFWN, one located at the Leon County Courthouse, and the other at WFO Tallahassee. The MIS staff was particularly impressed with the NWS AHPS Hydrology Web page architecture and will be using elements from AHPS in their own design. Additionally, WFO Tallahassee is designing a local Hydrology AHPS Web page that will focus on the Leon County area ALERT network. The project is expected to be completed by August 2004.

NWS PRESENTATIONS AT THE ASFPM. WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge senior service hydrologist Patricia Brown and SRH hydrologic services program manager Kandis Boyd gave presentations during the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi in May. The ASFPM is the supporting organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, flood preparedness, and flood warning and recovery. This was an international meeting of professional engineers, hydrologists and other physical scientists involved in operational activities, as well as policy development.

Patricia's presentation entitled, "Impact of Louisiana Coastal Erosion on the Hydrologic Services Program at WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge LA," highlighted the direct impact of Louisiana's eroding wetlands on the economic, social, political, and business activities of southern Louisiana, including the area serviced by the WFO. Kandis' presentation, "Turn Around Don't Drown" – the Life you Save May Be Your Own," highlighted the accomplishments of the NWS National flood safety campaign, "Turn Around Don't Drown," to teach the public about the hazards of venturing into flooded roadways.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS HURRICANE CONFERENCE. WFO Lake Charles and West Gulf River Forecast Center participated in the 2004 Hurricane Conference hosted by the Orange County (Texas) Emergency Management Officials. WFO Lake Charles MIC Steve Rinard gave a presentation on the regional NWS Role in hurricane forecasting, and deputy regional director Steven Cooper presented an overview of NWS Southern Region. In addition the WFO and the WGRFC manned booths with brochures and posters on topics such as "Turn Around Don't Drown" and the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS). In addition, WFO Lake Charles journeyman forecaster Donovan Landreneau showed conference guests DVDs he created containing entire seasons of satellite and radar imagery of hurricanes. Other representatives from the WFO included journeyman forecaster Mark Wiley, DAPM Rick Gravitt, WCM Roger Erickson and service hydrologist Montra Lockwood. The WGRFC was represented by hydrologic forecaster, Alana McCants, and HAS forecaster, Greg Story. SRH CWWD chief Jud Ladd also attended the conference.

NWS/TVA MEETING. In May the NWS and TVA conducted an interagency meeting. The meeting focused on ways to enhance flood forecast and warning services for the main stem Tennessee River to support the needs of the emergency management community. SRH HSB chief Ben Weiger and WFO Morristown MIC Jerry McDuffie, WCM Howard Waldron, and senior service hydrologist Brian Boyd, WFO Nashville senior service hydrologist Mike Murphy, WFO Huntsville hydrology focal point Jason Elliot, and Lower Mississippi RFC DOH Bob Stucky represented the NWS at the meeting. Both agencies agreed to update their hydrologic operations and procedures prior to next year's flood season to enhance flood forecast and warning services for the emergency management community.

AHPS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AT WFOs. We completed coordination to schedule AHPS educational outreach workshops at six weather forecast offices this fiscal year. These workshops provide WFO staff with an overview of the AHPS program and background about probabilistic hydrologic forecast generation, configuration, and interpretation. The workshops will be conducted at WFOs Morristown (June 2004), Norman (July 2004), (Huntsville, Tulsa, and Fort Worth (August 2004)), and WFO Nashville (September 2004). The Hydrologic Services Branch and the river forecast centers will participate in the workshops.

TADD PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO. The city of San Antonio Public Works Department (SAPWD), in collaboration with WFO Austin/San Antonio, organized and conducted a "Turn Around Don't Drown" (TADD) press conference in May. The San Antonio director of public works, chief of police, and fire chief participated in the event, meeting people and giving interviews. All six San Antonio television stations took part in the press conference. MIC Joe Arellano, WCM Larry Eblen, and Mark Lenz, senior service hydrologist attended the press conference from WFO San Antonio. Kandis Boyd, regional hydrologic services program manager, also attended the conference. Joe Arellano gave a number of interviews in English and Spanish.

The conference theme was to remind residents about the dangers of attempting to navigate through flooded roadways. The SAPWD has installed “Turn Around Don’t Drown” signs at ten low-water crossing hot spots. The new signs are designed to alert motorists and pedestrians of high water on roads. In addition, the city of San Antonio has created TADD brochures and TADD bumper stickers that will be affixed to all city and police vehicles.

FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE (FFG) CONSISTENCY TEAM MEETING. Lower Mississippi RFC hosted representatives from Arkansas-Red Basin RFC, West Gulf RFC, Southeast RFC, Ohio RFC, Mid-Atlantic RFC, and Northeast RFC in May, to discuss standardizing FFG across RFC boundaries. The group reviewed threshold runoffs, max/min flash flood guidance values, and other user controls and suggested changes to make the final RFC flash flood guidance products more consistent along RFC service boundaries. The team has completed their report of recommendations. The report will be distributed to the RFCs, HSD chiefs, and OHD personnel in the coming weeks.

