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SOUTHERN TOPICS

www.srh.noaa.gov

Working Together To Save Lives

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

An overriding theme of last month's Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Long Beach was public, private and academic partnership within the weather community. That was brought to the forefront by release of the National Research Council's report entitled *Fair Weather: Effective Partnerships in Weather and Climate Services*. John Armstrong, a retired Vice-President for Science and Technology for the IBM Corp., chaired the committee which produced the report and presented a summary of it at the AMS meeting. That stimulated considerable discussion, but the message is clear: the National Weather Service is - and should remain - a leader in fostering partnerships with the responsibility to continue providing the American citizens with the world's best weather services.

The NRC report makes many recommendations, among them encouraging the NWS to work closely with our partners to ensure our Nation's weather community as a whole remains vibrant and ready to adapt to the ever-changing technological frontier. As a region well known for exploring the boundaries of what technology has provided, I am pleased to say the Southern Region looks forward to continuing to nurture our part of the enterprise for the benefit of all, and through our field offices to ensure the safety of and provide the best weather information possible to not only our customers and partners but also to all of our fellow Americans.

An on-line version of the NRC report can be found at
http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10610.html?onpi_newsdoc013003.



New ADMIN Chief. I am pleased to announce the selection of Camille Dyer as the new Chief of the Southern Region Administrative Management Division. Throughout her 20-year career at SRH Camille has always provided timely support to field office operations in a manner that epitomizes our highest tradition of service. Camille came to us from NOAA personnel in Maryland and joined the National Weather Service Southern Region team in 1982 as part of the Meteorological Services Division. In 1997 she transferred to the Administrative Management Division as a management support specialist, where she has served until this promotion. Camille knows the Southern Region and the National Weather Service well, and she will be providing excellent leadership for the ADMIN team as they continue their vital support to our field operations across the region. Congratulations, Camille.

CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

SR IMETS PROVIDE SHUTTLE SUPPORT. In addition to the many activities already reported in last month's *Topics* concerning SR support to the shuttle disaster recovery and investigation, Southern Region incident meteorologists joined the effort on February 24. The IMET support will last through the first part of April. Bill Adams from WFO Shreveport reported to the Lufkin, Texas based operations center for the recovery effort and worked through February 28. Seth Nagle from WFO Midland swapped out with Bill.

The IMET responsibilities include providing aviation and ground support briefings to these teams and to the Incident Command staff. Other SR IMETs will deploy in March: Tom Bird, WFO El Paso and Greg Murdoch, WFO Midland, along with a return assignment for Bill Adams, WFO Shreveport.

Over 4000 wildland fire fighters, and 70 divers from around the country also joined the recovery team. The area of interest is 240 miles long by 10 miles wide, as of mid-March about 40% of the area has been covered. Also, numerous aviation sorties are flown and about 75 scuba divers make underwater searches each day in support of the recovery effort. Nearly 40,000 pieces of debris have been recovered and 90% have been identified.

WFO BROWNSVILLE BEGINS AVIATION FORECAST DISCUSSION. WFO Brownsville began providing an aviation forecast discussion as part of their Area Forecast Discussion product last month. This was in response to the Brownsville International Airport needing to know when IFR conditions were likely to develop during a 24-hour period, to help them schedule construction crews and work times. In addition, the product will be helpful to commercial and general aviation interests as well as provide additional forecast guidance in support of FAA Flight Service stations.

AVIATION UPDATE FROM WFO HOUSTON. On February 24, Robert Van Hoven, Micheal Rehbein, and Patrick Blood made a required semi-annual NWS visit to the Flight Service Station in Conroe, Texas. The group sat in on pilot briefings, both pre-flight and in-flight. One of the pre-flight briefings consisted of a route forecast from the Houston area to Las Vegas for a commercial flight coming up later in the week for a NASCAR event. Another briefing was a military T-37 training mission to Dyess AFB. The briefer relayed the TAF along with any significant terminal-runway delays to both pilots. The briefings were 95% weather-related...5% general flight information. The AFSS personnel stressed the importance of timely and accurate TAFs. The TAF is the most important part of any useful pilot briefing via phone or radio. Patrick said, "I will take this into consideration as I continue through my aviation modules and into my forecasting career."

Overall, the visit was very rewarding. Witnessing the use of the TAF by these flight briefers solidified the importance of forecasting aviation weather. The FAA briefing hardware is somewhat dated, which only accentuates the importance of the TAF.

AVIATION UPDATE FROM WFO BIRMINGHAM. WFO Birmingham aviation program leader Jason Wright completed his second visit to the Anniston Alabama AFSS last month. Overall, station staff continue to remain very satisfied with the services provided by WFO Birmingham and other NWS offices. They were very appreciative of NWS support in obtaining mountain obscuration remarks for their area in the AWC AIRMET SIERRA product. Although the request was denied by FAA Headquarters, the Anniston AFSS will raise this issue again to their headquarters. Jason also visited fixed based operators at these area airports: Anniston Metro, Gadsden Municipal, Oneonta's Robbins Field, and Shelby County. He discussed NWS aviation programs, and asked them to provide feedback on what we could do to better serve their aviation needs.

WFO MORRISTOWN FORECASTER TO NWSH. The last week of January, WFO Morristown senior forecaster David Hotz visited with Mike Graf and the developer of the AvnFPS at the NWSH Aviation Services Branch to discuss improving the AvnFPS. David shared ideas on how to improve the "knobology" and user-friendliness of the aviation preparation software. He also worked to make the functionality of the program similar to the AWIPS aviation workstation, which David and Paul Kirkwood (SRH) developed.

Most of the suggestions resulting from the meeting will be incorporated into the next version of the AvnFPS, which should be available next month. In the near future MDL plans to incorporate GFE, station climatology and MOS data into the preparation of TAFs and the AvnFPS software.

MARINE

New Orleans Boat Show. WFO New Orleans, the Tropical Prediction Center, and the National Data Buoy Center staffed a booth at the 2003 New Orleans Boat Show from Feb 5-9, a total of 33 hours of operation. This year, the NWS paid for booth space in an attempt to reach a greater number of marine customers.

A variety of the standard NWS weather safety brochures were displayed, along with other brochures and handouts including NOAA Weather Radio, marine forecast and warning products, and marine radio fax. There was significant interest in finding different means to access buoy data and marine forecasts. The NDBC data buoy reference cards listing buoy access via Web sites and phone were very popular. A variety of mariner customers stopped by the booth, ranging from the small boat operators, to boaters who fish the deep water Gulf, to sailors planning trans-Gulf trips. The rapid expansion of the Internet was quite evident and many booth visitors were aware of the marine forecast and observation data on our Web sites, as well as other ways to retrieve a variety of data via the Internet.

