



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Fort Worth, Texas**

July/August 2005

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce Corpus Christi Meteorologist-in-Charge Armando Garza has been selected to serve as MIC for the Weather Forecast Office in Shreveport. He replaces Lee Harrison, who retired in July. Armando launched his National Weather Service career in 1972 and has served with distinction in numerous NWS offices across the nation. His excellent leadership ability and extensive experience gained over the last three decades – represents a winning combination that will help provide the best possible service to the citizens in the Shreveport CWA. Please join me in congratulating Armando and wishing him well in his new assignment.

CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

Regional Public Program Meeting. In May, Walt Zaleski represented SR at the annual NWS Public Program Managers Meeting. Regional representatives from each region were in attendance, including most of the Public Branch Program Managers from NWSHQ. A list of the action items and all presentations has been posted on a website for your review: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/services-teams/publicteam.shtml>

Fans and Heat. While many people think fans are helpful during extreme heat events, recent evidence suggests that's not always the case. There have been many documented cases where EMTs have found people dead, lying over fans during hot afternoons when they did not have A/C – they were using the fans to 'cool off.'

Conduction, convection, and radiation are only effective when ambient temperature is lower than body temperature. In other words, most cooling relies on evaporation and the existence of a heat difference between you and the environment. At high temperatures, we are cooler

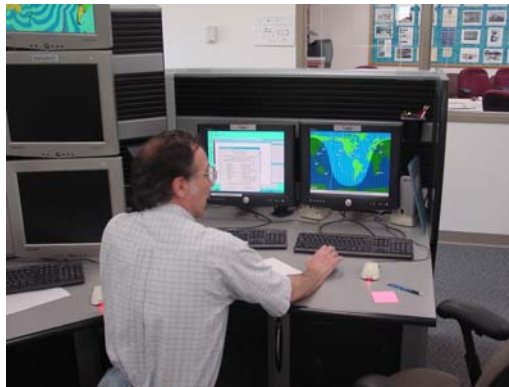


than the environment, so fans just move more hot air over you and may overwhelm any evaporative cooling. Research indicates that use of electric fans does not significantly reduce risk, because convection requires that the moving air currents be cooler than body temperature. Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

Information is from the America Medical Association (AMA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Just some heat-related safety information you may want to share with your local customers.

Ship Observations on AWIPS. As a reminder, AWIPS can display ship observations, as well as buoy observations. Most ship observations are sent every 3 or 6 hours (and shipmates are encouraged to send observations every 3 hours if they get within 300 miles of a tropical storm).

Brownsville MIC Visits Tsunami Center. While traveling in Alaska in early June, WFO Brownsville MIC Andy Patrick visited the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WCATWC). The WCATWC is located in Palmer Alaska, which is approximately 40 miles northeast of Anchorage. It is also part of the NWS Alaska Region. Bill Knight, a physical scientist at the WCATWC, provided a detailed tour and explained the process of seismic data acquisition, interpolation, and the process of issuance and dissemination of tsunami warnings. Shortly before visiting the center, Andy felt a brief earthquake and seismic data from this quake was available within minutes to the staff at the WCATWC. The small earthquake was centered near Palmer and was rated at “II” on the Mercalli Scale (approximately 3.4 on the Richter scale).



Above: Physical Scientist Bill Knight of the WCATWC demonstrates procedures to issue a tsunami warning.



DIGITAL SERVICES

Decisional Impact of the Month. The first agenda item on each monthly SR DS call is entitled, 'Decisional Impact of the Month.' This is when SRH gives examples of customer usage of our digital services. Do you have information about your customers using your gridded services? If so, e-mail Melinda Hinojosa so she can share the information on the calls with the rest of the WFOs.

Overrides Online. Although not many changes were needed to the formatters, some files were updated by the Text Formatter Team and are located on the SR Digital Service Intranet Webpage: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ifps/formatters.html>

Sub-Regional IFPS Workshop Conference Call. On Thursday 7 July, 2005, WFO Jackson held a Sub-Regional IFPS Workshop Conference Call. Representatives from eight WFOs surrounding the JAN area participated, including Little Rock, Shreveport, Lake Charles, Houston, Memphis, Huntsville, Birmingham, and Mobile. The two-hour call discussed topics relating to how each office completes their gridded forecasts, what popular smart tools and procedures can help increase efficiency in grid editing, and how each office can improve collaboration. The call wrapped-up with an excellent discussion on the merits and disadvantages of initializing the extended forecast with one source of guidance. The Digital Services Team at JAN greatly appreciates everyone who took time from their busy schedules to attend the meeting. A follow up conference call has been tentatively scheduled for late October. Great way to share ideas, everyone!!

