



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

May/June 2005

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

[Southern Region Home Page](#)

[Previous Topics](#)

CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

IFPS 17 Testing Completed. Operational Test and Evaluation of IFPS 17, which contains GHG (Graphical Hazards Generator) and VTEC, has been completed. The SR coastal WFO test sites were Miami, Tampa and Melbourne, and the inland WFOs were Norman, Tulsa, Huntsville and Jackson. National deployment of IFPS 17.5, containing GHG and VTEC, will be fielded to all remaining offices beginning in mid to late summer. WFOs will not be allowed to use GHG until they can verify that all forecasters have completed training and are familiar with the procedures for generating VTEC products. Each office must conduct sufficient testing to verify that all products are formatted correctly. By November, all WFOs will be using GHG, and WWA will be discontinued. As a reminder, the SR GHG Intranet website is located at:

http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/awips/gfe_rpp.html

MND Header Change for CFW. This summer, the MND Header for the CFW product will change from Coastal Flood Statement/Watch/Warning to '**Coastal Hazards Message**' for coastal WFOs, and 'Lakeshore Hazards Message' for Great Lakes WFOs. The exact date of implementation will depend date on when GHG will be operational at your office. The PNS below reflects this staggered implementation for our customers. You are welcome to reissue the PNS locally, making the appropriate changes to the contact and sender information.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn05-14_CFWproducts.txt

New *Optional* Headlines for Small Craft Advisory. To improve services for our customers, NWSHQ Marine Branch is taking steps to implement new headlines for the Coastal Waters Forecast. These new headlines are *optional*. The new headlines also have a staggered implementation (noted below), based on GHG software updates:



- "Small Craft Advisory" - same as current policy (no changes)
- "Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas" - this optional headline can be issued this Summer (if you want to use this headline) when your office is using GHG operationally (IFPS 17.5)
- "Small Craft Advisory for Winds" - optional headline to be ready in GHG with IFPS 17.6 (by November 1st)
- "Small Craft Advisory for Rough Bar" - optional headline to be ready in GHG with IFPS 17.6 (by November 1st)

The definitions of the new headlines are located in the following PNS which was sent to our customers:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn05-23_small-craft_adv.txt

Tsunami Procedures Online. An updated summary of procedures for the Southern and Eastern U.S. Tsunami Warning System is now available on the SR Intranet. To access this information, refer to the document *Tsunami Operations and Procedures* on the Tsunami Intranet website at this link: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/marine/TsunamiOperations.doc>.

A memo on the new tsunami procedures between the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC) and the SR WFOs is in preparation, and will be distributed to the field in the near future. Updates to the actual Tsunami Directive (containing this information) will occur at some later date, though the timetable is unclear at this point.

Tsunami Products and Criteria. The tsunami criteria and products for the Atlantic and Gulf are defined in a Powerpoint presentation given by Paul Whitmore, Chief of WC/ATWC. This can be found on the Tsunami Intranet Website at:

<http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/marine/AtlanticProducts.ppt>

Email List Now Available From the WC/ATWC. The WC/ATWC has created an email sign up list for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico basins. You can sign up to receive tsunami warnings, watches and information bulletins **via email** from WC/ATWC. Feel free to pass this website to customers and partners as well:

<http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/watcher.htm>

NWR Acronym Has New Meaning. The NWR Programming Office announced that the acronym NWR will now represent **NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards**. The name, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, represents radio receivers that are capable of receiving weather and/or warning information from National Weather Service Forecast Offices, approved Department of Homeland Defense offices responsible for the dissemination of warning information, and those Emergency Operation Centers that have been specifically authorized to disseminate warnings on the NWR operational frequencies.



Use of the new *NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards* logo must be specifically authorized in writing by the Director of the National Weather Service. Requests for authorization to use the *NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards* logo should be submitted to the Director's office. The application will be made available on the NWR web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>.

Life Saving NWR Testimonial in Middle Tennessee. While on a tour of WFO Nashville, a local resident provided testimony that warning information heard via NWR in her family's vehicle likely enabled her family to survive a severe thunderstorm while traveling across Arkansas recently. After hearing the warning information about severe weather along their route, her family pulled over and took refuge in a nearby restaurant. The Flannigan family later found out that a tornado was present in the storm along their route. She indicated that having NWR in her car probably saved her life and that of her family.

Southern Region Mark Trail Award Winners. Several Cooperators, who have partnered with Southern Region WFOs, were honored at the Mark Trail Award Ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. on May 26th. The 2005 Luncheon honored the following recipients:

Rodney Andreasen, Jackson County, Florida Emergency Management Director, led the successful effort to install a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter in Sneads, Florida. Rodney used USDA funds for the NWR station and found additional funding for over 100 receivers. His efforts expanded NWR reception to over 100,000 residents living in the Florida Panhandle, southwest Georgia, and southeast Alabama.

Woody Odom, Jefferson County, Alabama, Emergency Management Coordinator was honored for conceiving and organizing Jefferson County's Community Awareness Day which is geared toward school children, parents and the business community to enhance the public's ability to react appropriately to multiple natural or man-made hazards. The annual event has also been a catalyst for securing donations used to provide more than 2,500 NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards receivers in schools, homes, public buildings and businesses.

Florida Power and Light (FP&L) was recognized for establishing a NWR station in south Miami-Dade County that provides reception to the adjacent coastal waters and Biscayne Bay. FP&L fully financed the NWR transmitter at Princeton, Florida in an area that was severely impacted by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. This area includes FP&L's Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant and is within range of two National Parks.

General Motors Corporation, Oklahoma City Assembly Plant was recognized for implementing a well-rehearsed safety and preparedness plan during the violent F4 tornado event that struck Oklahoma City, OK on May 8, 2003. The plant's emergency response was credited with activating an emergency plan that moved all 1200 employees to tornado shelter areas in less than 10 minutes before the tornado produced \$168 million in damage to the GM facility. As a result no injuries or fatalities occurred.

Academic Achievement at WFO Lubbock – Part 1. Congratulations to Mark Conder, WFO Lubbock Forecaster, who successfully defended his dissertation at Texas Tech University, and was



awarded a Ph.D. in Geosciences during the commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14, 2005. Mark's thesis, "Characteristics of the Quiescent Dryline From a Case Study Perspective", will undoubtedly serve as an educational and operational resource for WFO Lubbock staff, and others forecasting the dryline. Congratulations, Mark, on your great accomplishment!

Academic Achievement at WFO Lubbock – Part 2. Congratulations are also due John Hickman, WFO Lubbock NEXRAD Electronics Technician, who successfully completed the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology from the American Intercontinental University. John not only completed the requirements for his degree while continuing to perform in his full-time job at the WFO, but he did so with an outstanding 4.0 GPA – Congratulations John!