Rental of booth space on the more visible “main floor” made the staffing of the booth a much more pleasant experience, and also greatly increased the number of visitors. Approximately 1000 boat show attendees visited the booth, twice the number as the previous year. This event offers the best opportunity for WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge to interact with a great number of the local marine community in a relatively short period of time. Staffing assistance from NDBC and TPC were critical in our ability to have a booth at the boat show this year and will continue to be necessary for participation in next year’s event.

PUBLIC

Policy Nomenclature help. With the phase-out of the Weather Service Operation Manual (WSOM) and so many new Directives coming online, here is some nomenclature help and reminders:

- 1) If a Directive, by policy, states that a product **will** be issued, then we are bound to follow that policy.
- 2) If a Directive, by policy, states that a product **should** be issued, then it provides a *recommended*, but not *mandatory*, course of action. It is left to the discretion of office management as to whether the course of action is in the best interest of the agency and the customers served.

- 3) Keep in mind that "Supplements" issued by the region adapt **procedural** directives to address field requirements. Supplements will not be issued for **policy** directives. The words *will*, *should* and *may* emphasize key policies. For all Directives, visit the NWS Directives Web site at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

Where is 503? The infamous Directive 503 (which contains the ZFP, SFP, CCF and new products SFT, AFM and PFM) has yet to be signed and issued by NWSH. Once it is signed, we will be giving our customers a 60-day notice for all of the changes. Therefore, it will be several months before it becomes effective. However, if you wish to issue the PFM, AFM, SFT or 7-Day CCF you can do so as an experimental product. Call Melinda Bailey (817-978-1100, ext 107) if you have any questions.

IFPS

Formatters online. The SR GFE Text Formatting Team has been requested to put their formatters and configuration files online for easier access. They can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/msd/formatters.html>. Thanks go to the team for working on these Web pages.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

MPE TELETRAINING. The MPE teletraining team completed development of the MPE training material that will be integrated with the VISITVIEW teletraining software. They also received feedback on the training material from the Office of Hydrologic Development. The team members are planning to conduct a pilot session with their collocated WFOs (i.e., Fort Worth, Tulsa, New Orleans, and Atlanta) to fine tune their material and presentation. The team goal is to begin MPE teletraining in April. We will keep you posted.

DROUGHT MONITORING SYMPOSIUM. HSB Chief Ben Weiger, West Gulf RFC senior hydrologic forecaster Frank Bell, WFO Fort Worth senior service hydrologist Bob Carle, WFO San Angelo service hydrologist Jason Johnson, WFO San Angelo MIC Buddy McIntyre, and WFO Midland hydrologic focal point Jim Deberry attended the Texas Drought Monitoring Symposium that was held in San Angelo, Texas last month. Others in attendance included personnel from other state and federal agencies and academia. The objective of the symposium was to identify ways to improve drought monitoring in Texas. Ben gave a short presentation about the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) Web page we will be implementing across our region this fiscal year and also showed examples of some future AHPS information that could be made available to customers in Texas for drought applications. During the trip, Ben also visited WFO San Angelo and provided the staff with a briefing about the WFO AHPS Web page.

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL HYDROLOGIST AT WGRFC. Mike Shultz, hydrologist at the WGRFC, has been certified as a professional hydrologist by the American Institute of Hydrology. Mike is among a growing number of Institute members and will participate in the affairs of the Institute. You may obtain additional information about becoming a professional hydrologist at the following Website: <http://www.aihydro.org/>

WFO TAMPA BAY AND THE SOUTHEAST RFC RESPOND TO CUSTOMER NEEDS.

WFO Tampa Bay Area service hydrologist Eric Oglesby attended a meeting of the Hillsborough County commissioners. Participants discussed the New Year's heavy rain event that caused extensive flooding on the Alafia River. Eric presented the forecasts/watches/warnings that were issued by the local WFO, a rainfall graphic from the WSR-88D, and the hydrograph of the Alafia River at Lithia, Florida with forecasts overlaid. The meeting also included a discussion on potential improvements for forecasting future crests on the Alafia River during heavy rains. Eric suggested the possibility of implementing the Site Specific Model for the Alafia River at Lithia. After the meeting, the SERFC was proactive in working with the WFO Tampa Bay Area to implement the site specific model at this location. The Hillsborough County emergency manager was elated to see this implementation occur so rapidly.

WFO TALLAHASSEE RECEIVES SERFC HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AWARD.

Each year the Southeast RFC staff votes for the one WFO which they believe has demonstrated the highest level of hydrologic service. This is based on annual interaction with the WFO, on a day-to-day basis, during high impact events, and through project management. For 2002, the SERFC staff vote is for WFO Tallahassee. Joel Lanier and Paul Duval lead a highly proactive hydrologic program. They have a high level of interaction with the professional hydrologic community, including emergency management and local universities. Joel is using the latest advancements in hydrologic science to meet the needs of his customers. The WFO staff has shown an interest in hydrology through interaction with the SERFC and through occasional staff familiarization visits. The WFO has also shown an on-going commitment to accurate data. The WFO Tallahassee staff is well deserving of the Southeast River Forecast Center 2002 Award for Excellence in Hydrologic Services.

AHPS FUNDING IN FY03. The NWS AHPS program received \$6.1 million in NOAA's budget for FY03. These funds will be used to implement AHPS basic services, a forecast hydrograph and probabilistic hydrologic forecast on the AHPS Web page, at 366 locations nationwide. The AHPS implementation in FY03 focuses on the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast U.S. It also supports continued AHPS implementation in the upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins, and to some extent sites in the West.

Both SERFC and ABRFC are involved with AHPS basic service implementations in FY03 and they will support implementation for 30 river forecast point locations this fiscal year. This includes 10 forecast points in the WFO Albuquerque and WFO Amarillo HSAs in the Canadian River Basin. The funding will also be used for the following:

1. Snow flight lines in Alaska Region.
2. Linux systems to provide computational horsepower to support ensemble forecasts at 9 RFCs (including ABRFC) and for development and testing of ensemble products at the OHD.
3. Verification analysis for basic and full AHPS services (full AHPS services include 1-2 week probabilistic hydrologic forecasts, flash flood forecast tools, and low flow and drought products).
4. Software development to move the scientific advances into Field operations.
5. Flash Flood Service requirements, including:
 - a. decision assistance tools for Flash Flood Monitoring and Prediction service within AWIPS, enhanced Site Specific hydrologic modeling at WFOs, and development of an operational Distributed Modeling capability,
 - b. QPE and short term probabilistic QPF,
 - c. training on the use of flash flood tools,
 - d. linkage of flash flood information to GIS,
 - e. completing the flash flood scale basin definitions,
 - f. implementation of the Flash Flood Guidance Improvement Team recommendations,
 - g. delivery of updated Dam Catalogue and Dam Break modeling capabilities to WFOs and RFCs, and
 - h. accelerated implementation of flood inundation mapping capabilities.
6. A National River Forecast Location Data Base.
7. Outreach/training at both a Regional and National level.
8. Initial development of a QPF confidence factor, and an RFC/HPC visiting forecaster program.