GFE Formatters for Forecasters Training Presentation. The GFE Formatters for Forecasters recorded training is now available on the LMS. See <http://e-learning.doc.gov/>. You can search the "whole catalog" for IFPS and the IFPS topics will list separately from the others.

Distance Learning IFPS Focal Point Course. Don't forget, as a refresher or for new focal points, there is a Distance Learning IFPS Focal Point Course courtesy of Sam Beckman at the Training Center Website:

<http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/ifps17/DLoutline17.htm>

GHG Information. Yes, we are encouraging offices to use GHG and the new formatters (even though they do not follow the current directives). However, until WFOs send their GHG checklist to Eric Howieson and Jud Ladd, and it is approved, no VTEC products should be issued by that office via GHG. After Eric and Jud check off your office, they will send you instructions on how to use VTEC experimentally in your products, and then you can begin to issue those products with experimental VTEC in them.

In addition, do not modify or override the GHG formatter software. The GHG formatter output has been officially approved by NWS Headquarters and your Regional Headquarter's VTEC representative. Based on the VTEC OT&E results, changes had to be made to



existing directives. Consequently, NWS Headquarters is currently updating all directives to match the GHG VTEC Operational software build 17.6. Despite the temporary discrepancy between directives and software, expect the GHG software output to match each directive format by November 1.

Remember, the GHG formatters are now an important part of the core mission of the NWS Watch/Warning program. Attempting to modify the GHG formatters will place the burden on your office if/when a formatter fails during a warning situation. The installation guidelines specifically prohibit the sites from overriding the hazard formatters. The ultimate goal is to have directive effective dates and all CONUS offices VTEC enabled by 11/01/05.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

New Orleans Participates in the Mississippi Valley Division Hurricane Workshop.

WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge Senior Service Hydrologist Patricia Brown and Port Meteorological Officer Paula Campbell attended the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division (CEMVD) Hurricane Workshop on July 25, 2005. The workshop focused on the roles and responsibilities of the CEMVD during hurricane response and recovery effort and the National Response Plan. The workshop included an overview of the response plans of federal, state, local and parish government agencies. Some of the topics discussed included the 2005 Atlantic hurricane outlook, hurricane evacuation, sheltering, impact assessment, engineering issues, hurricane protection systems, and commodities planning.

WFO Lake Charles Participates in the Flood Warning System Meeting in southeast Texas.

On July 27, WFO Lake Charles Service Hydrologist Montra Lockwood and Lead Forecaster Joe Rua met with Orange County (Texas) officials to discuss recent flood problems. The most significant problems have occurred on a heavily traveled underpass along Interstate 10 in Vidor, Texas, which often floods during moderate to heavy rainfall events.

A morning meeting was held with City of Vidor Police Sergeant Aleta Cappen and two members of Vidor City Maintenance. Sgt. Cappen provided a tour of the most flood prone areas in the city of Vidor. She and the city maintenance crew agreed to notify the Lake Charles office if barricading flooded roadways becomes necessary during a heavy rain event. An afternoon meeting with Orange County Emergency Manager Chuck Frazier was held to discuss other areas around the county where flooding commonly occurs. At both meetings, Joe and Montra provided information on the grants applications for the Automated Flood Warning System, and encouraged them to apply for funding.





Underpass on Texas Farm Road 105 at the intersection of Interstate 10 in Vidor, TX. Flooding is common in this underpass. On July 14, 5.5 inches of rain in 2 hours caused water to rise to the 5 ft mark on the gage.

MPE Data Uses for Agricultural Application. LMRFC HIC Dave Reed and hydrologic forecaster Kai Roth recently attended the 2005 Mississippi Water Resources Conference held in Jackson, MS. During the conference, representatives from Mississippi State University highlighted their use of RFC multi-sensor precipitation estimate (MPE) data for agricultural application. These include input to agricultural uses such as pest control, plant disease, estimating waste water lagoon overflows, and various crop models.