Severe Weather Communication Success Stories at Lubbock. In April, WFO Lubbock implemented Instant Messaging (IM) and "blast-up" conferencing services with local media and emergency management partners. These two new services were put to the test during a recent severe weather outbreak, and proved to be invaluable components of the integrated warning system. On May 12-13, WFO Lubbock issued nearly 100 tornado, severe thunderstorm, and flash flood warnings in a 14 hour period. WCM Brian LaMarre initiated a "Blast-Up" conference call around noon to provide a situation briefing with all of Lubbock's media and emergency management partners. Following the situation brief, a group IM chat session was initiated and continued throughout the event.

A large amount of time sensitive warning information was delivered to LUB's partners via IM, much of which was passed on to the public through live cut-ins by TV broadcasters. During a damage survey the following day, MIC Justin Weaver, Senior Service Hydrologist John Lipe, and WCM Brian LaMarre interviewed a family whose home was completely destroyed by an F-3 tornado in Ralls, TX. Across town, one of the resident's daughters heard IM-originating information from the WFO while watching a local TV channel. Hearing that the tornado was moving directly toward her father's home, she phoned her father and urged him to go to a shelter – an action which probably saved his life. Fortunately, no lives were lost during this significant severe weather outbreak in the Lubbock area. The following are two of the many quotes the WFO received from their media and emergency management partners following the storms:

"A Ralls, TX area viewer received warning in time to leave his home and get to safety before the home was blown away by a tornado. All of us working in the Forecast Center at NewsChannel 11 came to realize the IM link with you was providing real-time information like never before." - Steve Devine, Morning Meteorologist, NBC News.

"The blast up messaging system we used during the storms was awesome. It really helped me to monitor my counties better and was extremely helpful in trying to stay ahead of the game when talking to the EMC of the counties affected ... I appreciate you and the NWS for all you do!" - Georgia Lucero, Regional Liaison Officer for Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety.

Great job, WFO Lubbock, for the critical services you provided your users during the May event.



Of course, LUB's experiences are not unique. A number of other Southern Region field offices are pushing ahead with innovative methods for communicating hazardous weather and significant event information to their partners. However, remember that IM and conference calls are just two of the many avenues we can pursue for conveying local expertise to our customers. Whether it's an instant message or a Warning Decision Update sent to a media partner during a tornado event, a well-written Hazardous Weather Outlook, or just a simple yet timely phone call to an emergency manager, we are presented with opportunities to provide local value virtually every single day. Keep seizing that opportunity – the viability of the National Weather Service depends on it.

WFO Tampa Bay Area Selected for Award at Hurricane Conference. The 19th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference recently selected the Tampa office for the *Public Education/Public Information Award*. The award is given to an individual or organization that has developed an innovative and effective public educational tool or program which has improved hurricane preparedness, response, recovery or mitigation in the State of Florida. Accepting the award for the office was MIC Shawn Bennett, Lead Forecaster Barry Goldsmith, and WCM Daniel Noah. Congratulations, Tampa!

WFO Tampa Bay Area Volunteer Amateur Radio Operators Selected for NOAA Award. Paul Toth, Bob Stanhope and Sean Fleeman received the 2005 NOAA Environmental Hero Award for their contributions to saving lives and property during Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne. The award was presented on May 12 by NWS Southern Region Director Bill Proenza. Working as volunteer net control operators, they spent more than 125 hours on the SKYWARN radio network, gathering real-time reports and helping the NWS forecasters provide life saving, up-to-the-minute weather information in west central and southwest Florida.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

TADD Outreach Campaign Expands in Texas. During the week of May 23-26, 2005, press conferences were held in San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, and Houston to announce the expansion of the Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) flood safety awareness campaign in Texas. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) acted as moderator for the press conferences. Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President and CEO of FLASH, acted as moderator. National Weather Service participants included Ron Trumbler, Bill Read, Joe Arellano, Larry Eblen, Ed Rappaport, Kandis Boyd, Ben Weiger and Hector Guerrero. Each speaker emphasized the dangers of walking or driving into moving water/flooded roadways and helped to stress the value of the TADD program.

Through a grant provided by the Allstate Foundation, motorists will be reached through outdoor billboards driving home the flood safety message in the four cities. The billboard campaign partners include the Allstate Foundation, FLASH, the NWS, and Southwestern Insurance Information. Other campaign elements include radio and television public service announcements, distribution of TADD decals to city emergency vehicles, and distribution of flash cards to Allstate agents in Texas. Additionally, the TADD message will also be delivered to families visiting the Texas State Parks this season through the distribution of informative flood safety information cards



from FLASH. These cards and an animated presentation will also be provided to Texas Education Agency In-School Driver Education and Traffic Safety Unit class participants.

NWS/TVA Meeting. On May 18, 2005, folks from our WFOs in Nashville, Morristown, and Huntsville, the Lower Mississippi RFC, and our Hydrologic Services Branch met with officials from the Tennessee Valley Authority for our bi-annual meeting. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the NOAA Environmental Heroes Award to the TVA's River Scheduling (RvS) staff. SR HSB Chief Ben Weiger presented the award to Morgan Goranflo, Acting Manager of RvS. The award recognizes the RvS staff for implementing new operational procedures to provide the NWS with enhanced flood forecast and crest information for the main stem Tennessee River to support our flood warning mission. Several local media outlets were also in attendance for the award ceremony.

WFO Baton Rouge/New Orleans Attends the Amite River Basin Commission Meeting. Senior Service Hydrologist Patricia Brown was the guest speaker for the Amite River Basin Commission monthly meeting on May 17, 2005. Governed by the State of Louisiana, the Amite River Basin Commission works to mitigate flood damage in the Amite River Basin, which includes the Comite River and Baton Rouge. Ms. Brown gave a presentation called "Flows and Decisions" detailing the Hydrologic Service Program of WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge. The presentation discussed the hydrologic forecasts, informational products, and services routinely provided by the coastal WFOs, including LIX.

Drought Monitoring Tools for New Mexico. During May 11-13, 2005, WFO Albuquerque was involved in the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Spring Conference. The purpose of the conference was to fulfill Governor Richardson's initiative to deploy a coordinated management of resources in the state as part of a drought contingency plan. MIC Charlie Liles made a presentation to the group of 150 engineers, scientists, hydrologists and water managers concerning the capabilities and limitations of precipitation measurement within the state of New Mexico. Charlie was also selected to serve on a working group to produce the plan to implement the governor's initiative by integrating a multitude of data sources and turning it into a usable resource tool for customers of precipitation and hydrologic data. A second working group will work on the GIS aspects of the project.