CSSA READ ACCESS FOR THE COE. As part of the Cooperative Station Service Accountability, NWSH recently completed software that will allow the Corps of Engineers (COE) to view B-44s for the reimbursable flood control (FC) COOP networks. They will also be notified by email whenever there are changes to the B-44s for the FC networks. The COE district office in Little Rock will be the first COE district to have this access nationwide. We are working closely with NWSH to provide this capability to all COE districts in our region that provide us with funding support for the FC network. This effort should ultimately reduce the WFO workload associated with mailing B-44s for the FC network to the COE.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

NWA ANNUAL MEETING IN JACKSONVILLE. The 28th Annual Meeting of the National Weather Association is planned for October 18-23, 2003, and will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. The North Florida NWA Chapter will host the meeting. WFO Jacksonville SOO Pat Welsh and Richard Bagby of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University are co-chairmen of the program committee. Work is already underway planning for the meeting, and we encourage those interested in participating to monitor the NWS's Web site at www.nwas.org for more information.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH. The Southern Region encourages and supports participation by WFO and RFC staff members in science and technology conferences which provide us with opportunities for sharing and learning. This is “outreach” which benefits both the NWS and NOAA, but also our many varied customers and partners as well. A review of past technical attachments will show many that list papers, posters and other presentations at such meetings and conferences. Our employees are actively involved in sharing results of their work, and in keeping abreast of what others are doing and how that may be incorporated into our operations.

Few of our offices have been as active in the past couple of years as the **Southeast RFC** in Atlanta. Various members of the SERFC staff have participated in NOAA and Interdepartmental hurricane and tropical conferences, and similar conferences sponsored by the Florida, Georgia and South Carolina state governments; in the WMO International Conference on Tropical Storms; in several American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association meetings; the SE Severe Storms Conference at Mississippi State University; the Georgia Water Resources Conference; and EWRI Water Resources Planning and Management Conference. All of that involves hard work, on top of routine office operations, but HIC John Feldt will attest that it’s all part of providing the best possible products and services from today’s RFCs.

NEW MEXICO 2002 CLIMATE SUMMARY. SOO Deirdre Kann and other members of the WFO Albuquerque staff assembled an excellent summary of New Mexico weather and climate for 2002 and posted it to the office Web site. Review it at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ABO/climate/Monthlyreports/Annual/2002weatherhighlights.htm>

NEW WARNING DECISION MAKING TRAINING MATERIAL. The Warning Decision Training Branch (WDTB) has developed an online module titled “Learning from History: Warning Decision Making Implications from Significant Events,” which is a summary of warning decision making concepts that have been presented in collaboration with field sites at Warning Decision Making workshops since 1997. The concepts are presented in the context of significant severe weather events which have occurred over the past several years. Also addressed are situation awareness, severe weather conceptual models, and warning strategies. This module is intended to supplement individual and office training materials in preparation for the spring convective weather season. Download the module from the WDTB Web site at: <http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov>. Already one SR MIC responded to the WDTB developers with these comments: “In my opinion, it is the best training of this sort that has been produced to date ... we will make it an integral part of our training program. I believe the information will never ‘grow old’ and can be used each year, before the severe weather season begins, as refresher training.”

INFORMATIVE WEB SITE. Here is an interesting and useful Web site provided by NSSL: <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/hazard/>. The site, maintained by Harold Brooks, provides a variety of maps, graphs and statistics related to the occurrence of severe weather across the U.S. Links provide the user with access to such things as:

- "Total Threat" ... national maps stratified by multi-year periods and type of severe weather phenomenon.
- "Animation" ... weekly maps which in succession clearly show the progression of the severe weather threat across the U.S. over the course of the year.
- "Annual Cycles" ... tornado, wind and hail depicted in time series graphs.
- "Miscellaneous" ... various related information, including a map of maximum threat by Julian date, a ratio of how the fall peak compares to the spring peak, and monthly probabilities of tornado occurrence.

GOES REPLACEMENT. GOES-12 is scheduled to replace GOES-8 as the GOES-East operational spacecraft on April 1. The transition is scheduled to take place beginning with the 1815 UTC Northern Hemisphere scan. Additional information on these plans may be found at <http://www.oso.noaa.gov/goes/index.htm> under "GOES-8 to GOES-12 Transition Plan." As we noted in last month's *Topics* there are some significant differences in the sensors on the GOES-8 series of satellites and the GOES-12 series. Depending on local office setup, the change may have some impact on AWIPS products. A technical attachment this month summarizes that aspect of the change-over. <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/topics/attach/pdf/ssd03-06.pdf>

SSD ON-TOUR. Well, part of SSD at least. Over the past few weeks Bernard Meisner has been visiting about a third of the SR offices - from Texas to Florida - for at least a couple of days each, providing seminars and information on (among other things) plans for implementation of the new NWS Learning Management System. He has also shared his expertise with WES setup and operations, as well as other SSD-related issues as called for on his individuals stops. We appreciate the enthusiasm and interest shown by each office's staff as they have participated in Bernard's presentations, and almost needless to say, what they have shared with him will be most helpful as we plan future SSD activities.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION BRANCH

TELECOMMUNICATIONS. Disconnect orders were submitted for the NWR transmitter circuits at Russellville, Henagar, Cullman, and Huntsville, Alabama which were previously controlled by WFO Birmingham. These sites have been transferred to WFO Huntsville. All the new circuits have been installed and are operational.

New circuit orders have been submitted for NWR sites at Sneads, Florida; Selma, Alabama; and Russell Hill, Tennessee, and are due to be installed in March and April. We are closely monitoring the progress of these orders to ensure timely delivery.

We are continuing to update data submitted to NOAA for the TELOPS system database concerning calling cards. The TELOPS database will help us accurately track our calling cards to reflect what we actually have in use in the region.

The Southern Region Headquarters video teleconferencing equipment has been upgraded. The site survey work was completed by WorldCom and we recently installed a new channel service unit and new electronics package and monitor. The new upgraded system will offer us several advantages and new functionality not afforded with the previous unit. Videoconferencing has become a commonplace way of conducting meetings - sometimes multiple VTCs are held on the same day.

Southern Region has established Instant Meeting accounts for each of our field offices to use for emergency coordination and audio conferencing. These accounts provide each office an 800 number with participant and leader passcodes to use. The accounts must be used at least once every 90 days to keep the service active. If not used within 90 days, the account will be cancelled for lack of use and will have to be reestablished. We are asking each office to ensure some method of periodical use to keep the accounts current and active. Offices should contact SRH telecommunication manager Cecil Tevis if their account has been cancelled and he will re-order and have it reestablished.