The following briefly describes some of these uses of RFC MPE data:

Pests - Rodents and other pests are a nuisance to farmers because they prefer to eat the tender green vegetation provided by crops. Agricultural fields “green up” after a soaking rainfall and rodents and other pests will normally appear. RFC MPE data provide MSU scientists with valuable information on the when, where, and how much it has rained. Using this remotely sensed data, scientists are able to study the correlation between rainfall and the time required for a field to “green-up”. On-site reports can be documented showing the arrival time of a pest or rodent problem following a rainfall event.

Plant Disease -Future studies are planned at Mississippi State to see if a correlation can be made between rainfall amounts and plant diseases. RFC MPE data will be used to define rainfall location, time, and amounts in these studies.

Waste Water Lagoons - Waste water lagoons are normally designed to prevent overflows during a 100-year recurrence interval rainfall event. Should an overflow occur, the EPA will fine the owner up to \$30,000 if the rainfall is less than a 100 year event. A fine is not levied for hurricane induced floods. Should a lagoon overflow and observed rain gage data does not support a 100-year rainfall event, then MPE data is analyzed to fill the point rainfall gaps. If rainfall



estimates do not exceed 100 year flood amounts, a large fine will be levied.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Crop Models – Water is a critical component in determining the yield of a crop. Rainfall at critical times during the growing season can greatly improve yield. The Mississippi DEQ uses various crop models to assist farmers in determining water needs and when to implement irrigation. DEQ is using MPE data for input into these crop models to determine water needs to allow farmers to maximize their profits.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

MDCRS UPDATE. Southwest Airlines began providing data from their instrumented aircraft to the Meteorological Data Collection and Reporting System (MDCRS) on August 1, 2005. Both the FSL and the NCEP have completed a preliminary analysis of performance and found the temperature and wind measurements to be of reasonable quality. The Southwest aircraft soundings should be available in AWIPS immediately.

Southwest Airlines is the seventh commercial air carrier to join NOAA and the FAA to share their automated atmospheric reports. The original six MDCRS air carriers are United, Delta, American, Northwest, FedEx, and United Parcel Service (currently flying the water vapor sensor). These domestic air carriers, along with our international AMDAR partners, deliver over 200,000 aircraft reports per day to NOAA.

David Helms (NWS Office of Science & Technology) has requested feedback from the field on the quality of these data, and encourages field offices to participate in WFO Green Bay's aircraft observations on-line survey (includes TAMDAR and MDCRS data assessment), <http://amdar.noaa.gov/TAMDAR/survey/>. He has also asked that the field offices please explicitly identify MDCRS data in their Area Forecast Discussions when those aircraft data are used in the preparation of the forecast as OS&T uses this information as a measure of data usage.

SEPTEMBER VISIT TELETRAINING CALENDAR. The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for September is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu The teletraining calendar is now at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp>

The teletraining planning calendar with other sessions is at:
<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html>

The current sessions planned for September are:

- * Downscaling Technique by Climate Team
(Basic, Sep 16,21)
- * CPC Long Range Forecasting by Climate Team



(Basic, Sep 7, 28)

* CPC Monitoring Products by Climate Team

(Basic, Sep 8,20)

* Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor

Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS

(RSO 3) (Intermediate, Sep 13, 14)

Climate Team sessions are intended for climate focal points and are a prerequisite for classroom training.

Several recorded VISIT session are available via the NWS Learning Management System:

<http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>

Search the catalog for "VISIT" under "NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COURSES."

TECHNICAL ATTACHMENTS. We have two Technical Attachments to this month's *Topics*. The first, written by David Hotz and Lyle Wilson (WFO Knoxville/Tri-Cities) entitled, "[GFE Forecast Monitor](#)" describes the GFE Monitor program they have developed to compare forecasts for specified GFE grid squares with observations from points within the squares. This program allows forecasters to easily note any significant differences between their forecasts and the actual weather.