NWS/TNRIS Meeting. On June 1, 2005, Paul Kirkwood, Keith Stellman and Ben Weiger from SRH and Frank Bell and Greg Shelton from WGRFC met with officials from the Texas Natural Resources Information System, a division of the Texas Water Development Board. The meeting explored partnership opportunities for serving up NWS hydrometeorological information using TNRIS's GIS servers. Ben provided an overview about the NWS and its mission. He also discussed potential opportunities for serving up flood inundation maps based on NWS flood forecasts, as well as information about the NWS Water Resource Initiative. Greg and Frank gave presentations on the NWS precipitation processing system, MPE, and the various types quantitative precipitation estimate information available from the WGRFC and SR. Keith and Paul provided information about the NDFD and the radar data available as part of the RIDGE project. Both organizations agreed to work together and draft a work plan for future collaborative projects.



SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

NOAA Library Services Update. In recent months you may have received several messages from the NOAA Central Library announcing the availability of services such as the Meteorological & Geostrophysical Abstracts, JSTOR – The Scholarly Journal Archive, ASFA: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts, and Net Library's eBook Collection. Because access to some of these service is restricted by IP address (not the noaa.gov domain name) SSD supplied the NOAA Central Library with the entire list of Southern Region IP addresses to make the access to these services as easy as possible for the field offices. Everyone in the Southern Region should now have access to all those services.

Final FY05 AWOC Teletraining Sessions. The original set of teletraining sessions for the FY05 Advanced Warning Operations Course (AWOC) officially ended last month. However, the Warning Decision Training Branch has been working with the regional AWOC focal points to schedule additional teletraining sessions to ensure all desired training is completed by the end of FY05. Here are the added teletraining sessions:

Instructional Component Core 3
August 2 1500-1630 UTC

Instructional Component Severe 4
June 30 1800-1930 UTC
July 13 1400-1530 UTC

You can schedule your staff for these sessions at WDTB's AWOC teletraining registration page: http://wdtb.noaa.gov/registration/schedulev2.asp?class_id=16 Note the AWOC Core and Severe Track training will be repeated next year, but on a more limited basis, and a new Winter Weather Track will be introduced.

RADAR Integrated Display Using Geospatial Elements. The replacement for NWS web-based radar imagery display is still in the testing phase, but is soon to go operational. The RIDGE (Radar Integrated Display using Geospatial Elements) project displays radar imagery atop user-selectable background maps (terrain, highways, counties, cities) and warning polygons. The test page can be seen at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge/>

In addition to better and selectable background maps, users can also select a point and determine distance and direction from the point. This capability will enable users to determine distance from a storm or other displayable elements. Base reflectivity, base velocity, storm relative velocity, one-hour precipitation, and storm total precipitation are available in either static images or loops. RIDGE is a project of the NWS Radar Team. Southern Region CWWD and SSD personnel are leading the development of this effort.

Hurricane Guidance Model Training. Bernard Meisner (SSD) has updated his recorded



hurricane guidance model teletraining sessions. These recorded sessions are available at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ssd/Teletraining/Hurricanes/> The related Technical Attachment <<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ssd/nwpmodel/html/nhcmmodel.htm>> has also been updated to reflect the recent improvements to the models and the results from last year's 2004 hurricane season.

Standardized Anomalies Teletraining. The NCEP's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center will be offering several teletraining sessions on "The Use of Standardized Anomalies in Operational Forecasting:"

July 12 1600-1700 UTC
July 18 1830-1930 UTC
July 27 1830-1930 UTC

Interested individuals/offices should contact Michael Bodner (Michael.Bodner@noaa.gov) to register for one of more of these sessions. Instructions for downloading the presentation are available at: http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/training/stanom_install.html

VISITVIEW Software Upgrade. The VISITview® software, used by presenters in our regional teletraining seminar series <<http://intranet.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ssd/TeletrainingSeminars.html>>, has been upgraded to allow "automatic recording." Seminar speakers can now record their voice and annotations as they deliver their seminar. This new feature makes it much easier for presenters to make available a recorded version of their presentations for later viewing by those who were not able to attend the actual seminar. A tutorial of this recording feature is available at: <<http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/visitview/tutorial/img7a.html>>.

Mesoscale Banded Precipitation Training Module. The COMET Program has released the latest Core Module in the Mesoscale Meteorology Primer series, entitled: "Mesoscale Banded Precipitation." This module examines several mechanisms that result in mesoscale banded precipitation, focusing primarily on processes at work in midlatitude cyclones. The module starts with a review of the Norwegian and conveyor belt cyclone models. Several banding processes are examined in detail, including deformation/frontogenesis, the trowal (Trough of Warm Air Aloft), frontal merger, CSI/slantwise convection, and melting/evaporation-induced circulations. The module concludes with discussions of the representation of banded precipitation by NWP models and the detection of banded precipitation in satellite imagery.

Like other core modules in the Mesoscale Primer, this module starts with a forecast scenario and concludes with a concise summary and a module quiz. This module also comes with audio narration, rich graphics, and a companion print version. The module is available at: <<http://meted.ucar.edu/mesoprim/bandedprecip/>> and is three hours in length. Please also visit the MetEd Website (www.meted.ucar.edu) to find other materials on related forecasting science and techniques.



Boundary Layer Symposium at WFO Midland. In a continuing effort to improve forecasting skills and to help understand the effects of the microscale, a one-day workshop on the Planetary Boundary Layer (PBL) and the surface energy budget was held at the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Midland, Texas. Matt Haughland, a University of Oklahoma Ph.D. graduate student under the advisement of Ken Crawford, was the guest speaker for the day. Science and Operations Officer Jeffrey Cupo sought out Matt's knowledge after participating in a PBL workshop in Boulder, Colorado last year. Jeff explained the importance the workshop in this way: "Our office currently forecasts at a 2.5 degree resolution on the Graphical Forecast Editor. Point-N-Click forecasts on the web now can supply our customers with a backyard forecast. How can we accurately predict a localized forecast for our customers, such as our fire weather community, if we do not understand the effects of our microscale environment? The first step in this process is to understand the benefits and limitations of our observational network."

The staff from WFO Lubbock, Texas, also participated in the event as part of a continuing effort to share knowledge across County Warning Area borders. Sharing experiences between the two offices helps develop new conceptual models that could assist in alleviating forecast consistency issues. The workshop included three lectures and five labs that tested the knowledge of each participant in an interactive way.

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

- AvnFPS 3.0 (Jul 1, 5, 15)
- CPC Extended Range Forecasting (Jul 6,19)
- CPC Monitoring Products (Jul 7,19,28)
- CPC Long Range Forecasts (Jul 8,20)
- Downscaling Basics (Jul 13, 26)
- Convective Downbursts (Jul 14,21)
- Monitoring Moisture Return with GOES Imagery (Jul 14, 21)

All previous sessions including several with recorded instructor audio and annotations are available at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ts.html>

SYSTEMS OPERATION DIVISION

WSR-88D ORPG Build 7.0. Southern Region's WSR-88D NEXRAD Group recently participated in a wrap up meeting with the Engineering and Beta Testing Branch from Norman. The meeting was held to approve the release of ORPG Build 7.0 agency wide. After beta testing the new build for several weeks, all meeting participants were in agreement all exit criteria for the new build had been met. The areas covered in the criteria lists were: documentation, open critical and major



issues/defects, security accreditation, load instructions, and the overall stability of the software. Southern Region sites that participated in the beta testing were WFOs Atlanta and Jacksonville.

