



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

March 9, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Leadership Corner: Leadership Communication

By Brian Klimowski, WFO Flagstaff MIC

"The art of communication is the language of leadership." James Humes

What is it about great leaders which set them apart? Most often, it is found that great leaders are also great communicators, who realize the full potential of motivation, vision, and behavior through their communication and people management skills. While good *managers* have appreciation for their power and how to use it toward the mission of the office, great power is not essential for great *leadership*. As John Baldoni said very well, "Leaders require skills in persuasion, compassion, and implied strength. They need to demonstrate and communicate the **leadership message**".

Let's look at four traits needed for an effective **leadership message** – those traits of communication which are important to effectively lead a team, bring about change, inspire high performance, bring a group through an important decision, and simply be the leader that gets things done.

Four traits of the Leadership Message:

Significance: As a leader, your most important messages are about significant issues that reflect the present and future of the organization. A well-versed person, who consistently addresses the important issues of a team or an organization, will gain respect and support for their leadership.

Values: The leadership message must reflect the vision, mission, and culture of the organization or team being led. An effective leader will recognize the power in the shared values of those they are leading, and understand how to best use the culture of the group toward the objectives most effectively. A leader needs to be attentive to the perspective of those they are leading.

Consistency: It is important that the leadership message be consistent. A consistent message is a message which lends little room for miscommunication or misinterpretation.

Cadence: Leaders should communicate with regularity, and frequently. In the same way that a consistent message will have little change of being misunderstood, a message which is received frequently keeps the priority of the leadership message clear, and at an appropriate level.

"In its simplest form, leadership communication is communication that flows from the leadership perspective...it is an expression of culture as well as an indicator of the climate, e.g., openness, integrity, and honesty". J. Baldoni

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week, we are highlighting statements from three WR offices issued prior to and in the midst of a very active period of weather in California. WFOs Eureka and Monterey/San Francisco Bay Area both issued excellent Marine Weather Statements on February 24, two days in advance of a very strong storm system on the California coast. The statements gave mariners a vital heads-up to rapidly deteriorating wind and sea conditions with the developing storm. Information in these statements was very well coordinated. Details were location/time-specific and highly descriptive of the wind and wave hazards. Additionally, both statements emphasized a continuing wave hazard, even after winds were forecast to subside.

WFO Sacramento's Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO), issued February 27, succinctly condensed the most vital information from wind, flood, and winter weather statements and watches. Those individual products totaled 18 different segments, so WFO Sacramento used the HWO as a mechanism for describing in simple terms everything of significance at that time. The information in the HWO was presented in a conversational style, similar to the type of briefing emergency managers would receive on a conference call. They also used the HWO text on NOAA Weather Radio in place of the actual text of the many watches and warnings to reduce broadcast cycle time and potential confusion.

FZUS76 KEKA 242025
MWSEKA

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EUREKA CA
1225 PM PST FRI FEB 24 2006

PZZ450-455-470-475-251400-
PT. ST GEORGE TO CAPE MENDOCINO OUT 20 NM-
CAPE MENDOCINO TO PT. ARENA OUT 20 NM-
PT. ST GEORGE TO CAPE MENDOCINO 20 TO 60 NM-
CAPE MENDOCINO TO PT. ARENA 20 TO 60 NM-
1225 PM PST FRI FEB 24 2006

...INCREASING WIND AND SEAS EXPECTED SUNDAY...

A DEVELOPING PACIFIC STORM SYSTEM FORMING SOUTHWEST OF THE AREA...WILL MOVE NORTH AND PASS JUST WEST OF THE COASTAL WATERS SUNDAY. SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 30 TO 40 KNOTS IN THE COASTAL WATERS BY MIDDAY SUNDAY...WITH GUSTS TO 45 KNOTS LIKELY ACROSS THE OUTER WATERS SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

HEAVY CHOP IN COMBINATION WITH FRESH SOUTHERLY SWELL WILL CREATE STEEP AND HAZARDOUS SEAS LATE SUNDAY THROUGH MONDAY. WINDS WILL EASE MONDAY...BUT RESIDUAL STEEP SOUTHERLY SWELL WILL LINGER IN THE WATERS MOST OF THE DAY MONDAY. COMBINED SEAS WILL BUILD TO 16 TO 18 FEET SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND NIGHT.

MARINERS ARE ADVISED TO REMAIN IN PORT SUNDAY IF POSSIBLE. WIND AND SOUTHERLY SWELL WILL EASE MONDAY AFTERNOON INTO TUESDAY... WITH LONGER PERIOD NORTHWEST SWELL EXPECTED TO REACH OUR WATERS MONDAY AFTERNOON...PERSISTING INTO MID WEEK.