HYDROLOGIC CUSTOMER SERVICE WORKSHOP. WFO Corpus Christi hosted and organized a Hydrology Customer Service Workshop in May. The goals of the conference were to (1) meet directly with NWS hydrologic customers to better understand the roles and responsibilities that each agency has in protecting life and property; and (2) to provide better service to hydrologic customers in the WFO Corpus Christi Hydrologic Service Area. The presentations on the first day were primarily for the WFO staff and the media. On the second day, presentations were given by other hydrologic customers and the NWS. RFC presentation material provided on the first day was repeated for external customers who attended on the second day.

Representatives from WFO Corpus Christi, the West Gulf Coast RFC, local media, emergency managers, law enforcement officials, flood plain administrators, and other customers participated in this two-day event. WFO Corpus Christi MIC Armando Garza organized the event and welcomed all who attended. Presentations and discussions concerning the responsibilities and needs of the emergency managers, law enforcement officials, and other customers in the hydrology community were discussed and outlined on the second day of the workshop.

The media expressed their appreciation for improvements in the timeliness of flood forecast information dissemination to support the hydrologic information needs of their customers. They also stated how much they like and use the AHPS Web page information.

The customers expressed their appreciation for the workshop. They gained a better appreciation for what is involved in generating and disseminating an accurate and timely flood forecast. NWS folks who attended the workshop gained a better appreciation for the roles, responsibilities, and needs of their hydrologic customers. The workshop concluded with several customers being awarded rain gauges based on a random drawing of lucky numbers.

Thanks for conducting a very successful hydrologic customer service workshop, Armando. And thanks to all the other WFO and RFC participants.

WGRFC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES – A BUSY MAY. HIC Jerry Nunn and hydrologist Greg Waller met with Dr. Ken Tobin of Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas, to discuss a cooperative effort between TAMIU and the WGRFC to develop GIS applications for historical hydrometeorological analysis.

Jerry Nunn, senior HAS forecaster Keith Stellman, and HAS forecaster Greg Shelton gave presentations on WGRFC hydrologic forecast and HAS operations to the staff at WFO Midland/Odessa.

Jerry Nunn, Keith Stellman, and Greg Shelton, accompanied by WFO Midland/Odessa hydro focal point Jim Deberry, visited Carlsbad, New Mexico and met briefly with the local emergency manager. They also surveyed the recent flood damage along Dark Canyon west of the city.

Jerry Nunn, Keith Stellman, Greg Shelton, and WFO Midland/Odessa hydrology focal point Jim Deberry attended the annual U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)/NWS interagency coordination meeting at the USIBWC headquarters in El Paso. Representatives from the Mexican Water Commission, the IBWC counterpart in Mexico, and WFOs Albuquerque, Midland/Odessa, and El Paso also attended. Keith and Greg gave a presentation on WGRFC products on the Web. Later that afternoon, the four visited WFO El Paso to meet the staff on duty and conduct an informal question and answer session.

Senior hydrologist Frank Bell gave a presentation on WGRFC products and services at a Sister Cities Workshop, in Weslaco, Texas, hosted by the USIBWC and attended by representatives from WFO Brownsville and local emergency response interests.

HAS forecaster Greg Story and hydrologic forecaster Alana McCants visited with the staff at WFO Lake Charles. They discussed river forecast operations and gave a demonstration of MPE, and commended the electronics staff on radar calibrations that have markedly improved radar rainfall estimates.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING. A few years ago SSD provided all SR offices with a copy of a booklet titled *Scientifically Speaking; Tips for Preparing and Delivering Scientific Talks and Using Visual Aids*. Now that is available online and a link to it has been included in the SOO Reference Notebook (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ssd/soonotebook/>). See Chapter 12: Meetings and Conferences. We note the U.S. Government has a royalty-free license throughout the world in all copyright protected material it contains. Some of the advice in the booklet might be a little dated, such as how stacks of transparencies can be tamed so they don't rearrange themselves, most of the material is as appropriate as ever. We encourage everyone to use the booklet for guidance when preparing and delivering talks ...scientific or otherwise.

“NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE 101.” The staff of WFO Tallahassee, now collocated with the meteorology department at Florida State University, provides FSU students with an opportunity to complete a 2-credit hour course titled "Introduction to the National Weather Service" during one semester each year. The most recent class was just completed with 21 students enrolled. The course has always been highly rated by students. Topics covered include the structure, history and programs of the NWS, as well as introductions to operational applications of radar and lightning data, tropical cyclones, winter weather, numerical modeling, forecasting, and severe weather. The course was coordinated and taught, in part, by SOO Irv Watson, with considerable assistance from other WFO staff, including forecasters Jeff Fournier, Tim Barry, Brandon Bolinski, Mike Jamski, Marty Trexler and Ron Block; MIC Paul Duval; WCM Bob Goree; and HMT Bob Duggan. In addition, SSD coordinated the participation of WFO Miami MIC Rusty Pfost, NHC hurricane specialist Richard Pasch, and Bernard Meisner from SSD. Congratulations to all for this outstanding example of partnership, one that benefits NWS, FSU, and most important - the students.