AWIPS. Due to the unfortunate events surrounding the shuttle Columbia tragedy, NASA has frozen all equipment changes at the Johnson Space Center. As a result the Space Flight Meteorology Group AWIPS upgrades have been postponed. As soon as NASA permits and the staff is available, we will finish all software and hardware upgrades that are required.

The installs relating to AWIPS Build 5.2.2 will begin to come to a close this month as sites continue to install the last maintenance release, 5.2.2.2. IFPS 12.3 patch installations will also be coming to an end as March begins a very busy period for AWIPS upgrades across the Southern Region.

Installations of the new Linux PXs and AWIPS Build OB1 are already underway. The first sites to receive the PX and OB1 will be those WFOs that are participating in the Watch By County demonstration that begins in April. The remaining CONUS WFOs are next in preparation for the Operational Readiness Demonstration in June. The RFCs, OCONUS sites, and SMG will finish up the process in June. In addition, our PX beta sites, WFOs Tampa Bay and Lake Charles, and Southern Region Headquarters will be receiving upgraded PX hardware to be replaced in the June time frame.

We are very pleased to see this new addition, the RFC Archive Server (RAS). The latest specifications for the RAS are as follows:

- IBM rack mount server running single Intel 2.4 GHz P4 processor
- 1 GB Memory

- Approx. 330 GB of RAID Level 5 disk storage capacity
- DVD R-RW / CD R-RW Combo drive, DAT tape drive, and CD ROM Drive.
- RedHat 7.2 and Informix 9.3 for Linux

ASOS. Late this month the new All Weather Precipitation Accumulation Gauge (AWPAG) will be installed at the Macon, Georgia ASOS. Technicians from WFOs Mobile, Morristown and Atlanta will be taking part to learn the installation procedures for their own sites, which they will perform next month. The performance of the AWPAG will be evaluated by these sites and WFO Amarillo in Southern Region. To date in Southern Region we have 16 ASOS sites with the new single CPU, three with the new dew point sensor, two with the ice-free wind sensor and 26 sites with different versions of the software. This points out how diverse the program is becoming.

UPPER AIR. This past month our regional system specialist Charlie Lake and upper air program manager Alton Abernathy visited several sites in preparation for the new Radiosondes Replacement System (RRS). They conducted surveys of the equipment and inflation shelters and briefed the local staffs in the installation plans for their location.

WSR-88D. Regional system specialist Jose Villescaz coordinated with the Radar Test Facilities Branch of the Radar Operations Center on a follow up to the new 3.0 beta test build for the ORPG. Three sites from the Southern Region were used, WFOs Corpus Christi, Norman and Tulsa. All three offices reported the install and operation of the software went well, and the hardware and software are performing as advertised.

WFO Brownsville experienced radar system failure this month due to a faulty cable in the modulator. Technicians discovered that National Logistics Support Center (NLSC) did not have any cables in stock when they attempted to procure the item during an emergency order requisition, which concerned us. Jose Villescaz was able to locate a cable at another WFO within the region. Arrangements were made to have the cable delivered to the site. After receiving and installing the item, the system was restored to normal operation. We are instructing all offices to go through their equipment inventory and return all excess parts to NLSC.

NWR. Installations are continuing on schedule. We have experienced some minor delays at a few sites due to lack of procurement of lease agreements from prospective co-operators. Recent successful install sites include Ponca City, Oklahoma and Rio Grande City, Texas. Sites which are on the schedule to be installed in the near future are Sequin (Guadalupe County) and Riviera, Texas. A new antenna installation is being scheduled and coordinated for Monroe, Louisiana.

OBSERVATIONS AND FACILITIES BRANCH

WFO KEY WEST CONSTRUCTION. A planned meeting with potential contractors at the Key West Naval Air Station was indefinitely postponed due to a loss of construction funds. At this time there is no definitive information on when the construction bid process can resume.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY. Safety training by DuPont Corporation is now being scheduled for Southern Region senior managers, including MICs and HICs, in Miami, Norman and Fort Worth. A fourth class has been requested for early FY04 in the Atlanta area.

A different safety course titled “Stop Taking Avoidable Risks” (STAR) for ECS focal points will be given at several locations around the Southern Region after focal points from WFOs Jacksonville, New Orleans, Nashville, Fort Worth and Lubbock receive their “Train the Trainer” course from NOAA in late April.

Distinctively labeled NWS safety vests with both reflective and lighted panels for greater nighttime visibility have been sent to each office for use during storm surveys, river gauge access, and other activities requiring high visibility. Batteries were provided with each shipment and need to be installed before using the vests at night. The light panels can be activated in a steady or flashing mode by pressing the button on the battery housing.

Training required by the Spill Prevention Controls and Countermeasures plan (SPCC) was held at WFO/NHC Miami, and covered EPA regulations, emergency notification procedures, fuel tank record keeping, spill cleanup, use of absorbents and personal protective equipment, and the requirement for monthly inspections of the fuel tank and piping.

Training classes at NWSTC are being coordinated by Terry Brisbin at SRH and are now being scheduled for a limited number of initial and re-certification Fall Protection classes. The initial classes are scheduled by Denise Lewis at NWSTC and the re-certification classes are being scheduled by Louis Abena-Ondoa at NWSH. Similarly, Denise is scheduling the safety class for new safety focal points and Louis is scheduling the new Environmental Compliance Courses for EC focal points. There is a limit of one person per course for each office at these two courses.

Annual sewage effluent tests were performed on WFOs in Shreveport, New Orleans, and Lake Charles, and sent to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. One problem remains with a low pH reading on the Shreveport effluent sample and it will be retested after troubleshooting the cause.

An investigation into discolorations on carpeted walls at WFO Mobile was performed by the U.S. Public Health Service and found to be a combination of dust and electrostatic attraction of the carpet material with suspected excess HVAC airflows. A concern for possible mold formation was ruled out when no source of water was evident to support the growth of molds. The PHS recommended re-balancing the HVAC system and vacuuming the dust off the wall carpeting before removing the carpet.

Single-wall fuel tanks at older WFOs such as Amarillo, Melbourne, Houston, and possibly others will require integrity testing to confirm their leak resistance. Also, the concrete containment structures around the tanks must be examined to confirm that 110% of the tank volume can be held in case of a leak or spill. If the containment cannot hold 110% of the tank volume, it will require

modification of the containment, or the tank will have to be replaced with one that has an internal double containment feature.

POTENTIAL CONFINED SPACE DESIGNATIONS. An OSHA regional inspector determined the WSR-88D is a permit-required confined space and sent a report to this effect to OSHA headquarters in Washington for concurrence. If this finding is upheld, it may change the access procedure to the radar domes.