ORPG Build 7 is now currently being deployed. Several sites have already begun installing with no problems noted so far. All sites should receive the installation packet by the end of the first week in July. Please install at your earliest convenience to take advantage of new functionality provided by this ORPG build with AWIPS.

CRS and NWR Testing. Southern Region's CRS/NWR Group is assisting Weather Service Headquarters in field testing a new remote monitoring system for NOAA Weather Radio transmitters. The new system under test, ROAMS (Remote Off-Air Monitoring System) Automated Management System (RAMS) is being tested at four WFOs throughout the region. The four offices participating in the test are Fort Worth, Houston/Galveston, Corpus Christi, and Brownsville. RAMS is a computer based system that all ROAMS units in the field will be programmed to call when detecting an alarm condition at their respective NOAA Weather Radio transmitter sites. Some of the advantages an office can look to gain from using RAMS are, simplification of ROAMS installation and setup, reduction in multiple calls from a ROAMS, unit and reduced labor and training cost with centralized control. Initial response from field offices is positive, especially the reduction of those "nagging" multiple ROAMS calls for problems being handled.

AWIPS Slowdowns During Warning Operations. A Tiger Team was assembled to resolve the system slowdown issue first discovered at WFO Jackson, MS. The Tiger Team was put together after delays in warnings were experienced during severe weather. FSL traveled to Jackson and watched the slow down issues first hand during a severe weather episode. The team has recommended several performance related fixes. These fixes have been tested and approved for inclusion in the national release of OB5 being deployed in the field at the present time. Thanks goes the Jackson office, Eric Howieson, FSL, and the Tiger Team for working this mission critical issue.

Maintenance Release (MR) OB4.3 (Formerly OB4.2a) Will Help With AWIPS Performance. OB4.3 will primarily contain the performance enhancements the Tiger Team suggested, so that all sites may benefit from the fixes prior to OB5. This MR will be deployed in July and the install will take about 30 minutes to complete.

AWIPS Build OB5 Hopes to Offer Better Performance. OB5 is currently being deployed nationwide. So far, there have not been any significant issues specific to OB5. If your site has not scheduled your OB5 installation date, please coordinate with your backup site in order to get your preferred date.

AWIPS To Receive Haz Collect Software. Maintenance Release (MR) OB5.1 will be primarily composed of Haz Collect functionality. Haz Collect allows better interaction with Emergency Managers during an emergency and the need for emergency message dissemination. National deployment is scheduled for July and August.



OB6 Phase I – Red Hat Enterprise Upgrade. OB6 Phase 1 will be the Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) upgrade to Workstation 3 and 4 for most of the Linux platforms on AWIPS. The only server not being updated will be the RFC Archiver due to INFORMIX incompatibilities. The other portion of this install will be the move of the power vault mass storage from the PX rack to the DX rack.

This install was completed at Southern Region Headquarters on June 23, 2005. This upgrade will also contain a switch from the GNOME desktop to KDE. Because of this change, it is likely that user customizations will be lost and need to be regenerated, however increased performance will result. Deployment of OB6 Phase 1 should begin around late August to early September.

OB6 Phase II – Faster and Better Database Coming. This phase will contain the OB6 AWIPS software with the biggest component, the switch from the Informix to PostGres database. This phase of OB6 will be installed at SRH on July 13th. National deployment of OB6 Phase II will likely begin in September. Significant improvements to AWIPS performance and capability are expected with the PostGres database.

Redundant Firewall. After a short delay in the OAT, testing is scheduled to resume in July with WFO Tampa and WFO El Paso participating for Southern Region. If the OAT is successful, national deployment is scheduled for late July or early August. More information can be found on this and other upcoming installs on the intranet:

http://intranet.srh.noaa.gov/srh/awips/install_status.html

AWIPS Rack Consolidation. The AWIPS Rack Consolidation modification was completed at Southern Region Headquarters in mid June. Overall, everything went very smooth and also gave us a chance to remove abandoned outdated wires from previous upgrades. This mod note will likely be posted in early July for completion.

Sites should be planning on power requirements for moving the DX rack into the AS1 location. This means you should already have one power whip in place, but you will need two for the DX rack.

The main steps are:

- Remove AS1 and AS2 from the racks
- Move the AX to the AS2 rack
- Move Switch Panel 3 to the AS2 rack
- Remove the AS1 rack
- Move the DX rack into AS1 rack location
- Erase AS1 & AS2 hard drives
- Dispose of AS1 & AS2.

Disposition of the AS1 rack will be one of the following options:



- Dispose of the rack.
- Keep the rack for local non AWIPS use.
- Keep the rack for TDWR deployment (select sites)

AWIPS Printer Replacement Plan (APRP). All AWIPS printers are scheduled to be replaced by the end of this summer. There are three phases to the plan:

- Phase 1: Gather information and requirements by surveying the users. (Completed)
Results from the survey were sent to all ESAs. Thanks goes to all that provided feedback. The feedback was used to make decisions related to replacing the printers.
- Phase 2: Testing and demonstration.*
- Phase 3: Support plan development and deployment.*

T1 Fiber Optic Upgrade Status. Plans are moving forward to upgrade the communications link from copper to fiber optic for WFOs that are co-located with their WSR-88D. Southern Region sites will begin the transition in October and all sites should be complete by mid December.

ORDA Schedule. ORDA beta testing will begin in late August with the installation at Norman (Twin Lakes KTLX). WFO Fort Worth will also be participating in the beta test with installation on the KFWS radar in October. National deployment of the ORDA is scheduled to begin in December in Southern Region and should be complete in June 2006.

Upper-Air Program. May 2005 was an excellent month for Southern Region (SR) upper-air sites with 16 of 23 SR sites earning scores above the national average Of 287.08. El Paso's upper-air staff earned the region's top upper-air score for May 2005 with an excellent score of 298.80 with 300.00 being a perfect score. Also, in May 2005, CWO Del Rio's upper-air staff not only earned the regional top 12 month average score, but also achieved the national 12 month top ranking score. Del Rio's upper-air staff earned the region's highest 12 month average for the past ten straight months which started the end of July 2004.