NWS GUEST LECTURES AT TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL. With the assistance of the AMS online studies program, Texas A&M International University developed a course in atmospheric science for the 2004 spring semester. The class is part of the curriculum for a minor in geological science. WFO Corpus Christi MIC Armando Garza and SOO Andy Patrick assisted Prof. Ken Tobin in developing a lecture series featuring NWS meteorologists. WFO Austin/San Antonio SOO Jon Zeitler gave a presentation on April 7 on weather forecasting. On April 12 WFO Brownsville SOO Kurt VanSpeybroeck lectured on severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. In addition, on April 19 Corpus Christi forecaster Tawnya Evans delivered a talk on tropical cyclones. Representatives from the Texas A&M Meteorology Department and Texas A&M-Kingsville Environmental Engineering Department will provide additional lectures on climate and air pollution meteorology before the end of the semester. Another example of partnership in action, with broad scale results.

NCEP VISITOR. Dr. Geoff DiMego, Chief of the NCEP Mesoscale Modeling Branch, visited the WFO and Southeast RFC in Atlanta on May 14. While there he discussed NCEP operations and plans for the future. Major topics of his presentation were changes and performance of the Eta model, the downscaled GFS/Extended Eta (DGEX), work on an analysis of record (AOR) - which is planned in part for NDFD verification - and plans for transition to the WRF. Participants in Geoff's discussion included members of the WFO, RFC and nearby CWSU staffs, and Paul Kocin from The Weather Channel - himself a former NCEP meteorologist. Geoff also provided a presentation to the Atlanta local American Meteorological Society chapter on the topic, "NMC/NCEP Supercomputers and the Models that Consumed Them: A Sordid Tale of Codependence." All enjoyed his illustrative and behind-the-scenes discussion of the development of numerical weather prediction in the NWS and the impact of increasing computer power.

WFO JACKSON AVIATION OPERATIONS WORKSHOP. To further collaboration with their aviation partners, and enhance their aviation forecast services, WFO Jackson arranged a workshop at the NAS Meridian Flight Operations Center on May 19. Attending from the WFO were forecasters Brad Bryant, Dan Byrd, John Gagan, Bryan Henry and Latrice Maxie, along with senior forecasters Chad Entremont and Eric Carpenter. Five forecasters from NAS Meridian participated, along with the chief of weather operations. Naval Air Station Meridian is a large flight training base located just north of the city of Meridian, and their flight operations rely heavily on specialized aviation forecasts and convective warnings. Eric, who is also the assistant SOO program leader at WFO Jackson, coordinated with SOO Jeff Craven and the NAS weather center to set up the workshop that would focus on forecast operations and services. The goals were clear: improve WFO visibility, learn more about NAS Meridian weather operations, and ultimately enhance the utility of WFO services and forecasts to their needs.

The workshop was judged a great success. The following day Chief Victoria Baird from the NAS wrote:

I really want to thank you for your visit yesterday. All the presentations were great and I have to say I got new information from all that I was able to view. It looks like you have a good team in Jackson. Plus, we get to put a face on some of your products.

While it will be a bit harder for most of our office to visit Jackson, I will be checking into that possibility and will let you know if and when it can happen.

A similar workshop is being planned with Columbus Air Force Base.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION BRANCH

ASOS. Single CPU, DTS1 upgrades continue and AWPAG foundation installations are on schedule. The sensor move at the Fort Myers, Florida airport has been completed, and the sensor group move at St. Croix, U.S.V.I. is scheduled for sometime this summer. We will also be moving the sensor group at Key West this summer.

WSR-88D. ORPG Build 5 has been fully deployed and installed throughout the Southern Region. The ROC Program Branch shipped ORPG Patch Release 5.1P kits to all 168 RPG/MSCF/BDDS locations. This patch release tests the ROC Emergency Operating Release Patch Process and also contains security fixes for the ORPG.

During the week of May 17 agency radar focal points and regional electronic program managers met with members from the ROC and NWSH in Norman to discuss several program issues. Some of the areas covered related to technician safety, climbing training requirements, WSR-88D maintenance data access, and a number of other maintenance issues.

Beta testing will begin for ORPG Build 6 in July. Southern Region will be actively participating in this test. National deployment should begin the end of September.