While procedures now exist to lock out power to certain elements of the radar while personnel are in the dome, these procedures may not always be used, and the OSHA inspector has concluded the dome hatch interlock is insufficient to fully protect NWS employees working in the dome. A permit-required access procedure will require a designated official such as the MIC to review a written work plan for each access event, including the provision for a safety observer, rescue equipment, and notifications in case of emergency, and he or she must sign the permit before work begins.

Given the 24-hour nature of electronics maintenance this is not a practical solution, and ROC may be tasked to elaborate on the existing Lock Out/Tag Out procedures at both the RDA and WSR-88D dome. If the OSHA recommendation for a permit-required confined space is upheld, then NWS may also have a similar case in the upper air domes and also in certain rooftop HVAC units where the contractor maintenance personnel can physically enter the air handler housing to change belts, motors, filters, etc.

GALVESTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FACILITY (GCEMF). As of now on page H726 of the February 12, 2003 Congressional Record, Title II -Department of Commerce and Related Agencies, General Provisions, section 213 reads:

- (a) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to enter into a lease arrangement whereby [NOAA] relocate the National Weather Service Forecasting Office in Galveston County, League City, Texas to a Galveston County facility and, in exchange, Galveston County may use the existing [NOAA NWS WFO].
- (b) Neither [NOAA NWS] nor Galveston County will charge the other rent for use of the space and each will be responsible for the operation, maintenance and renovation costs it incurs.

A meeting between the National Weather Service and the Galveston County Emergency Operations Center was held on January 29, 2003 to review and discuss the 50% design submission. During the meeting the team approved the floor plan. Discussions also focused on the NWS's mechanical, electrical and communication systems requirements. The cost estimates for site preparation and construction now stands at \$5.2 M. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2003 and finish in September 2004.

ALBUQUERQUE. Last October, WFO Albuquerque experienced a lightning strike which caused damage to office equipment estimated at \$43,000. The office is leased by the Weather Service through the local airport. A site inspection revealed that the facility did not have lightning protection as called for in the construction drawings, specifications and lease agreement. MASC has forwarded this information to the Albuquerque airport management along with a request to provide lightning protection on the roof of the facility. We are currently waiting for their response.

SURFACE OBSERVATION PROGRAM. Last month Southern Region received 160 requests from the aviation community for new certificates, cancellations, and changes in type of surface certificates. A review of the list of observers at second order stations during SRH annual office reviews prompted the sharp increase in changes to observer certificates.

Surface program manager Alton Abernathy recently completed office reviews at WFOs Miami and Key West. Several pictures were taken of the upper air site and inflation building at WFO Miami to address issues associated with installation of the Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS).

UPPER AIR OBSERVATION PROGRAM. January upper air rankings for SR offices started the year off with 15 of the 23 SR offices receiving scores above the national average of 285.87. Eleven offices had scores above 290 with a perfect score being 300. WFO Corpus Christi has risen again to new heights in January to lead SR with an excellent score of 297.42 just ahead of San Juan's score of 296.35. Other offices deserving notable mentions for January include WFO Fort Worth (295.87), Little Rock (295.49), Miami (295.35), Del Rio (293.32), Amarillo (292.13), Shreveport (291.28), New Orleans (291.24), Lake Charles (291.20) and Nashville (290.86).

Several SR offices have excellent 12 month averages. WFO Miami's score of 293.27 moved them into first place in the region in January just beating out WFO Brownsville's score of 292.42. Other SR sites finishing the past 12 months with excellent scores were Fort Worth (292.42), Little Rock (291.94), Corpus Christi (291.03) and Del Rio (290.69).

RSOIS. In February, the Radiosonde Surface Observing Instrumentation System (RSOIS) was installed at WFO Norman. This completes Phase I Implementation of RSOIS in Southern Region. Phase II Implementation is currently in full swing with all but a few sites having their RSOIS installed. WFOs Miami, Tampa Bay, and Fort Worth are currently working toward getting their towers installed. Once towers are installed each office will immediately have their RSOIS installed as weather permits. With the installation of Norman's RSOIS, this brings SR to a total of 11 RSOIS in operation.

WFOs Nashville and San Juan continue to test the new method of transferring upper air data to NCDC. Once the test is complete, NWS Headquarters is planning to distribute software for all upper air sites to use this method to send their data to NCDC. NWSH likes the PC connection procedure since it will help prolong the life span of the MicroART computer and should help ease office workloads.

UPPER AIR VIDEO. WFO Tulsa forecaster Bruce Sherbon produced a shorter version of his original upper air training tape. This seven minute video is an excellent tool and fits in well with our public outreach efforts. This tape ties the entire upper air process together and provides a general explanation to the public of why we do upper air releases. Southern Region sent one copy to each WFO.

WXCODER II SUPPORT. The Data Acquisition staffs at WFOs Melbourne, Houston and San Juan will be assisting with the WxCoder II software testing. These teams will recruit Coop observers to enter their daily observation via the Internet and train them to use the WxCoder II software. If this test is successful the software package will be made available to all Coop observers with Internet access. This will improve observational data quality and reduce the load on the current PC-ROSA systems. WFO San Juan assisted Central Region in the software development earlier by translating various scripts to Spanish.

PC-ROSA REPLACEMENT PROJECT. Frank Solutions, Inc. (FSI) continues to develop the new Data Acquisition System (DAS) which will soon replace PC-ROSA across Southern Region. The interactive voice software is being tested to assure that it will meet NWS needs. The new computer system is scheduled to be installed at SRH in early May.

COOP PROGRAM PERFORMANCE. Most SR offices are doing an excellent job of managing the cooperative program within their CWAs. To date in FY03, 13 of the 32 offices have reported zero missing data. The regional average for missing climatological data is 1.50% with a performance standard established at less than 2%. The regional average for missing hourly precipitation data is 1.47% with a performance standard established at less than 3%. One-third into FY03 the station visitation rate is 52.45% with a total of 11,355 person hours dedicated to the program and 136,062 miles driven providing program support.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DIVERSITY/EEO AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

WFO ALBUQUERQUE. On February 21, WFO Albuquerque hosted a seminar for the local media. Representatives from the major television affiliates as well as major newspapers attended the event. Deirdre Kann, SOO, presented an overview on where we are going with IFPS in the future. Keith Hayes, WCM, unveiled examples of the new Red Flag Warning product and discussed VTEC. Charlie Liles, MIC, discussed the present drought situation and where we are heading with water issues in New Mexico. Media representatives said they thoroughly enjoyed the presentations and requested we increase the number of workshops and seminars.

HERE COME THE JUDGES. WFO Birmingham senior forecaster Jason B. Wright and general forecaster John DeBlock participated as judges in the Northeast Alabama Regional Junior Academy Science Fair. It was hosted by the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, at Talladega

College in Talladega, Alabama last month. Jason and John awarded AMS Certificates to two winners out of the Earth and Space Science Division and a special Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium Award, and assisted in awarding 15 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge Awards. Both also assisted in judging and providing input for the Physics and Engineering Division at the junior and senior levels.