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FZUS76 KMTR 242236
MWMTR

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN FRANCISCO CA
236 PM PST FRI FEB 24 2006

PZZ530-535-550-555-570-575-251400-
/X.NEW.KMTR.MA.S.0003.060224T2236Z-060228T0000Z/
SAN FRANCISCO/SAN PABLO/SUISUN BAYS AND THE WEST DELTA-MONTEREY BAY-
COASTAL WATERS FROM PT. ARENA TO PIGEON PT. CA OUT 20 TO 60 NM-
COASTAL WATERS FROM PIGEON PT. TO PT. PIEDRAS BLANCAS CA OUT 20 NM-WATERS FROM
PT. TO PT. PIEDRAS BLANCAS CA FROM 20 TO 60 NM-
236 PM PST FRI FEB 24 2006

...POWERFUL STORM SYSTEM TO IMPACT THE COASTAL WATERS SUNDAY...

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF FAIR WEATHER ACROSS THE COASTAL WATERS... CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO RAPIDLY DETERIORATE THIS WEEKEND. A POWERFUL STORM SYSTEM IS BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE OVER THE EASTERN PACIFIC...AND WILL APPROACH THE CALIFORNIA COAST BY SUNDAY.

AN AREA OF LOW PRESSURE CURRENTLY CENTERED ABOUT HALFWAY BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII IS EXPECTED TO RAPIDLY STRENGTHEN INTO A FULL FLEDGED STORM BY SUNDAY. THIS STORM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GENERATE WINDS OF UP TO 50 KNOTS ACROSS THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATERS...AS WELL AS THE SAN FRANCISCO AND MONTEREY BAYS.

THE TRAJECTORY OF THIS DEVELOPING STORM WILL GENERATE FRESH SOUTH TO SOUTHWEST SWELLS THAT WILL IMPACT THE COAST BY SUNDAY EVENING. BAYS...PORTS AND HARBORS THAT ARE NORMALLY SHELTERED FROM THE MORE TYPICAL WEST TO NORTHWEST SWELLS...SUCH AS BODEGA BAY...DRAKES BAY...HALF MOON BAY...SANTA CRUZ...AND CAPITOLA...WILL BE EXPOSED TO THESE VERY STEEP SWELLS.

CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO EASE SOMEWHAT MONDAY NIGHT AND TUESDAY...WITH SWELLS TURNING NORTHWEST AND BECOMING LONGER IN PERIOD. MARINERS ARE ADVISED TO REMAIN IN PORT SUNDAY AND MONDAY IF POSSIBLE. PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE MADE FOR VERY STRONG WINDS AND STEEP WAVES. STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR YOUR FAVORITE MEDIA OUTLET FOR FURTHER UPDATES ON THIS DEVELOPING WEATHER SITUATION.

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WEAGLE

FLUS46 KSTO 271627 AAA
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HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SACRAMENTO CA
830 AM PST MON FEB 27 2006

CAZ013>019-063-064-066>069-281500-

SHASTA LAKE AREA/NORTHERN SHASTA COUNTY-
BURNEY BASIN/EASTERN SHASTA COUNTY-NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY-
CENTRAL SACRAMENTO VALLEY-SOUTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY-
CARQUINEZ STRAIT AND DELTA-NORTHERN LAKE COUNTIES-
CLEAR LAKE/SOUTHERN LAKE-COUNTY-MOTHERLODE-
EAST FOOTHILLS/NORTH SACRAMENTO VALLEY-
WESTERN PLUMAS COUNTY/LASSEN PARK-WEST SLOPE NORTHERN SIERRA NEVADA-

830 AM PST MON FEB 27 2006

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR INTERIOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

.DAY ONE...TODAY

A POWERFUL PACIFIC STORM WILL BRING PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN...HIGH ELEVATION SNOW AND OCCASIONALLY STRONG WINDS TO THE INTERIOR OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TODAY.

GUSTY WINDS ARE EXPECTED TODAY. A WIND ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FOR MOST OF NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA WITH OCCASIONAL BRIEF GUSTS TO 40 MPH IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY AND GUSTS AS HIGH AS 60 MPH IN EXPOSED MOUNTAIN AREAS. A STRONG COLD FRONT WILL MOVE THROUGH TONIGHT. THIS WILL INCREASE WINDS SO A HIGH WIND WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR TONIGHT FOR COASTAL MOUNTAINS...THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS OF SHASTA COUNTY...THE SIERRA...THE NORTHEAST PLATEAU...THE SAN JOAQUIN AND SACRAMENTO VALLEYS...AND THE DELTA.

SNOW LEVELS TODAY WILL RANGE FROM 6500 FEET OVER PLUMAS COUNTY TO 8000 FEET IN THE CENTRAL SIERRA...BUT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE COLD FRONT TONIGHT SNOW LEVELS WILL PLUMMET. BY MORNING THEY ARE EXPECTED TO LOWER TO 3500 FEET OR LOWER IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SHASTA COUNTY AND THE COASTAL RANGE AND TO 4000 FEET OR LOWER IN THE SIERRA. AS A RESULT...A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT TODAY FOR THE HIGHER MOUNTAINS OF THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL SIERRA...WHILE A WINTER STORM WATCH FOR WET HEAVY SNOW AND STRONG WINDS IS IN EFFECT FOR THE MOUNTAINS OF INTERIOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AS SNOW LEVELS DROP TONIGHT.