Bruce Sherbon, WFO Tulsa, OK has completed filming the new training video for the Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS). Bruce did an outstanding job producing the 63 minute training video "Transitioning to RRS" while continuing to perform his normal forecast duties. This video will be a key component in the training of each individual in the field office prior to RRS deployment and in the future for new office personnel.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), local, state, and Federal governments are joining forces to conduct a major field study to address air quality issues in the Eastern half of Texas. TCEQ is requesting WFO Fort Worth, TX collect an additional thirty (30) 18Z flights between May 2005 and September 2006.



Observation Program. In May Southern Region's Surface Program Manager received 45 requests from the aviation community for new certificates, cancellation, and changes in type of surface certificates.

National Weather Service Instruction 10-2101, Intercomparison of Hydro Meteorological Instruments and Algorithm Intercomparisons for the Purpose of Climate Data Continuity is currently under review by regional staff. Comments will be forwarded to NWSH by April 29, 2005.

Data acquisition program reviews at both WFO Corpus Christi and Brownsville, TX were conducted during the last week of June 2005. Final copies of the finding will be provided to the offices by August 1, 2005.

SERCO Aviation Symposium. At the request of OS7 Southern Region's Surface Program Manager attended the June 9, 2005 SERCO Aviation Training Symposium in Las Vegas, NV to discuss NWS's role in the FAA CWO program. The audience included supervisors from SERCO offices across the country and several FAA Headquarters personnel that are involved in the CWO program.

Metadata Updates. 125 updates to the CSSA database were approved during the month. These updates document equipment changes, station relocations, and observer changes. Another 62 documents were in the workflow awaiting approval at various levels.

COOP Modernization. Sites surveys are being completed in GA in a cooperative effort between the University of Georgia and the NWS forecast offices. These surveys will identify locations that will eventually have modernized COOP station installed. Additional surveys will be completed in Northern Alabama in preparation for the deployment of modernized COOP equipment to replace/supplement HCN stations.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Diversity

News from WFO Midland. On May 6 MIC Ray Fagen received word that Prof. Kelly Holladay, Arts and Sciences Dean, at New Mexico Junior College, had accepted and joined the AMS "Online Weather Studies Geosciences Diversity/National Dissemination Project." New Mexico Junior College is a minority-service institution (MSI) located in Hobbs, NM.

Online Weather Studies is a semester-long, introductory college-level course on the fundamentals of weather and climate. Prof. Holladay attended the AMS workshop on this course at the NWSTC in Kansas City the week of May 15-20, 2005 and will be a part of a special diversity session at the AMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta next January. The Online Weather Studies Diversity Project is a



joint AMS, NSF and NWS partnership in human resource diversity.

This is the second MSI in WFO Midland's county warning forecast area that has joined the Online Weather Studies Diversity Project. This office worked with Dr. Marian Mustoe, Professor of Geography, University of Texas (Permian Basin) in joining the project and attending the NWSTC training and subsequent AMS Annual Meeting during 2002.

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS			
<u>MAY 1 – 31, 2005</u>			
<u>Southern Region Gains</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Jody Aaron	WFO MEG	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-7
Eric J. Holweg	WFO MRX	Transfer from TPC	ITO, GS-13
Jim Stefkovich	WFO BMX	Reassigned from CR	MIC, GS-15
Lance J. Tripoli	WFO EPZ	Transfer from CR	Forecaster, GS-11
Amy L. Adair	WFO EPZ	Transfer from WR	Forecaster, GS-9
Tammi B. Barreras	SMG HOU	New Hire	ASA, GS-7
<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Peter Blottman	WFO MLB	Reassignment	ITO, GS-13
SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS			
<u>JUNE 1 – 30, 2005</u>			
<u>Southern Region Losses</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title/Grade</u>
Lonnie King	WFO FWD	Retirement	Forecaster, GS-12
<u>Southern Region Gains</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
<u>Southern Region Gains</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
James S. Morris	WFO LCH	New Hire	ITO, GS-12



Bryan D. Ramos	WFO BRO	New Hire	Electronics Technician, GS-10
<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Jeffrey Dobur	RFC ALR	Reassignment	HAS Forecaster, GS-12
Seth R. Nagle	WFO SJT	Promotion	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Matthew Volkmer	WFO MLB	Promotion on station	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
David G. Hotz	WFO MRX	Promotion on station	SOO, GS-14

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Lubbock Forecaster Reaches Out to Troubled Teens. On May 20, 2005, after providing a well-received talk on lightning and tornadoes to 235 students and teachers representing the 5th and 6th grades of R.C. Andrews Elementary School, WFO Lubbock Forecaster Bill Hopkins accepted another invitation to speak at the Caprock Community Learning Center (CCLC). At the CCLC, Bill spoke to a group of 20 troubled teenagers about the NWS and the importance of education in life. After some awkward moments of silence and stares of disinterest, Bill posed the question, “How far in life will you go without an education?” Bill went on to discuss the importance of math and science to an NWS career, and the need to focus on any subject of personal interest to succeed. One student in particular, who was silent through much of the presentation, approached Bill at the end of the talk and thanked him and asked additional questions about continuing education. The CCLC representative stated to Bill that this young man would never talk or ask questions in any of the previous presentations. It’s a great feeling to know you made a positive impact in someone’s life! Great contribution to your community, Bill!

WFO Brownsville Reaches Out to Area Schools. WFO Brownsville Forecaster Matt Lorentson talked to roughly 250 school children at an R.L. Martin Elementary career day earlier this spring. Matt was interviewed by a local television station that attended the career day. He spoke about the opportunities these events presented to the NWS for generating interest in meteorology; in particular, for women and people from under-represented groups. At another career fair, SOO Kurt Vanspeybroeck and MIC Andy Patrick staffed a booth and talked with approximately 300 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders about meteorology, science, education, and careers. Most of the students were of Hispanic descent. As an interesting side note, they also met Jarvis Younger's daughter. Jarvis was a meteorologist at BRO who retired in the 1980s. They also met with one of US Rep. Solomon Ortiz's district aides.



ITO James Raley and Senior Forecaster Jeff Philo judged an annual elementary science fair at Stillman Middle School in Brownsville. Over 300 students displayed their experiments to impress the 30 judges from the Brownsville community. This event continues to grow each year...and now requires the use of three local schools to hold the event. Students were very curious about the science of Meteorology and its impact on their lives. In late May, DAPM Jim Campbell and SOO Kurt VanSpeybroeck presented the Laptop WES and discussed career opportunities to 200 students from Lopez-Riggins Elementary in Los Fresnos, Texas. At least 70% of the students were of Hispanic descent and several spoke Spanish as their primary language.

WFO Birmingham Participates in Earth Day Event. Birmingham DAPM Dave Wilfing, Intern Jessica Smith, and Lead Forecaster Faith Borden participated in the annual Earthday activities in Selma, Alabama. Once again, a very successful event was held, with over 1500 elementary grade students and teachers in attendance from throughout the county. The students learned about the 3 R's: Recycle, Reuse, and Reduce (waste). WFO Birmingham's tornado chamber was a big hit, and students had no idea they were learning about safety rules and severe weather as they played with the machine.