WFO BROWNSVILLE. The WFO participated in the annual Winter Texan Expo held at the McAllen Convention Center. Over 1500 people attended the two-day event. Over 900 people registered for the NOAA Weather Radio giveaway at the NWS booth, which was staffed by ASA Rachel Gutierrez, forecaster Carl McElroy, lead forecaster Jeff Philo and DAPM Jim Campbell.

Jim gave two PowerPoint presentations to the eighth grade science classes at Lucio Middle School. The presentations were attended by 32 students and four teachers.

Jim also coordinated an office tour for Brownsville Mayor Pro-Tem Eddie Trevino. There were a total of 24 people in the group. Mr. Trevino was impressed with the office operations and pledged his support to the WFO. This tour was set up in large part due to Jim's networking at other outreach events.

Jim Campbell and forecaster Mike Castillo provided an office tour for the "Junior Leadership Brownsville" group. The group consisted of 32 high school seniors and four sponsors. Also, Jim and WCM Jesus Haro provided an office tour for the "Leadership Brownsville" group. This group, based out of the University of Texas at Brownsville, consisted of 22 college students and four sponsors. The focus of both groups is to provide leadership training to these highly-motivated individuals. The tour focused on operations of the WFO and opportunities for women and minorities in the NWS.

WFO Brownsville participated in the annual Career Day at Faulk Middle School for the 6th, 7th & 8th grades. Approximately 1,000 students attended. Jim Campbell, HMT Alfredo Vega and ASA Rachel Gutierrez staffed this event which offered the WFO an opportunity to interact with children from one of the most economically disadvantaged and "at risk" sections of Brownsville. The children and teachers were pleased with the presence of the WFO at the event.

WFO SAN ANGELO. The staff at WFO San Angelo implemented their "Customer First Plan" at a breakfast kickoff in the office. WCM Hector Guerrero presented the plan and showed the video, "It's So Simple." This video was developed by Southwest Airlines and emphasized how important attitudes are to their customer service program. The purpose of San Angelo's Customer First Plan is to become a customer driven and innovative office that partners with other NWS offices to utilize the best science, technology, programs, and services to serve the customers with excellence. MIC Buddy McIntyre and the WFO Management Team helped form the framework for the staff to use to serve their customers.

Keeping with the “Customer First Plan,” Hector Guerrero and service hydrologist Jason Johnson embarked on the Customer First tour across Shackelford County. They gave talks to 50 high school students in Moran and about 130 K-6th graders in Albany. Hector provided severe weather safety information while Jason stressed flash flood safety. That same evening they conducted a SKYWARN class. The next morning they walked main street in Albany and passed out safety brochures and magnets to area businesses.

The next stop was Haskell County. Hector Guerrero spent the day in Haskell with Danny Stocks, a local fireman. Hector and Danny gave a severe weather safety seminar to employees at a local hospital. Next, both Hector and Danny, spoke at an assembly of approximately 320 elementary students, K-6th grade. Both Hector and Danny walked around the business district passing out magnets and safety brochures, and Hector conducted a spotter training class that evening.

Almost everyone in the WFO helped staff a booth at the San Angelo Fair and Rodeo. This was an excellent opportunity for the staff to meet with customers from the Concho Valley. Several customers asked for e-mail alerts and a map showing the county warning area.

DAPM Les Hiesler helped calibrate the school mesonet thermometers for KTXS-TV in Abilene. This mesonet provides our forecaster with real time temperature and wind data from the Big Country. Les has been very helpful in building a strong partnership with KTXS-TV in Abilene.

WFO SAN JUAN. MIC Israel Matos presented the NOAA Environmental Hero and Southern Region Director's Award to Juan Barcelo, during the annual assembly of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League. For more than 30 years Juan has acted as coordinator for the Puerto Rico Weather Net. This group of ham radio operators, some of them NWS coop observers, provide the WFO with daily rainfall reports.

DAPM Francisco Balleste gave an office tour to 15 Rough Science students from local PBS Station WIPR. In depth WFO operations were explained to students representing schools from different parts of the island.

Rough Science is a TV series produced by the BBC and Open University in Britain in association with public television station WETA in Washington, DC. Major funding for Rough Science is provided by the National Science Foundation. For more information on Rough Science, check out the following Web site: <http://www.pbs.org/weta/roughscience/>

WFO SHREVEPORT. Forecaster Mary Keiser gave a tour to the Indian Princess Group (a father/daughter group) of Shreveport, on the operations of the NWS, as well as an upper air release. Mary also gave a slide presentation, along with AWIPS, to a Hope Home School group from Shreveport.

Forecaster Bill Murrell gave a presentation about severe weather and weather safety precautions during severe weather to 140 students at Shreve Island Elementary School of Shreveport.

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS

February 1-28, 2003

Southern Region Losses

<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title/Grade</u>
David Smith	WFO LIX	Retirement	Service Hydrologist, GS-13
Gregory Mollere	WFO TAE	Transfer to WR	Forecaster, GS-12
James Belles	WFO MEG	Transfer to CR	WCM, GS-14
Dana Watkins	WFO BRO	Transfer to CR	HMT, GS-11
Cindy Woods	WFO CRP	Transfer to ER	Senior Forecaster, GS-13

Southern Region Gains

<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
George M. Johnson	WFO CRP	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-5
Walter L. Snell	WFO SJU	Transfer from WR	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Robert A. Johnson	WFO MEG	New Hire	El Tech, G S-11
Albert E. Pietrycha	WFO AMA	Transfer from CR	Forecaster, GS-7
James M. Vasilj	WFO LIX	New Hire	Forecaster, GS-11
Daniel N. Shoemaker	WFO FWD	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-7

Within Region Transfers/Actions

<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Eric Christensen	WFO MFL	Promotion from MOB	Senior Forecaster, GS-13
Jason Runyen	WFO CRP	Transfer from LUB	Forecaster, GS-7
Steven Baker	WFO FWD	Transfer from SRH	ESA, GS-13
Patricia Brown	WFO LIX	Promotion from JAN	Service Hydrologist, GS-13
Eric Zappe	WFO JAX	Promotion from JAX	Senior Forecaster, GS-13

Technical Attachment

AWIPS Issues Related to Activation of GOES-12 as GOES East

Brian Gockel
Raytheon @ NWS OST - Systems Engineering Center

1. Background

Since 1994, GOES-8 has been the operational GOES East satellite, stationed at 75°W. It has exceeded its five-year operational life expectancy by well over three years, and GOES-8 now lacks fuel for continued station-keeping maneuvers (other than for final ejection from geostationary orbit) and some of its subsystems have degraded. Therefore, GOES-12 (formerly called GOES-M and having been “stored in space” since its launch) is scheduled to replace GOES-8 as the GOES East satellite on or about April 1, 2003, at approximately 1730 UTC.