The second Attachment, written by Jeffrey Cupo (WFO Midland/Odessa) entitled, "[You Make The Call: Science Sharing Taken to a New Level](#)" introduces the "You Make The Call" section of the Southern Region Intranet and invites contributions in the areas of meteorology, leadership, administrative support, data acquisition, and electronics.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

| SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>JULY 1 – 31, 2005</u> | | | |
| <u>Southern Region Losses</u> | | | |
| <u>Name</u> | <u>From (Office)</u> | <u>Action/Transfer</u> | <u>From Title</u> |
| Milton (Lee) Harrison | WFO SHV | Retirement | MIC, GS-15 |
| Michael S. Flynn | WFO EWX | Retirement | Lead Forecaster, GS-13 |



SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS

JULY 1 – 31, 2005

Southern Region Gains

| <u>Name</u> | <u>To (Office)</u> | <u>Action/Transfer</u> | <u>To Title/Grade</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Corey N. Pieper | WFO EPZ | Transfer from CR | Forecaster, GS-11 |
| Mark A. Armstrong | WFO EPZ | Transfer from outside NWS | Elec Tech, GS-11 |
| Althea Austin-Smith | WFO SJU | New hire from outside NWS | Sr Svc Hyrdologist, GS-13 |
| Amie Browne | WFO LZK | New hire from SCEP Program | Met Intern, GS-7 |

Within Region Transfers/Actions

| <u>Name</u> | <u>To (Office)</u> | <u>Action/Transfer</u> | <u>To Title/Grade</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Diane L. Green | WFO EPZ | Transfer from CR | ASA, GS-7 |
| Carolyn Levert | WFO JAN | Transfer from RFC ORN | Met Intern, GS-11 |

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Shreveport partners with local college to promote meteorology. WFO Shreveport WCM Mark Frazier, forecasters Bill Murrell, Jason Hansford, and Bill Parker, and HMT Steve Griffin partnered with Jarvis College in east Texas to introduce the science of Meteorology to 120 middle grade and senior high students at a regional summer camp. This was the first time that Meteorology was offered in the science curriculum at the camp. During the 4 week session, the students from rural east Texas learned topics covering meteorological observations, weather forecasting principles, and products of severe weather through hands on demonstrations and lesson plans. The director of the Academic Affairs at the college hopes to incorporate the subject of weather into future camps.

Mobile Conducts Summer Training Session for Science Teachers. The 2005 “NWS Weather Resources for Teachers Workshop” was conducted at WFO Mobile on July 21st and July 22nd as part of the South Alabama Regional Teacher’s In-service. The summer teacher’s in-service is a program where educators at the K-12 level can accumulate credits towards their continuing education. The workshop was a coordinated effort between the WFO Mobile, the University of South Alabama, and Claire Waites (8th grade earth science teacher at Elberta Middle School in Baldwin County). The 30 participants were mostly earth science teachers in the 6th to 12th grade level from various schools across Southwest Alabama.



The program started with a tour of the WFO, concentrating on NWS history, mission, and local operations. This was followed by Dr. Keith Blackwell (Professor of Meteorology at the University of South Alabama) giving a talk on how high school students can best prepare for a major in meteorology. Jack Cullen (Intern at WFO Mobile and recent graduate of the USA Meteorology Program) talked about his experiences in becoming a meteorologist with the NWS. Gary Beeler (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) conducted the NWS Basic Storm Spotting Training Course. Jeff Garmon (Forecaster in Charge at Mobile and coordinator of the event) gave his presentation on “Weather in the Classroom via the Internet”, also showing the group what they can do with “Jetstream”, the NWS Online Weather School. Claire Waites gave a presentation on what she has found to be most useful for teaching weather in her classroom.

Feedback from the workshop was very positive. Many attendees indicated the information, handouts and posters they received during the event will be very beneficial to them when making their fall semester teaching plans. This year both classes filled up quickly, and there was an extensive waiting list to fill any cancellations. Given such high demand this year, plans are underway to expand the workshop for 2006 to avoid having to turn anyone away.

Memphis Forecasters Host 3rd Annual Earth Science Teachers Consortium. WFO Memphis Forecasters Jonathan Howell and Dan Valle, Meteorologist Interns Jason Beaman and Jody Aaron, Service Hydrologist, Buzz Merchlewitz, and WCM Scott Cordero held an all day seminar sponsored by the Memphis School District for Mid South middle school educators pertaining to meteorology and earth science. Educators also obtained hands-on experience on weather related experiments for the classroom. Approximately 45 teachers attended the workshop, and individual lessons were prepared for each participant. These lessons include: tsunamis, storm safety and preparation, careers in meteorology, weather map interpretation, “Where does weather come from?”, temperature and pressure, and weather and health. Every teacher was presented with a lesson CD to bring back to their science programs. Great job, Memphis!!