ATOMS in Action. The Aviation Team of the Mid South (ATOMS – Comprised of WFO Memphis and CWSU Memphis) participated in several outreach events in early June. On the 8th, WCM Scott Cordero teamed with CWSU MIC Doug Boyette in presenting a seminar to 10 teachers enrolled in the Aerospace Studies Program at the University of Memphis. Scott gave an overview of weather hazards and the NWS warning and forecast program, while Doug narrowed the focus to weather hazards affecting aviation and how NWS products daily support the National Airspace System. The group also visited the CWSU during their tour of the Memphis ARTCC on June 15th. On the 10th, Doug Boyette presented a seminar on wind shear to about 70 pilots at the Jonesboro Regional Airport. The event was hosted by former Memphis TV meteorologist Mark Frankum, now the operator of flight training schools both in Jonesboro, AR and Jackson, TN.

WFO New Orleans Partners with Dow Chemical on Hurricane Preparedness. In late spring, WFO New Orleans MIC Paul Trotter participated in a large hurricane exercise at the DOW Chemical Plant located in Plaquemine, Louisiana. One of the largest chemical plants on the Mississippi River, the DOW facility covers more than 14 miles, has 1500 employees, 1500 contractors, and over 1000 support staff. Over 300 different chemical products are generated in the 26 buildings at the plant.

In his presentation to DOW employees, Paul emphasized hurricane-related hazards, the forecast, watch and warning process, track and intensity errors, past storms, and Dr. Gray's proposed above normal forecasts. During the exercise which followed, a CAT 4 hurricane was simulated along a track from the Gulf into Louisiana. Each exercise leader had an action involving family protection, staffing, product staging, and plant capacity. Plant recovery was also exercised in the wake of the simulated storm. Following the presentation, exercise, and a working meeting, DOW officials expressed interest in sharing weather impact information with the NWS concerning winter freezes and summer heat and their effects on DOW's plant operations, personnel, and products.



WFO Lubbock Provides Service to the Blind. At a recent meeting with the South Plains Council of the Blind, WFO Lubbock WCM Brian LaMarre helped the group navigate the LUB web site with the assistance of “JAWS” software. “JAWS” is an acronym for Job Access With Speech, and is the standard software used by those without sight to perform computer functions and navigate websites. As expected, the software was able to fully navigate the website. Brian also demonstrated the features of two NOAA Weather Radios to the group, and stressed the importance of owning an NWR with an audible alarm activation feature. The group expressed great appreciation for the information, as they plan to use software and convert NWS brochures from Adobe format to Braille for distribution to their members.

WFO Lubbock helps celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Robert Robledo, WFO Lubbock HMT, staffed an NWS booth at the Lubbock Ampitheater in support of a 3-day Cinco de Mayo celebration for the community. Robert distributed NWS safety and awareness brochures in both Spanish and English to patrons of the event. After the celebration was complete, and numbers tallied, nearly 4,500 individuals attended the event! In addition to the NWS, other agencies were represented including the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, as well as several local radio stations. Buen trabajo, Robert!

WFO Brownsville MIC Attends Hurricane Town Hall Meeting. WFO Brownsville MIC Andy Patrick attended a South Padre “town hall” meeting on hurricane preparedness in May. Andy gave a short presentation on the NOAA 2005 hurricane outlook, and a summary of the 2004 hurricane season. Andy also answered numerous questions on the structure and hazards of hurricanes. Local government and emergency management officials also gave presentations on evacuation procedures and impacts of storm surge on the island and the city of Brownsville. Over 200 people attended this meeting.

WFO Birmingham Participates in Senior Officials Workshop. WCM Jason B. Wright and Lead Forecaster Mark Rose participated in the first annual Senior Officials Workshop for Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Incident Preparedness on April 26, 2005 in Birmingham, Alabama. Attendees represented a variety of federal, state, and local government agencies. Two “Blueprints for Preparedness” were featured: The Branch Davidian Siege, Feb. 93 – April 93, and the Oklahoma City Federal Building Bombing. In addition to participating in the group discussions, Jason and Mark staffed an NWS Birmingham booth and provided information on the NWS and its Birmingham operations.

WFO Amarillo Participates in Business Connection 2005. For the fourth year in a row, WFO AMA participated in the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce annual Business Connection 2005 on May 3rd. Held at the Amarillo Civic Center, the event was attended by nearly 400 vendors and approximately 10,000 visitors. Of these, nearly 1000 people visited the Amarillo NWS booth.

Equity Broadcasting Talks about the Weather. WFO Little Rock WCM John Robinson provided an 8 1/2 minute taped interview for Equity Broadcasting’s monthly public affairs program. The weather segment, in which John discussed topics from hurricanes, winter storms, to severe weather, will air on approximately 25 Equity stations weekly during the month of July.



Airtimes vary from station to station, but are typically Saturday or Sunday. These stations are primarily affiliated with the WB, UPN, Fox and MTV2 networks.

Tornado Simulator Lures the Crowds in Florida. WFO Melbourne recently staffed a booth, complete with an impressive tornado simulator, at the "Hurricane Exhibition for Learning, Preparation and Safety" (HELPS) at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. Along with the NWS, there were about 70 hurricane safety and preparedness vendors and representatives from state and local agencies. WFO participants had a chance to engage residents of Central Florida who were battered by three (3) hurricanes in 2004. The event, which drew considerable media interest and was considered a huge success, was attended by approximately 5,000 people. One of the most frequently heard comments from attendees was how much the public depended on NWS Melbourne's web page for vital information during the hurricanes.

U.S. Senator Praises NWS at Amateur Radio Meeting. WFO Birmingham DAPM David Wilfing attended and participated in a day long coordination meeting with the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club. The meeting was also attended by U.S. Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama by teleconference. On the call, Senator Shelby praised the dedicated service of amateur radio community and the NWS's support of amateur radio events.

Alabama Amateur Radio Clubs Receive NWS Visits. Several Birmingham staff members and amateur radio operators have made recent outreach contacts with the Alabama HAM community. MIC Jim Stefkovich, KD5HLE, attended a recent Field Day event outside of Birmingham, where he was interviewed by a local TV station on the importance of NWS/HAM relationships. WCM Jason B. Wright, KG4AGV, recently visited the East Alabama Amateur Radio Club in Lee County, while Lead Forecaster Faith Borden, KI4EHQ, attended a Shelby County Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) event. During this last event, Faith got to make her first contact out of the state of Alabama with a group in North Carolina.

WFO HUN Assists with NASA Educator's Workshop. During the month of June, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center held several Educator's Workshops for educators across the southeast United States. On Friday, June 17th, WFO HUN SOO Chris Darden provided a presentation on the history of the National Weather Service and a tour of the WFO to 18 professors from Jacksonville State University. On June 23rd, WFO Huntsville hosted eight educators from Memphis-area public schools. Chris provided the teachers with a tour of the office and included educational materials for their classes, including age specific Powerpoint presentations and handouts.