The imager on GOES-12 differs from those on the current GOES East and West spacecraft and, consequently, some AWIPS changes will be activated when GOES-12 becomes operational. This summary describes, in general terms, the upcoming changes. More details of the changes will be provided in the form of engineering notes.

2. Differences Between the GOES-8 and GOES-12 Imagers

The imagers on GOES-8, 9, 10 and 11 are essentially identical, so since 1995 both GOES East and GOES West have had matching imagers from the satellites in this series. The imagers on GOES-12 and the yet-to-be-launched GOES-N are different from those of the GOES-8 through 11 series. The differences are described in some detail at:

<http://www.oso.noaa.gov/goes/goes-calibration/change-channels.htm>

In brief, the differences between the GOES-12 and GOES-8 to 11 imagers are as follows:

- The resolution of the GOES-12 water vapor channel (i.e., channel 3) is 4 km, as opposed to 8 km in the pre-GOES-12 satellites.
- The central wavelength of the GOES-12 water vapor channel is 6.5 μm , as opposed to 6.7 μm in the earlier satellites. The spectral response of the GOES-12 water vapor channel is also wider than those of GOES-8–11.
- Channel 5 (the 4km resolution 12 μm channel on pre-GOES-12 satellites) is replaced on GOES-12 by channel 6 (a new 8km resolution channel centered at 13.3 μm).

Some “AWIPS sectors” of GOES imagery are supplied, on the SBN, at reduced resolutions and will not be affected by the imagery channel resolution changes.

From the perspective of AWIPS, the activation of GOES-12 will be most apparent in the imagery

received at GOES East AWIPS sites. NESDIS provides other GOES products to AWIPS, including soundings, SPEs and - in OB2 - high-density winds. GOES-12-related changes to these three products are expected to be very subtle, and such changes to these products are not described here.

3. Discontinued and Canceled GOES Imagery

For a period of time, likely several years in duration, GOES-12 is expected to operate in conjunction with an older-type GOES West (i.e., initially GOES-10 and later GOES-11). Creation of the hemispheric composites of channel 5 (12 μm) will no longer be possible since GOES-12 lacks that channel, so AWIPS users should expect that product to be discontinued when GOES-12 becomes operational. Furthermore, when GOES-12 becomes operational, two-satellite composites of 3.9 μm imagery will be discontinued. Specifically, the imagery to be discontinued from the SBN GOES channels will be the Northern Hemisphere [World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers TIGF03 and 04] and the SuperNational (WMO headers TIGN03 and 04) composites. These large-scale composites are typically displayed when users browse imagery in the "North American" and "Northern Hemisphere" D-2D map scales. Satellite imagery at the CONUS scale (and smaller D-2D scales) will still be available for every channel the GOES imager supports.

4. AWIPS Site Software Changes

Changes to the AWIPS site configuration will be needed at most sites around the time GOES-12 replaces GOES-8. The specific steps to be taken by each site depend upon several factors:

- a. the GOES satellite in use (East or West) at the site,
- b. the AWIPS release running at that site (5.2.2.x or OB1),
- c. for 5.2.2 sites, the host machine of the Satellite Decoder (i.e., either DS1 or PX1), and
- d. for 5.2.2 sites, the duration of time between GOES-12 activation and the site's scheduled OB1 upgrade.

The details of the steps to be taken around the time of GOES-12 activation will be provided in engineering notes. These notes will be distributed during March or with each site's OB1 upgrade package. The GOES-12 activation steps are summarized below, in very general terms, for each major category of sites.

Case 1 -Release 5.2.2 Sites using GOES East

These sites will execute phases I and II of the GOES-12 patch. A brief description of this patch appears below in section 5. Detailed instructions on the execution of this patch will be provided to sites by OOS in March 2003. Running the patch will involve executing scripts and relocalizing each workstation and the DS1 (or the PX1, if it has been installed and activated). See note below.

Case 2 - Release 5.2.2 Sites using GOES West

These sites will execute phase II of the GOES-12 patch. A brief description of this patch appears below in section 5. Detailed instructions on the execution of this patch will be provided to sites by OOS in March 2003. Running the patch will involve executing scripts and relocalizing each workstation and the DS1 (or the PX1, if it has been installed and activated). See note below.

Case 3 - OB1 Sites using GOES East

Upon GOES-12 activation a revised version of the GOESImagerInfo.txt file will be provided. Sites will then relocalize their workstations and PX1 machines with the -tables option. Some elaboration on this procedure appears in section 6, below.

Case 4 - OB1 Sites using GOES West

While no action is required at these sites, staff at these sites should be made aware of GOES-12 activation for a number of reasons. Although GOES-West-oriented AWIPS sites will continue to rely primarily on GOES-10, the GOES West SBN feed also provides composites based partly on GOES East imagery and D-2D uses those composites for "filling in" gaps where GOES West sectors incompletely fill the selected map. Thus, GOES West users might detect subtle differences in the SBN-provided satellite imagery when GOES-12 is activated.

If a GOES West site at OB1 decides to switch to GOES East, that site should carry out the operations described in case 3, above (i.e., in addition to other satellite-switching procedures).

Note: Any 5.2.2 sites that - at the time of GOES-12 activation as GOES East - are within a few days of their scheduled OB1 upgrade might consider skipping the execution of the GOES-12 site patch. However, for GOES East sites, the consequence of skipping the patch execution will be that the new 13 μ m imagery will not be displayable in D-2D until the OB1 upgrade takes place.

5. The GOES-12 Patch (to be used by 5.2.2.x sites ONLY)

Section 4 above refers to the GOES-12 patch. This software patch consists of a collection of scripts that transition AWIPS sites between the old and new imager environment. The GOES-12 patch was provided to sites by NGIT in December 2001. It was placed in the following directory: /data/local/GOES12_SEC_A100154 and is reachable from, e.g., DS1. The patch consists of approximately 12 scripts which exist, in tar'ed form, in the following file: GOES12_SEC_A100154.tar. This patch is to be used by most 5.2.2[.x] AWIPS sites around the time of GOES-12 activation. Sites at OB1 should not use this software patch, but instead should use localization - as described in section 6 below.

Execution of the GOES-12 patch will modify configuration files related to satellite imagery ingest, display, store, monitor and purge. Instructions for running this patch will be provided to sites in March 2003. Sites using GOES East will carry out instructions corresponding to phase I and then (later) phase II of the patch. Sites using GOES West will carry out instructions corresponding to phase II only. Phase I of the patch scripts should be executed within a few days

of the GOES-12 activation as GOES East. Phase II of the patch scripts should be executed several days after the activation of GOES-12 as GOES East.