The ORDA deployment has been delayed until early 2005. Instead of deploying coincident with ORPG Build 6, ORDA will now be tied to ORPG Build 7. Due to the deployment shifting from the fall to the spring, a new deployment schedule will be produced.

NWR. Site installations continue at a record pace in the region, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the RMSs in the field and a number of SRH personnel involved with the program.

NWR/CRS. Southern Region had a number of NOAA Weather Radio installations in May. The NWR site in Shreveport was relocated to its new home in Blanchard during the first week. An inspection of the previous site showed that the tower and other site facilities were not structurally sound prompting the move to the new site. Listeners from Shreveport and surrounding areas have commented to the WFO in Shreveport that the audio reception from the new site has been wonderful.

Within the next few weeks, the region's NWR program will be bringing two more sites on the air. The two sites are Harrison, Arkansas and Stillwater, Oklahoma. Transmitted audio will originate from WFOs Little Rock and Norman, respectively.

AWIPS. OB3 installs have been started again after a two-week delay. Numerous performance issues were identified and fixed. The most significant fix was pushed to all OB3 sites and will be pushed to the remaining sites after they complete the install. The other fixes were added to the OB3.1 Maintenance Release (MR). OB3.1 should be available for installation the beginning of June.

MR OB3.2 will contain primarily VTEC related updates and patches while MR OB3.3 will be composed of OB4 WWA software in support of the Watch By County and VTEC tests.

An OB4 alpha installation was performed at Central Region Headquarters the second week of May. However, due to the delays in OB3 deployment, additional OB4 installs will also be delayed. Southern Region Headquarters will be doing an OB4 Beta install in early July. National deployment of OB4 will begin in September.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS. We have made continuous headway in the installation and acceptance of telco lines for the support of the NWR program. Lines for the NWR transmitters at Harrison, Arkansas and St Croix, Virgin Islands were installed and tested. The St. Croix transmitter is currently on the air, and the Harrison lines are being tested for incorrect signal strength levels. This should be resolved soon. We have also installed and tested lines for sites that have relocated. The transmitters at Chattanooga, Tennessee and Shreveport were relocated recently after the telco lines were installed and tested. Both of these sites are on the air. Disconnects for the old lines for each of these sites have been ordered. Current orders for NWR lines include another international private line circuit from San Juan to Fajardo, Puerto Rico. This line was ordered through MCI on the FTS contract and is being provisioned at this time. The

order for the Miami, Texas site has also been placed. We are tracking and monitoring the progress of each of these orders.

Scott Jackson, telecommunications specialist from the Office of Radio Frequency Management, visited Southern Region in May. The objective of Scott's visit was to install a new frequency application and perform updates on the regional frequency manager's computer system. This application allows the frequency manager to submit, track, monitor, and update submitted frequency proposals sent up for approval by connecting directly to the NTIA server containing the frequency database. Through the Spectrum XXI system application, data is exchanged electronically between the regional clients and the NTIA servers. This on-line access provides real-time feedback to the regional frequency managers concerning the status of frequency proposals. Prior to this application, regional managers had to email proposals to NWSHQ frequency managers, who, in turn, submitted the proposals on behalf of the regions.

Scott had installed the software for the various regional frequency managers, and Southern Region was the last stop before returning to the Silver Spring area. While in Southern Region, Scott went over some items of interest and a few new tools to use during frequency interference analysis and inter-modulation studies.

We appreciate Scott Jackson's visit to install the software applications and updates, and look forward to working with the data exchange applications.

The T1 access for the two DTS point-to-point circuits to Silver Spring are being moved to the two new T3 accesses. This removes the added cost of access for the two T1s. We are always looking for ways to consolidate services to reduce cost yet maintain or improve the quality of service.

WFO HUMIDIFIER RETROFIT. Low humidity typical in the winter months over most of Southern Region and all year in the desert areas can cause high static charges that can damage sensitive electronic components. A replacement humidifier is being installed at WFO Amarillo utilizing ionic bed technology for removing dissolved solids in the water. If successful this technology will be exploited at other Southern Region sites where the humidifiers have been disabled due to lack of reliability and the operating expense.

RADIOSONDE BATTERY WATER DISPOSAL. NWSH has agreed to ask EPA if the radiosonde battery activation water can be managed in such a way to reduce the concentration of copper and lead. In a previously published letter supplied to the field for presentation to publicly owned waste treatment plants, NWSH referenced a copper concentration of 16.5 mg/l, which exceeds most waste treatment plant standards, requiring field sites to collect or evaporate the water that was previously disposed as sewage. However, EPA has a very strict interpretation of "dilution" as a method to decrease the concentration of contaminants in waste process water.

OBSERVATIONS AND FACILITIES BRANCH

WFO KEY WEST CONTRACTOR BID REVIEWS. The technical review portion of the WFO Key West contractor proposals was completed for the five designated Navy contractors. These contractors were pre-approved to perform work for the Navy at NAS Key West, and were being evaluated for construction schedule critical path elements and compliance to NWS LEEDS goals (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). A separate committee is reviewing the contractors' cost proposals.