Memphis participates in Bootheel Career Day. WFO Memphis Electronic Technician Margaret Trippany and Forecaster Dan Valle went to a Missouri Bootheel career fair for students grades 6 through 12. Students attending the conference in Hayti, Missouri met various folks in an array of professions. Students learned what educational requirements are needed to become a electronic technician, information technology officer, hydrologist or meteorologist, as well as how NWS personnel use this knowledge as they prepare daily forecasts, watches and warnings.

Memphis Forecaster goes to Elementary School Career Fair. WFO Memphis Lead Forecaster Anthony Cavallucci staffed a National Weather Service display and booth where he interacted with over 200 students at Lucy Elementary School near Millington, TN. Anthony educated students on weather, the mission and operations of the National Weather Service, and careers in our organization.



Memphis Forecasters give safety talks to Scouts. WFO Memphis Forecaster Dan Valle provided a safety and preparation weather talk to 45 girl scouts at Chickasaw State Park in Chester County, Tennessee. WCM Scott Cordero also went to a Boy Scout Camp in Tipton County, Tennessee to provide a series of presentations to 35 scouts to earn their Boy Scout Weather Merit Badge. Meteorologist Intern Jason Beaman, Student Volunteer Todd Beal, Forecasters Dan Valle and Corey Chaskelson, and MIC Jim Belles made automated multimedia presentations following the Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Series Weather Book.

San Juan Emergency Management Outreach Efforts. WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica and MIC Israel Matos have been actively involved this summer in hurricane preparedness outreach efforts with members of their community. Among other groups, Rafael and Israel provided preparedness briefings for the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency, the Army's Fort Buchanan, the U.S. Postal Service (San Juan Division), the Department of Family Intra-Agency Emergency Coordinators, the Salvation Army, the San Juan City Hospital, the Carolina Zone Emergency Management Agency, and the Puerto Rico National Guard.

San Juan Joins Univision during Rip Current and Lightning Awareness Weeks. San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica was invited by Univision to participate in their morning news show during Rip Current Awareness Week. Susan Soltero, morning weathercaster conducted the interview, presented rip current pictures from NWS Rip Current homepage, and discussed local rip current drowning statistics. During Lightning Awareness Week, Susan Soltero, weathercaster for Univision visited WFO San Juan and recorded an interview with WCM Rafael Mojica concerning the NWS lightning campaign. Posters for 2005 and previous years campaign were shown on TV.

Hooray for Dollywood. The WFO Morristown Outreach Team entertained and educated Boy and Girl Scouts during three shows at the Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, TN during mid-June. Attended by around 150 scouts and parents, the show included videos and music about weather safety, plus various weather-related science experiments. Forecaster Tod Hyslop's own Tornado Chamber was used for the show's finale. Senior Forecaster Terry Getz coordinated the program, and other members who entertained the crowd were Brian Boyd, David Hotz, David Gaffin, Tod Hyslop, Tim Doyle, and Robyn Malone and George Mathews.

The Dollywood Theme Park is visited by 10 to 25 thousand people daily. The folks at Dollywood not only provided access to their largest theater for the show, but were also kind enough to print 1000 copies of our locally created "Flood and Lightning Safety" pamphlet. August 26th has been designated as "Home School Day" at Dollywood, and the NWS Morristown Outreach Team will perform another show—this time with the Dollywood security officer to discuss how the park reacts to weather threats as well as an appearance by an actual lightning strike victim. Terrific job on a creative outreach project!



Alabama WFOs participate in Sports Equipment Expo. WFO Birmingham WCM Jason B. Wright, WFO Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman, Huntsville Senior Forecaster Andy Kula, and Interns Patrick Gatlin and Holly Allen participated in the Alabama All Sports Equipment Expo in mid July, held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. This Expo was in association with the Alabama School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association Coaching School, involving over 1600 coaches and officials from around the state. These personnel distributed brochures and answered questions from the hundreds of individuals who stopped by the NWS display.