6. Localization to Resolve GOES Imager Type (new feature for OB1)

As described below, localization will be used by OB1 sites to modify their AWIPS environments to be compatible with GOES-12.

AWIPS relies on localization to select the appropriate configuration files for a site (i.e., either GOES East or GOES West files). Examples of such configuration files include `/data/fxa/nationalData/satProductButtons.txt` and `westSatDataInfo.template`. By default, localization activates GOES West configuration files for sites west of 100°W longitude and it activates GOES East configuration files for sites east of that longitude. This default can be overridden with the SATEW localization directive. Localization records (in the localization log, `/data/logs/fxa/localization.log`) the GOES satellite with which a site has been associated. For example:

```
...
running assembleTables.csh
Using EAST satellite.
...
```

The log excerpt above indicates that localization has associated this site with GOES East, and has activated the corresponding configuration files. These features are not new to AWIPS.

Beginning with OB1, localization has been extended to consult an additional configuration file to determine the imager type on the GOES satellite it has just associated. The configuration file is:

```
/data/fxa/nationalData/GOESImagerInfo.txt
```

This file stores the generation of the imagers aboard the two currently-operational GOES satellites. GOES-8, -9, -10, and -11 have a first generation imager, GOES-12 has a second generation imager, etc. As described above, the localization process will first associate a site with a GOES satellite (i.e., either East or West). Subsequently, localization will check the `GOESImagerInfo.txt` file to ascertain the type of imager on that satellite. Localization will use this information, in turn, to select the correct D-2D Satellite menu for that site. Most sites use the AWIPS national baseline satellite menu files:

```
/data/fxa/nationalData/ijklSatDatamenu.txt (corresponds to GOES-8 – GOES-11)
/data/fxa/nationalData/mnopqSatDatamenu.txt (corresponds to GOES-12 and future GOES)
```

Around the time of GOES-12 activation as GOES East, OB1 sites will be provided with a revised version of the `GOESImagerInfo.txt` file. GOES East sites at OB1 will then relocalize PX1 and their workstations (using the `-tables` option) to activate the appropriate configuration files.

Sites may override the national baseline satellite menu files (in the `nationalData` directory) with site-local files stored in `/data/fxa/customFiles` or `/awips/fxa/data/localization/<siteID>`. For example, in the pre-OB1 era, site LWX could establish a file called `LWX-satDataMenus.txt`. In

the OB1 era such files should be replaced with files named as follows:

- a. LWX-ijklSatDatamenu.txt (oriented toward GOES-8 through GOES-11)
- b. LWX-mnopqSatDatamenu.txt (oriented toward GOES-12 and later satellites).

The contents of these menu files should correspond to the generation of imagers on the satellites with which the files are associated. For example, 12 μ m entries should appear only in <siteID>-ijklSatDatamenu.txt, whereas 13 μ m entries should appear only in <siteID>-mnopqSatDatamenu.txt.

7. Schedule Summary

- GOES-12 imager/sounder reactivated - Jan 16, 2003.
- GOES-12 Calibration/Navigation activated - Jan 24, 2003.
- GOES-8-to-GOES-12 switchover - April 1, 2003 (GOES-12 near 81°W longitude).
AWIPS sites should allocate several hours to execute the GOES-12 activation steps and conduct monitoring on or near this date.
- GOES-12 reaches GOES East station (75°W longitude) by about April 22, 2003.

Refer to the figure at the end of this document for GOES-12 satellite position information.

8. References

1. Information on the current GOES-12 imager and sounder schedules can be found at the URL below. Please note that the GOES-12 imager will be primarily in Full Disk mode during this pre-operational period. When activated as GOES East, GOES-12 will be switched to the routine and on-request rapid-scan modes to which GOES-8 users have become accustomed.

<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/SATS/GOES/EAST/g12sched.html>

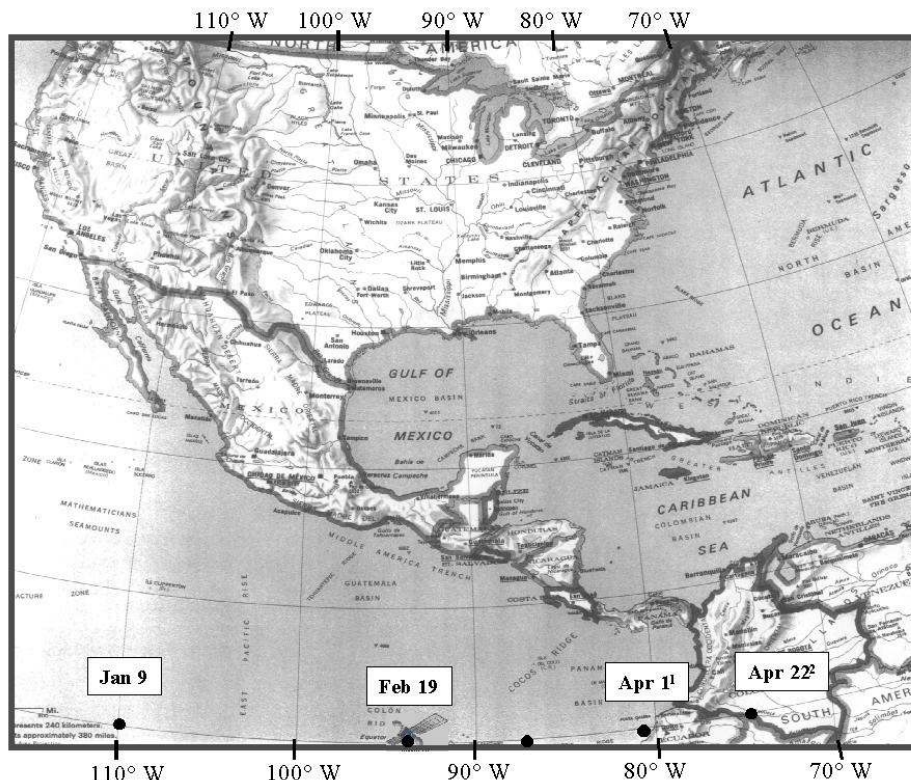
2. GOES East Dissemination schedules and scanning strategies are described at the URL below. Please note that the scanning strategies reflect the full (raw/GVAR) sectors. The AWIPS (SBN) sectors are extracted from these larger sectors.

<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/SATS/GOES/EAST/sched.html>

3. Links to the NESDIS GOES-8 to -12 transition plan appear at:

<http://www.oso.noaa.gov/goes/index.htm>

Approximate GOES-12 Positions - Early 2003



Notes

1. GOES-12 activated as GOES East, replaces GOES-8 (April 1, 2003).
2. GOES-12 arrives at permanent GOES East station, 75° West (roughly April 22, 2003).

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