SAFETY. New emergency cell phones were sent to 28 offices that had not already replaced their original phones suffering from battery and circuitry problems. The new phones were received at no cost from AT&T through a promotion and are intended for use by WFO/RFC personnel who must travel to remote field sites and may not have a means of communication in case of emergency. These phones have also been used in cases of local office emergencies, including communication failures.

SNOW-PAID NETWORK. Southern Region surface program manager received 23 snow-paid contracts from the field for new snow-network observers across the region for this winter season. SR only received three completed B-86's in April requesting payment of snowfall observations.

April 30 brought to a close the first Snow-Paid Network snow season in Southern Region. SR established the new Snow-Paid Network across the northern two-thirds of the region. All affected forecast offices did an excellent job recruiting and setting up this network to produce the highest quality snow-fall reports for the remaining few months of the 2004 winter season. A total of 196 snow reports were phoned into NWS offices during the snowfall season beginning mid-January 2004 and ending April 30.

ENVIRONMENTAL. EPA regulations require existing spill prevention control and countermeasure plans (SPCC) at six Southern Region sites to be updated. Environmental contractor TetraTech, Inc. will provide this service through a contract being negotiated by WASC. The six sites are Brownsville, El Paso, Atlanta, Midland, Miami, and Knoxville/Tri-Cities. Additionally, another three sites, Birmingham, Corpus Christi, and Jackson, will have their SPCC plans converted to the EPA-designated Best Management Plans, which are not regulatory in nature due to the lower volumes of fuel on the WFO premises.

RADIOSONDE REPLACEMENT SYSTEM (RRS). Southern Region's upper air program manager received a second copy of the draft RRS Users Guide dated February 2004. The draft included the latest upper air software load version 0.0.0.91 with easy to follow loading instructions. The software was loaded on the RRS workstation at SR and will allow the upper air program manager to simulate flights and become familiar with changes to the software and the GUI since the last release in August 2003.

REGIONAL COOP PROGRAM MANAGERS' MEETING. Regional coop program managers (RCPM) recently met in Las Vegas. The meeting was very robust with the main focus on modernizing the coop network and maintaining the existing network during the modernization process. Southern Region demonstrated the Interactive Voice – Remote Observation Collection System (IV-ROCS) to the group with a national deployment expected by July 2004. The IV-ROCS will replace the antiquated PCROSA system currently in use.

IV-ROCS ENHANCEMENTS. An expanded and improved version of the Interactive Voice – Remote Observation Collection System (IV-ROCS) will be tested at Southern Region Headquarters in June. If this testing is successful the enhanced IV-ROCS system will be used to collect coop reports from across the entire National Weather Service. The current prototype software version was tested and deployed in June 2003 for observers in Southern Region only. As a result of this successful demonstration NWSH agreed to support software enhancements for national deployment and implementation. The scheduled national deployment for IV-ROCS is July 2004.

UPPER-AIR. Upper air parts were once again a major issue in May. In April Charlie Lake (SOD) helped Birmingham obtain an ART-2 pylon from the NWSTC to return to operations, since the NLSC was out of stock. This month that pylon failed and it was over a week before NLSC was able to provide another pylon. Two other ART-2 pylons were needed by other offices, and those offices will have to wait until the returned pylon could be refurbished before being sent out again.

April 2004 was an excellent month for Southern Region upper air programs despite a few offices having higher than average problems with tracking equipment. The overall average ranking score for SR upper air sites in April was 288.28. This score just beat the national average of 287.91. For the second month in a row at least seventy percent of SR offices earned ranking scores above the national average.

WFO Jackson continues to hold the region's top spot for the second month in a row with a score of 298.79 out of 300.00. Following closely were several other SR offices including WFO Little Rock (298.21), Brownsville (296.86), Miami (296.03), Atlanta (295.87), Nashville (295.59), Corpus Christi (295.10), El Paso (293.79), (293.79), Midland (293.01), Key West (292.82), Norman (292.09), Del Rio, Texas (291.60), Albuquerque (291.54), and New Orleans with a score of 291.08.

Del Rio (contract site) continues to hold the top 12-month Southern Region average in April with an average score of 294.69. This is only 1.51 points short of the top spot in the entire national upper air network. Other offices in Southern Region with excellent 12-month averages include: Little Rock (294.62), El Paso (294.34), Lake Charles (294.27), Key West (294.27), Corpus Christi (293.68), Jackson (293.14), San Juan (292.72), and Nashville with a score of 291.82.