Lubbock Joins Local Emergency Management in Training Efforts. On July 19th, WFO Lubbock MIC Justin Weaver and WCM Brian LaMarre met with emergency management partners and various local and regional response officials at the *Senior Officials Workshop for Incident Preparedness*. The training was developed in cooperation with the Texas A&M University System, Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC). National and Regional representatives from the FBI were also present and facilitated group discussions on various strategies surrounding incident mitigation, response, and recovery. Similarly, Justin and Brian seized another valuable opportunity to train with their local emergency management partners in an *Effective Crisis Communication Course* to be held August 10-11 – truly applying the concept of working together to save lives!

Lubbock Interviews with Local Media on Tornado-Related Fatalities. After a highly-active severe weather season impacted WFO Lubbock's area of responsibility, WCM Brian LaMarre interviewed with Lubbock's ABC affiliate, KAMC News Channel 28. The interview was scheduled to discuss how lives were saved this year during the active months of April, May and June – a period of time which recorded no tornado-related fatalities across the entire country. Brian discussed how a volatile weather pattern was responsible for producing an outbreak of tornadoes across the local area this season. Most importantly, as Brian mentioned during the interview, “...*in partnership with our local emergency management and media partners, the National Weather Service issued critical warnings to the public – and the public responded and took necessary actions – a perfect model for success!*” This interview represented a great opportunity to discuss not only the role of the local Weather Forecast Office, but also the live-saving decisions made by the very public the NWS serves.

Lubbock Hosts Congressional Visit. Following one of the most active severe weather seasons to impact the 19th District of Texas, WFO Lubbock hosted a visit from U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer and his staff on Saturday July 16, 2005. Following introductions and opening remarks by MIC Justin Weaver, WCM Brian LaMarre launched the WFO tour with a presentation discussing the role of the National Weather Service, emphasizing the importance of local relationships in the community and partnerships with local customers and partners of WFO services. The Congressman was particularly interested in the availability of NOAA Weather Radio – All Hazards, and the local relationship supporting the public-private partnership.



Following the presentation and group discussions, Congressman Neugebauer wanted to “walk and talk” with WFO Lubbock staff, and spoke with DAPM Johnny Wallace and Forecasters Mark Fox and Bill Hopkins. SOO Steve Cobb provided a one-on-one demonstration of AWIPS to the Congressman with a hands-on simulation of GFE and WarnGen. Following the one-hour visit, Congressman Neugebauer mentioned he now has a *“much better idea of the role of the NWS”* and was delighted to learn of the *“healthy partnership between the WFO and the local media and emergency management”*. Before departing the WFO, Congressman Neugebauer expressed a desire to see the staff of WFO Lubbock perform during real-time severe weather operations – a request we will undoubtedly welcome!



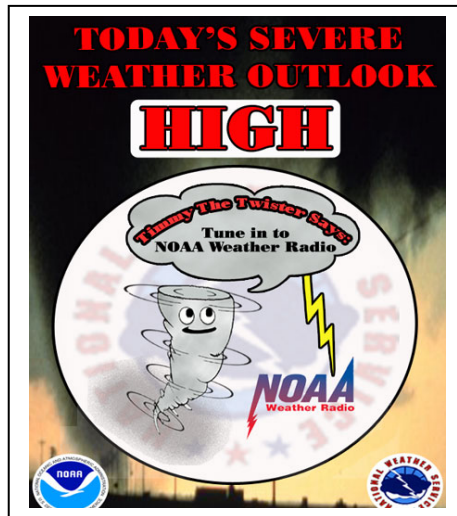
Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-TX) visits with the staff of WFO Lubbock. Pictured from left to right, General Forecaster Bill Hopkins, Senior Forecaster Mark Fox, MIC Justin Weaver, U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer, SOO Steve Cobb, WCM Brian LaMarre, DAPM Johnny Wallace, and Senior Service Hydrologist John Lipe. (Photograph by Jimmy Clark, Deputy Chief of Staff to Congressman Neugebauer).

Memphis trains West Tennessee mail carriers to become Storm Spotters. WFO Memphis WCM Scott Cordero, with assistance from high school student volunteer Ronnie Holder and college student volunteer Todd Beal, have undertaken an effort to provide weather training to Postal Service mail carriers. Skywarn Storm Spotter classes were conducted at the following USPS offices: Paris, Memphis, Jackson and Union City in West Tennessee. USPS employees were informed about the availability of portable hand-held NOAA weather radios, as well as safety and preparation protocol during inclement weather.