TsunamiReady Efforts Underway at WFO Tampa. On June 6th, WFO Tampa WCM Dan Noah presented a 30 minute tsunami and TsunamiReady presentation at the WFO's annual Media Seminar to 12 major television, radio and news print outlets from the Tampa, St. Pete, Sarasota and Ft. Myers media markets. Dan promoted the NWS TsunamiReady Program and the efforts to make communities "ready" to react to this low frequency but high impact natural phenomenon.

Tsunami Information Hand Delivered at Indian Harbour Beach. WFO Melbourne coordinated the mass mailing of 3,500 packets of Tsunami safety and preparedness information



with the City Manager of Indian Harbour Beach. The mailings were geared toward educating the public about the dangers of tsunamis, a required outreach guideline in the NWS TsunamiReady Program.

South Texas Hurricane Preparedness and Outreach. WFO Corpus Christi WCM John Metz, SOO Ron Morales, (MET) Jason Runyen, and (SCEP) Jennifer Salato recently conducted over 25 Hurricane Preparedness talks to various industries, local officials, universities, civic groups, city marinas, and media.

John hosted a workshop for television weathercasters at the City of Corpus Christi Emergency Operations Center on June 7. Turnout was excellent and included a representative from every television station Victoria to Laredo. He also participated in a live, hour long television program on Hurricane Preparedness, hosted by CBS Action 10 News in Corpus Christi, and a 30 minute television special on Hurricanes, hosted TV-25 in Victoria. Several other live radio interviews were also conducted in the Corpus Christi and Victoria markets.

WFO Corpus Christi Participates in World Ocean Day. WFO Corpus Christi participated in the 13th Annual World Ocean Day event held on June 6th at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi. Over 1,600 visitors were in attendance. Visitors were treated to a large NWS display area that presented information and pictures related to hurricanes, coastal flooding and severe weather. Aside from answering questions about weather and the NWS, John Metz and Mike Gittinger made a special presentation covering various oceanographic, climatological and meteorological topics. HMT Steve Smart, ITO Joel Veeneman, Forecaster Mike Gittinger and WCM John Metz worked hard to make the event a great success. WFO CRP has already been invited to participate in next year's event. For a complete summary and photo's of the event visit the CRP website at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/stories/wod/world.html>

Spaceflight Meteorology Group Leads Weather Training Class. The NWS Spaceflight Meteorology Group conducted weather training for new NASA Flight Directors on June 17, 2005. The half-day training session focused on products and services, meteorological tools available to SMG forecasters, and Mission Control Center weather displays available to Flight Directors. Five new Flight Directors attended this training class. The SMG staff provided briefings and interactive demonstrations on weather support operations and flight rules, as well as radar, satellite, and wind data. The session concluded with the new Flight Directors participating in a hands-on simulated mission weather briefing conducted by SMG training coordinator Wayne Baggett. Based on the weather information at hand, with No-Go weather observed and forecast at both Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Edwards AFB in California, the Flight Directors decided to land the (simulated) Space Shuttle at White Sands, NM. The relatively informal, hands-on nature of this weather class resulted in very positive reviews by the attendees. Several Flight Directors requested this class be conducted on an annual basis. SMG "instructors" included Wayne Baggett, Dan Bellue, Frank Brody, Tim Garner, Brian Hoeth, and Richard Lafosse. ASA Tammi Barreras provided logistical support.



WFO Baton Rouge/New Orleans Observes Louisiana's Flood Awareness Month. On April 12, 2005, Patricia Brown, Senior Service Hydrologist for WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge LA gave a presentation on the National Weather Service's Hydrology Program, Products, and Services to the citizens of Ascension Parish in observance of Louisiana's Flood Awareness Month. The month of April was proclaimed by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco as Flood Awareness Month to remind our citizens that flooding is a natural disaster that can occur at any time over Louisiana. As part of the public awareness program, the Ascension Public Library and the Amite River Basin Commission sponsored a public meeting to inform the citizens about ways and activities to minimize flood damages as well as to provide information about services, programs and assistance provided by federal state, and local governments and institutions.

FOUR CORNERS OUTREACH FOR KIDS. On April 26 and 27, WFO Albuquerque forecaster Kerry Jones and SOO Dierdre Kann hosted an activity at the 10th Annual San Juan Basin Water Fair. They revamped their "Weather or Not" module to include several hands-on activities. They hosted 18 classes, each with 20-24 students, with each session lasting 25 minutes. Nearly 400 fifth graders from the Four Corners area now understand how water in the atmosphere is transformed into clouds and rain, and how rainfall in our mountainous terrain can result in flash floods. More details about the event are available on ABQ web site:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/officeinfo/WaterFestivals/FarmingtonWaterFair.htm>

Southern Region NOAA Weather Radio Presentation. On June 8th, representatives from Southern Region's CRS/NWR Group traveled to Van Horn, Texas and met with officials associated with the West Texas Rio Grande Council of Governments. During the meeting, Joe Villescaz and Mike Mach gave a formal presentation on NOAA Weather Radio. The presentation covered tips and ideas on how the council could be best served in their desire to establish a NWR station to the much needed area of West Texas. Participants expressed their sincere gratitude for the guidance and expertise that Mr. Villescaz and Mr. Mach were able to provide.

WFO Amarillo Participates in Business Connection 2005. WFO Amarillo participated in the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce annual Business Connection 2005 on May 3rd. The event was held at the Amarillo Civic Center and was a huge success with nearly 400 vendors on hand and nearly 10,000 visitors. Approximately 1000 people visited the NWS booth. The Chamber of Commerce officials touted the success of the event as having the largest number of attendees and vendors ever. WFO Amarillo has staffed a booth at the event for the last four years.





Photo courtesy of Amarillo Globe News...*

WCM Steve Drillette and HMT Steve Bilodeau answer a question from a local citizen at the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Business Connection 2005 held on May 3rd. Nearly 10,000 people attended the annual event.

Outreach Efforts for WFO Brownsville. At the end of April, Senior Forecaster, Matt Lorentson talked to approximately 250 students from the 3rd through 5th grades at R. L. Martin Elementary career day. Matt also did an interview with a local television station that attended the career day and spoke about how such events were excellent opportunities to generate interest in meteorology.

On May 4, Forecaster Mike Castillo and HMT Alfredo Vega represented WFO Brownsville at the United States International Boundary and Water Commission – National Weather Service Coordination meeting at the West Gulf River Forecast Center in Fort Worth, TX. Mike and Alfredo gave a presentation during the meeting on the current drought situation for deep South Texas.