NORTH AMERICAN MONSOON EXPERIMENT (NAME). In May, Western Region Headquarters SSD chief Andy Edman chaired a conference call with all NWS WFOs will be providing extra sounding support during the experiment. Andy was joined by representatives from JOSS (Jose Meitin), the SWG (Wayne Higgins and Erik Pytlak), Southern and Western Region headquarters, and WFOs San Diego, Las Vegas, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, El Paso, Amarillo, Midland and San Antonio. The offices were briefed on how the special soundings will fit in the overall NAME observational network, what type of Intense Operating Periods (IOP) are envisioned during NAME, and how the offices will be notified before IOPs begin.

HOLM AND JEFFERSON AWARDS. Two Southern Region observers were selected to receive the Thomas Jefferson Award in FY2004. An additional five volunteers were selected to receive the John Campanious Holm award. The awards are the highest honors presented to members of the volunteer cooperative observer program. The awards will be presented by the local WFOs later this year.

SURFACE OBSERVATION PROGRAM. Southern Region received 78 requests from the aviation community for new certificates, cancellations, and changes in type of surface certificates in May.

During the week of May 10, SRH SOD surface program manager Alton Abernathy successfully completed the WFO Lubbock and Amarillo two-year office reviews.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DIVERSITY/EEO AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

OUTSTANDING STUDENT FORECASTER. Congratulations to Lora Wilson, a SCEP student at WFO Jackson, who placed first among all undergraduate forecasters in the college National Forecasting Contest. She also placed third overall for all participating student forecasters (approximately 1000 students at 37 meteorology programs around the nation). Lora is a student at Mississippi State University, which incidentally placed third as a team, behind San Jose State and MIT.

WEATHER ALLEY. WFO Austin/San Antonio and the NOAA Office of Public and Constituent Affairs staffed a booth at the Intelligent Transportation Society of America's (ITSA) 14th Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Antonio in April. The booth was part of "Weather Alley," with other displays from NCAR and private vendors. ITSA members include federal, state, and local departments of transportation, metropolitan emergency managers, law enforcement, emergency managers, and manufacturers of safety products, information management, and traffic routing products. SOO Jon Zeitler, service hydrologist Mark Lenz, senior forecaster David Schumacher, forecaster Clay Anderson, and NOAA Public Affairs' Bob Hansen staffed the booth, while ITO Mark Oliver provided technical support. Interactions focused on NOAA Weather Radio, NWS participation in the Amber Alert System, and how data from the NDFD and AHPS can be used to improve transportation safety and efficiency.

WFO JACKSONVILLE BOOTH REELS THEM IN AT BOAT SHOW. As part of the ongoing commitment to user interaction, WFO Jacksonville recently took a featured role in the Jacksonville Boat Show, the largest annual show of its kind in the area. The WFO staffed an NWS exhibit throughout the three-day event, providing a valuable opportunity to gather feedback on marine forecast issues, explain local marine peculiarities, distribute safety literature, and get to know users on a personal basis. The WFO also provided seminars on marine forecasting at the show. The NWS booth, which was staffed by marine focal point Andrew Shashy as well as SOO Pat Welsh, and MIC Steve Letro, attracted hundreds of visitors and reinforced the National Weather Service mission of service and weather education to our users.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION. WFO Tallahassee MIC Paul Duval represented the office at the Florida State University Earth Day Celebration where students were introduced to the NWS mission and programs. Forecaster Brandon Bolinski conducted an office familiarization visit by the Florida State University Honors Fraternity focusing on NWS operations and warning dissemination.

WFO ATLANTA GOES BOATING (AGAIN). WFO Atlanta supplied and staffed a booth at the Georgia International Boat Show held at the Georgia International Convention Center in April. This was the first year for this spring show and its creators hope it will be the number two boat show in Georgia soon. The office's participation came about because the show's production manager offered booth space at no cost. He said, "I see the National Weather Service as an important service organization with respect to boating and they are welcome back each year at no charge." An offer hard to refuse. WFO Atlanta hosts a booth annually at the Atlanta Boat Show in January, the top boat show in the state. This spring the boat show gave the office an opportunity to redesign the booth it uses at events like this.

TABLETOP DAM BREAK EXERCISES. WFO Albuquerque service hydrologist Ed Polasko joined forces with the WCM and SH from WFO Grand Junction on March 15 in tabletop dam break exercises for the Navajo Dam in New Mexico, as well as the Lemon and Vallecito dams in southern Colorado. These USBR controlled dams are vital water supply reservoirs, as well as, high-use recreational lakes on the water-challenged upper San Juan River shared by Colorado and New Mexico. New Mexico and Colorado emergency management work together with federal officials to ensure safe and efficient use of these reservoirs. Ed also participated in similar exercises at Laguna Pueblo and Mescalero in April. Next in line is a full-scale team exercise for Sumner Lake on the Pecos River in early May.