Memphis develops mascot for Severe Weather Awareness. WFO Memphis Forecaster Dan Valle, WCM Scott Cordero, and MIC Jim Belles, and Amanda Roberts, Senior Hydrologist at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center have been collaborating on a character named “Timmy the Twister”. To help mitigate the tragic loss of human life the National Weather Service in Memphis began a campaign to increase awareness on days when a significantly high risk of tornadoes was forecast. The campaign utilizes a cartoon character named “Timmy the Twister.” The inspiration for “Timmy the Twister” comes



from Smokey Bear, the mascot for the United States Forest Service. This incredibly successful campaign has Smokey Bear showing the day's fire danger at National Forests and campgrounds across America. Timmy will help bring weather awareness for safety and preparation in numerous venues. De Soto County, Mississippi EMA and Dyersburg, TN EMA will be "beta-testing" Timmy signs at all mobile home parks in their areas to bring attention to the day's severe weather outlook. By highlighting the tornado risk at mobile home parks and across the community, people are alerted well beforehand and can make plans to adequately shelter during the duration of the threat. Great idea for raising public awareness about weather and the NWS!



WFO Austin/San Antonio Provides Many Outreach Services. On July 8, WCM Larry Eblen provided several laminated cloud charts and weather safety materials to Deputy Derrick Taylor of the Travis County Sheriff's Department. The materials were used to support the county's Summer Extravaganza Program which ministers to disadvantaged area youth. The same day Larry provided an overview of the NWS and its programs in Texas to a collection of state and local emergency planners and responders from across Texas. Larry discussed how local offices can assist them during emergencies as well as in the planning phase. He also demonstrated the NWS NDFD products and emphasized the importance of the graphic AHPS in answering questions related to Texas rivers.

MIC Joe Arellano was a guest speaker on July 12 for a career day presentation for 60 minority students ranging in age from 13 to 18 years at San Antonio College. The students were part of a three year program which targets top students in area schools who have indicated an interest in the science career field or engineering. Their courses include physics, algebra, problem solving and research.

On July 15 MIC Joe Arellano provided a Spanish television interview for the Univision affiliate, KEWX-TV in San Antonio regarding Hurricane Emily and its likely impact on the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Mexico. The interview was aired regionally including the



San Antonio, Austin, Corpus Christi, and Lower Rio Grande Valley.

MIC Joe Arellano provided Spanish interviews to various media outlets in the San Antonio/Austin area regarding Hurricane Emily on July 18. The interviews included Univision – KWEX TV, Telemundo – KTLN TV, and the all Spanish newspaper Rumba in Austin.

On July 21 WCM Larry Eblen took part in the taping of a program that discussed the AMBER alert system. The program was sponsored and funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety and was completed under contract by staff from Sam Houston State College, directed by Marisa Padilla.

Hydrologic Service Program Outreach. During the week of June 13-16, 2005, SERFC, in collaboration with WFOs Tampa Bay and Melbourne, conducted two separate constituent workshops for NWS partners and customers in the Withlacoochee, Peace, and St. Johns River Basins in Florida. The focus of the workshops was to obtain feedback from partners and customers about hydrologic products and services during last year's hurricane season and to provide information to partners and customers about new products and services and other activities in the NWS.

The workshop for the St. Johns River Basin was held in Sanford, Florida on June 14-15, 2005. NWS participants included John Feldt (HIC) and Reginna Cabrera (senior hydrologic forecaster) from the SERFC; Peggy Glitto (Hydrology Focal Point), Dennis Decker (WCM), and Bud Dietzmann (HMT) from WFO Melbourne; Joel Lanier (Senior Service Hydrologist) from WFO Tallahassee; Mike McAllister (DAPM) and Wayne Davis (ET) from WFO Jacksonville; and Kandis Boyd (SR Hydrologic Services Program Manager) from the HSB. External partners and customers included the City of Sanford (fire department, public works), emergency management officials from Brevard, Volusia, and Seminole counties, local media, officials from the USGS and Corps of Engineers, and officials from the Suwannee and St. Johns Water Management Districts.

Presentations included an overview of SERFC products and services, a review of the 2004 hurricane season from a hydrologic service delivery perspective, information about the WFO AHPS web page, activities underway to enhance hydrologic service delivery in the St. Johns River basin, and the various data sources used to deliver weather and water forecast and warning services during last year's hurricane season. The workshop also included an NWS open exhibit with technical information about the St. Johns River basin, NWS hazard awareness brochures, hurricane charts, and some AHPS luggage tags.