On May 6, SOO Kurt Vanspeybroeck and MIC Andy Patrick staffed a booth at Stillman Middle School at a career fair in Brownsville. Kurt and Andy spoke to approximately 300 6th, 7th and 8th graders, who were mostly of Hispanic descent, about meteorology, science, education and careers. An interesting side note, Andy and Kurt met Jarvis Younger's daughter. Jarvis was a meteorologist at WFO Brownsville and retired in the 1980s. Mr. Younger's daughter was a presenter at the career day also. She is a Probation Officer in Cameron County. While visiting with Kurt and Andy, she reminisced about her days as a wide-eyed child watching her Dad work the radar and experiencing tropical storms in Deep South Texas. Kurt and Andy also met with one of U. S. Representative Solomon Ortiz's district aide.



May 14 was the annual elementary science fair which was held at Stillman Middle School in Brownsville. ITO James Raley and Senior Forecaster Jeff Philo were judges at this annual event. Over 300 students displayed their experiments to impress the 30 judges from the Brownsville community. The event continues to grow each year and now requires the use of 3 local schools to hold the event. Students were every curious about the science of Meteorology and its impact on their lives.

WFO New Orleans Staff Members Recognized. On May 5 WFO New Orleans participated with many other New Orleans-area government agencies and bureaus in the 2005 Public Service Recognition Week Training and Distinguished Service Awards Program. Attendees for the training were MIC Paul Trotter, Forecaster Tim Destri, ASA Paula Bolline and SSH Pat Brown. Two separate training sessions provided participants with pertinent information for building job skills and maintaining high achievement in the workplace and all aspects of life. Conducted concurrently, the sessions were (1) Motivation – Position Yourself to Win and (2) Presentation Skills – How to Shine at Meetings and in Front of Groups.

The luncheon was the culminating Public Service Recognition Week activity. The keynote speaker was Mrs. Phyllis Taylor, Chairman and CEO of Taylor Energy and Oil Exploration.

The luncheon honored recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards from metropolitan New Orleans' federal workplace. The Distinguished Service Awards are given to civilian, postal, and military personnel, whose exemplary commitment and accomplishments merit special recognition. Three employees from WFO New Orleans were recognized this year as Honorable Mentions: Tim Destri for Outstanding Community Volunteer; Patricia Brown for Outstanding Federal Manager; and Paula Bolline for Outstanding Administrative Employee.

RFC Fort Worth Attends Career/Field Day. On May 20 Hydro Tech Jo Ann Lewis attended and participated in the I. M. Terrell Elementary School Career/Field Day activities. The day proved to be graduation day for 22 graduating 5th graders who were awarded an NWS cloud chart.

You Make the Call. WFO Midland/Odessa SOO Jeffrey Cupo has been on the team developing and implementing the *You Make the Call* since last year and is not co-lead, along with WFO Jacksonville SOO Pete Wolf. According to Jeff and Pete, science sharing is an important part of the job in the national Weather Service. “We owe it to the organization to spread what we know to each other if we are to benefit from each other’s experiences. If we continue to do things the same way, no progress can ever be measured,” according to Jeff.

The *You Make the Call* section of the SRH Intranet <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/hmtc/hmtc.html> is a web page where folks can learn useful tidbits of information regarding many different facets of our workplace, including meteorology, leadership, administrative support, data acquisition, and electronics. The meteorology section contains mini-WES cases, where students are challenged to quickly “make the call” in a meteorological event, given only a few bits of information. This idea was conceived from the “*You Make the Call*” advertisements during football games on TV back in



the eighties where you were given part of a game, the time freezes, and you must “make the call” concerning whether some rule was violated.

Hats off to the dedication of Jeffrey Cupo and Pete Wolf in assuring that knowledge is never more than a click away!

WFO Miami Participates in Hurricane Workshop. On May 19, MIC Rusty Pfof participated in a day-long “Pruning for Hurricane Season” workshop at the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service Office in Homestead. Rusty gave a presentation on the outlook for the 2005 hurricane season to the group.

WFO San Angelo Donates Time to American Red Cross. WCM Hector Guerrero volunteered to help the American Red Cross pass out all hazards safety information to customers at Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse on Saturday June 4. The group distributed brochures on weather, terrorism, fires and various other disasters. Hector also had the opportunity to explain the information in Spanish to a few visitors.

MIC Buddy McIntyre set up a booth and distributed weather safety information at Goodfellow Air Force Base Safety Day on May 26. A diverse group of students stationed at the base from across the country, many of whom experienced their first severe thunderstorm the night before, stopped by the booth for the safety information.

WFO Tallahassee Reaches Out to Lots. During May WFO TAE partnered with WJHG-TV to provide four “town Meeting” hurricane preparedness discussions, in conjunction with partners in emergency management, law enforcement, as well as private utility and home products companies. Two of the meetings had over 100 in attendance.

Various WFO TAE personnel provided weather safety and preparedness presentations, weather safety talks, and spotter training during May and June.

On May 26 MIC Paul Duval and SOO Irv Watson attended a “Partners Appreciation Luncheon” hosted by the Clear Channel Network, which included emergency management personnel from six Florida Panhandle counties, and representatives from three TV stations and one radio station in the eastern Florida Panhandle and southeast Alabama.

In June WCM Bob Goree provided formal spotter training to WCTV-TV personnel, and a group of 24 volunteer observers recruited by the station. Bob had also recently provided similar training for WRXL-TV personnel and a group of 31 volunteer weather observers for the station. On June 8, Bob provided spotter training for 26 volunteer spotters at the Thomas County Georgia Archibald Memorial Hospital.



Cooperative Observer Honored for 65 Years of Public Service.



From left: Joe Arellano, MIC WFO Austin/San Antonio, Mr. Holdsworth (holding award), Mrs. Holdsworth, Dennis Cook, HMT WFO Austin/San Antonio, and Mike Asmus, SR Coop Program Manager. Photo by William Runyon, DAPM WFO Austin/San Antonio.

Mr. John B. Holdsworth (second from left) of Crystal City, TX was awarded the prestigious General Albert J. Myer Award recognizing an extraordinary 65 years of public service as a cooperative observer. In a ceremony at his home on May 4, 2005, the Austin/San Antonio, TX Weather Forecast Office and Southern Region Headquarters honored Mr. Holdsworth for his unparalleled dedication of providing 65 years of continuous accurate and timely data for Crystal City. Since May 1940, Mr. Holdsworth has been the only observer in Crystal City. Every published report ever recorded for Crystal City has come from his station. During World War II, while he served as a weather observer in Alaska for 2 ½ years, his wife Margaret filled in for him. His remarkable contribution also includes his willingness to provide whatever the U. S. Weather Bureau and later the National Weather Service has asked of him from being a network station to reporting river conditions. Thank you Mr. Holdsworth for your many years of service to the National Weather Service.