WFO ALBUQUERQUE MIC KEYNOTE SPEAKER. WFO Albuquerque MIC Charlie Liles was the keynote speaker at New Mexico's Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers annual meeting in Albuquerque on April 16. Charlie made a presentation on "Precipitation Variability in New Mexico - Where we've been, Where we are, and Where we are going." After two major winter storms during the first half of April that produced as much as 60-70 inches of snow in the mountains and 2-8 inches of rain at lower elevations, interest was very high in how much of a dent the storms would put in the doubt. Using lots of data, Charlie explained that it is like getting a nice paycheck when you haven't gotten one in two years...it's nice, but the bills are piled high.

NEW MEXICO DROUGHT...SPEECH BROUGHT ON PRECIPITATION. WFO Albuquerque service hydrologist Ed Polasko was the guest speaker at the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association Annual Meeting in Roswell. Over 75 ranchers gathered to hear Ed talk about drought in New Mexico. Ed spoke with such intensity and passion that the following week Albuquerque measured its greatest 24 hour precipitation event in recorded history.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RFC AND WFO LITTLE ROCK PARTICIPATE IN EEO TRAINING. On April 6 LMRFC and WFO New Orleans staff members attended EEO/Diversity training at the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) at Stennis Space Center. New Orleans staff members included senior service hydrologist Pat Brown, DAPM Gil Barton, and lead forecaster Len Bucklin. LMRFC attendees included hydrologic forecaster Gina Tillis, senior hydrologist Amanda Roberts, HAS forecasters Connie Klimzcak and Carolyn Levert, and HIC Dave Reed.

COLLEGE VISITS AND NWS OVERVIEWS. Senior forecaster and EEO focal point Ron Block conducted an office visit for the Tallahassee Community College meteorology classes providing an overview of the NWS mission and operations as well and how to prepare and apply for a related career. This was followed by a session in the operations area where students were exposed to the office technology culminating in a lesson on how to prepare a forecast. Students interested in operational meteorology were encouraged to return and volunteer and/or pursue course credit. Ron was interviewed by the north Florida Skywarn group where he discussed the upcoming hurricane season, recent near-record dry month and the short-term weather outlook. He discussed careers in meteorology at the Florida State University Asian Students Club and at the Rickards High School Science Club.

TEXAS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK. WFO Brownsville WCM Jesus Haro worked closely with the Telemundo Spanish television affiliate in McAllen, Texas, to craft a series of stories in support of Texas Severe Weather Awareness Week. The stories highlighted different facets of severe weather preparedness in Spanish and were transmitted to audiences on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Due to the vulnerability of deep south Texas to tropical cyclones, severe weather preparedness is often overlooked by local residents. The series served to provide potentially life-saving information to a populace that is often unaware of the dangers that severe thunderstorms pose.

STARTING A CAREER WITH THE NWS. WFO Brownsville HMT Sam Martinez gave a weather presentation to 75 students at Pace High School in Brownsville. Sam's discussion featured the mission and technology of the National Weather Service. He also spoke at length about how to start a career with the organization. The information was well-received by the audience.

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE AIR FIESTA EVENT. WFO Brownsville forecaster Carl McElroy provided logistical support to the Commemorative Air Force "Air Fiesta" held in Brownsville. The event brings vintage and military aircrafts to the skies over Brownsville every year. Carl performed three weather briefings for the event pilots, and focused on the unsettled weather that affected the area during the event. He also provided weather information to pilots flying back home after the final day of the event on Sunday. Carl went the extra mile by remaining "on call" for the Air Boss. Carl's forecasts were well-received and verified well, as usual.

JUDGES FOR THE SCIENCE FAIR. WFO Brownsville lead forecaster Greg Flatt and HMT Tony Abbott served as judges for the Port Isabel Junior High School science fair. Greg and Tony used the opportunity to talk to interested students about careers in meteorology and were impressed by the resourcefulness displayed by the students during the fair.

REAL TIME WEATHER BRIEFING FOR THE SCOUT TROOP 6. WFO Brownsville DAPM Jim Campbell provided an office tour to the Brownsville Scout Troop 6. Jim briefed the troop on the history of the National Weather Service, some of the tools we use, and weather that affects the Rio Grande Valley. The troop was treated to a real-time weather briefing by forecaster Mike Castillo and a tour of the upper air facility.

CAREER DAY AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE. WFO Brownsville ASA Rachel Gutierrez, lead forecaster Brian Miller and DAPM Jim Campbell participated in the Lyford Middle School Career Day attended by approximately 200 8th and 12th graders. The students asked specific questions about NWS jobs and were given a grade on how well they conducted the interviews. They had been instructed on how to construct a resume and each person who stopped at the booth handed out their resume as if they were interviewing for a job. The staff talked about career paths in meteorology, as well as the history of the Brownsville office.