The workshop for the Peace and Withlacoochee River Basins was held in Arcadia and Brooksville, and FL on June 15-16, 2005.

Representatives from the USGS and emergency management officials from DeSoto and Hardy counties attended the Peace River Basin workshop June 15, 2005. On June 16, 2005,



representatives from the USGS, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and emergency management officials from Sumter, Hernando, and Citrus counties, attended the Withlacoochee River Basin workshop. NWS participants included John Feldt (HIC) and Jonathan Atwell (senior hydrologic forecaster) from SERFC, Eric Oglesby (Service Hydrologist) and Shawn Bennett (MIC) from WFO Tampa Bay, and Ben Weiger from the SR HSB. The workshop included presentations about SERFC and WFO Tampa Bay product and services during last year's hurricane season, a presentation about the WFO AHPS web page, and potential USGS gage closures in FY06. After each workshop, Eric, Jonathan, and Ben went to a Wal-Mart store, set up an NWS exhibit, and provided store customers with various NWS hazard awareness brochures and hurricane tracking charts. The NWS exhibit was well attended by store customers.

NWS Memphis recognizes two new communities as StormReady! The Memphis Weather Forecast Office has recognized the cities of Caruthersville, Missouri and Oakland, Tennessee as the Mid South's newest *StormReady* Communities. The communities were honored in separate ceremonies at the Caruthersville Public Library in the Bootheel of Missouri and the Oakland Police Department in Fayette County West Tennessee.

WFO Melbourne Conducts Training. Diversity training was conducted at the June station meeting. The staff viewed a short film on how agricultural diversity saved the Peruvian Inca Indians from food supply shortages while the lack of agricultural diversity resulted in the great famine of the 1840s for the Irish. Following the film, staff members had discussions relating to the film's theme to the importance of workplace diversity.

Forecaster Bob Wimmer is in the midst of teaching a 12 week weather course to members of the local U. S. Power Squadron. Topics include composition of the atmosphere, clouds, tropical weather and basic weather map interpretation and forecasting.

WFO Tallahassee Provides Tours and Other Outreach. On July 7 WCM Bob Goree met with the Berrein County GEMA Director and over 20 county department heads and supervisors to provide a briefing on the hurricane season and severe weather activities. On July 20 summer student Kenny Hair hosted approximately 80 young people who were attending the annual American Red Cross "Disaster College". On July 26 and 28 MIC Paul Duval gave presentations to groups were attending the local Red Cross "Disaster College". July 28 MIC Paul Duval gave a presentation and office tour to a group of over 30 public school teachers attending a conference on the Florida State University campus, sponsored by the local newspaper, The Tallahassee Democrat.

On August 4 MIC Paul Duval participated in a meeting of the Alabama Committee for the Deaf and Blind in Ozark, Alabama. This ad-hoc committee was formed to investigate ways to provide warnings and other significant weather information to Deaf and hearing-impaired people in southeast Alabama in the WFO area of responsibility. Potential funding sources are being explored for a pilot program to purchase pagers with vibration capability.



WFO New Orleans Participates in MAGIC. On July 28 MIC Paul Trotter, Service Hydrologist Patricia Brown, SCEP Ashley Hayes, and Quincy Jones and Donald Jones attended the NOAA Summer Intern Award Luncheon at Stennis Space Center. The summer students that participated in Multi-Agency Government Internship Committee (MAGIC), with the exception of the National Marine Fisheries interns, displayed posters that discussed their summer work experience. The students gave brief presentations that explained their posters, their work experiences, detailed their research activities, and discussed the joint activities that they participated in through MAGIC.

WFO Shreveport Partners Promotes Meteorology. WCM Mark Frazier, Forecasters Bill Murrell, Jason Hansford and Bill Parker and HMT Steve Griffin partnered with Jarvis College in East Texas to introduce the science of Meteorology to 120 middle grade and senior high students at a regional summer camp. This was the first time that Meteorology was offered in the science curriculum.

During the four week camp in June, the students from rural east Texas learned topics covering Meteorological Observations, Weather Forecasting Principles, and Products of Severe Weather through hands on demonstrations and lesson plans. The Director of Academic Affairs at the college hopes to incorporate the subject of weather into future camps.