BRIEFINGS AND MORE. WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos conducted a two-hour talk on hurricane preparedness for 150 students and teachers of the Barranquitas Elementary School on April 27. The same day Israel Matos joined the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency and the Puerto Rico Seismic Network in a tsunami and hurricane briefing for 30 residents of the southeastern Puerto Rico municipality of Salinas. On April 24 WCM Rafael Mojica conducted a two hour Weather and Boating Class for ten members of the San Juan U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 110.

MORE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS. WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica was the guest speaker in April at the annual pre-hurricane season meeting of the National Park Service Multi-Agency Coordination Group which comprised park rangers from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida and the USDA Southeast Regional Operations Center. Rafael presented a review of the 2003 hurricane season, the outlook for 2004, the NWS support during tropical cyclones, and the use of Hurrevac software as a decision-making tool.

WFO SHREVEPORT GIVES TALK AND TOUR. WFO Shreveport lead forecaster Michael Berry and service hydrologist Craig Ross gave a talk and tour to a group of thirty home schooled students from Carthage, Texas. Mike and Craig discussed the operations of the NWS, the surface observation program, upper air program, hydrology and the severe weather programs. They also talked about safety rules, NOAA Weather Radio and coordination with the media.

WFO BIRMINGHAM AWARDED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. In April the American Red Cross in Birmingham held their annual volunteer recognition luncheon. Invited this year were MIC Ken Graham and WCM Jason Wright. WFO Birmingham was awarded the 2004 Community Disaster Education Award. Specifically cited was the 2004 Alabama Severe Weather Awareness brochure created through a partnership between the National Weather Service, Red Cross, and Mercedes Benz. The brochure was designed by meteorologists Darone Jones and Michael Scotten. There were 10,000 brochures printed to strengthen public severe weather knowledge and preparedness. Congratulations to the Birmingham staff!

CWSU Miami Outreach. On May 22, CWSU Miami MIC Stan Holland participated in the end-of-session program for the NASA-sponsored Science, Engineering, Math and Aerospace Academy. This program introduces young women and minorities in grades 4 through high school to hands-on science and exposes them to various scientists and science applications. Stan has been a member of the advisory board for one year, and is tasked with giving lessons on different aspects of weather as it applies to aviation, as well as talks on severe weather that affects South Florida. At the end-of-sessions program, Stan set up an NWS static display and informed the approximately 250 students on weather's role in aviation and the function of the CWSU. Certificates of completion were awarded to all of the student participants.

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS			
<u>APRIL 1 - 30, 2004</u>			
<u>Southern Region Losses</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title/Grade</u>
Paul Halleck	WFO MLB	Transfer to Alaska Region	Elec Tech, GS-11
Christopher Price	WFO TSA	Transfer to Central Region	Elec Tech, GS-12
George Bailey	WFO MEG	Retirement	ESA, GS-13
Bobby Franco	WFO ABQ	Retirement	ESA, GS-13
Nikola Listemaa	WFO JAN	Transfer to Eastern Region	Forecaster, GS-12
Steven Listemaa	WFO JAN	Transfer to Eastern Region	ITO, GS-13
Andy Roche	WFO SJU	Transfer to Eastern Region	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Carl McElroy	WFO BRO	Transfer to Pacific Region	Forecaster, GS-12
Timothy Hendricks	WFO SJT	Transfer to Pacific Region	Lead Forecaster, GS-13

<u>Southern Region Gains</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Kevin Fryar	CWSU ZTL	New Hire	Forecaster, GS-9
Marianne Sutton	WFO EWX	New Hire - SCEP Program	Intern, GS-7
Sarah Allen	WFO JAN	New Hire - SCEP Program	Intern, GS-7
Karen Trammell	WFO OUN	New Hire - SCEP Program	Intern, GS-9
Jack Cullen	WFO MOB	New Hire - SCEP Program	Intern, GS-7
Greg Chatelain	WFO SHV	New Hire	Intern, GS-7

<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Kenneth Widelski	WFO LUB	Transfer from WFO EWX	Forecaster, GS-9
Shawn Bennett	WFO TBW	Promotion from WFO BRO	MIC, GS-15
Vidal Santiago	WFO SJU	Promotion on Station	HMT, GS-11
John Holsenbeck	WFO LUB	Reassignment on Station	ITO, GS-13
Matthew Kramar	WFO AMA	Transfer from WFO JAN	Forecaster, GS-7
Donald Burkhardt	WFO MLB	Reassign from WFO AMA	El Tech, GS-11
Gregory Garrett	WFO JAN	Reassign from WFO MEG	ITO, GS-13
Andrew Patrick	WFO BRO	Promotion from WFO CRP	MIC, GS-14
Todd Kimberlain	WFO SJU	Promotion on Station	Forecaster, GS-11
William McIntosh	WFO TSA	Promotion on Station	IT Specialist, GS-12
David Jerkins	WFO ABQ	Promotion on Station	ESA, GS-13
Hector Rivera	WFO SJU	Promotion on Station	Lead Forecaster, GS-13