RAIN CONTINUES TO FALL AT TIMES...WITH OCCASIONALLY HEAVY AMOUNTS. AS THE STORM CONTINUES...SMALL STREAMS ARE EXPECTED TO OVERFLOW AND LOW LYING AREAS WILL SEE PONDING OF WATER. A FLOOD WATCH HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR ALL OF NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA. THE WATCH BEGINS AT NOON FOR ALL OF NORTHERN COASTAL RANGE...THE MOUNTAINS OF SHASTA COUNTY...THE NORTHEAST PLATEAU...THE NORTHERN SIERRA... AND THE NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY. THE WATCH AREA WILL SPREAD SOUTH TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND DELTA...THE NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY...AND THE CENTRAL SIERRA THIS EVENING.

ANOTHER THREAT FOR NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA IS THUNDERSTORMS...ESPECIALLY WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE COLD FRONT TONIGHT.

* HIGH WIND WATCH.....SEE WWUS76 KSTO - NPWSTO FOR DETAILS *

* WIND ADVISORY.....SEE WWUS76 KSTO - NPWSTO FOR DETAILS *

* WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY....SEE WWUS46 KSTO - WSWSTO FOR DETAILS *

* FLOOD WATCH.....SEE WGUS66 KSTO - FFASTO FOR DETAILS *

* WINTER STORM WATCH.....SEE WWUS46 KSTO - WSWSTO FOR DETAILS *

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

A COLD FRONT WILL MOVE THROUGH THE AREA BY EARLY TUESDAY MORNING AND LOWER LEVELS. COLD AND UNSETTLED WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTO THE START OF THE WEEKEND.

.SPOTTER INFORMATION STATEMENT...

WEATHER SPOTTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT WEATHER CONDITIONS TO THEIR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER STATEMENT OFFICE.

THE LATEST WEATHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT (LOWER CASE) :
[HTTP://WWW.WRH.NOAA.GOV.STO](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto)
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Aviation Program: A regional CWSU MIC meeting was held in Salt Lake City on March 2-3. The main purpose of the meeting was to identify short term CWSU actions to improve services for the FAA. The first action for the CWSUs is to install the FX-Net client, and test the systems functionality within the Air Traffic Control Center. Additional items covered during the meeting included WRH support, travel and PCS costs, IT security, and web support.



Hydrologist Jeff Koops discusses flood products issued for the San Francisco Bay area.

San Francisco Bay Media Workshop: WFO Monterey conducted a media workshop Feb. 22 at its Satellite Field Office located within the Department of Geosciences at San Francisco State University.

The event summarized the QPF and flood diagnostic, forecast and warning products the office issued during the New Year's weekend storm and flood event. Media also learned about the satellite office's usefulness as a media and training center, using the 12 laptop workstations tied into an overhead projection system. Faculty members and students also attended the presentation.

WFO Las Vegas Participates in T-REX Studies: The Terrain-induced Rotor Experiment (T-REX) is the second phase of a coordinated effort to explore the structure and evolution of atmospheric rotors as well as associated phenomena in complex terrain. T-REX field activities are taking place during March and April in Owens Valley, CA, where mountain waves and attendant rotors are known to reach particularly striking amplitude and strength. Vanda Grubusic from the Desert Research Institute is the main project coordinator.

The main scientific objective of T-REX is a comprehensive study of the coupled mountain-wave, rotor, and boundary-layer system. The comprehensive T-REX data sets will represent a unique test bed for the validation of numerical models, and are expected to be instrumental in achieving further significant

improvements in mesoscale and microscale modeling and in the prediction of aviation hazards, downslope windstorms, and aerosol transport and dispersion.

WFO Las Vegas is providing meteorological support to T-REX including daily detailed briefings for the science director, principal investigators, and other scientific participants through the T-REX data catalog and during the daily science planning meeting via conference call. WFO Las Vegas's support will play a key role in determining when to deploy the full assets of the program including three research aircraft. WFO Las Vegas science team of John Adair, Barry Pierce and Stan Czyzyk will provide support, although the entire forecast staff will contribute.

T-REX is a multi-national effort with a variety of ground- and airborne-based instrumentation. T-REX also serves as the inaugural project for the new NSF/NCAR Gulfstream-V aircraft. The majority of instrumentation will be located in the Owens Valley. Other T-REX platforms include the University of Wyoming's King Air aircraft (based in Bishop, CA), the British BAe-146 aircraft (based in Fresno) and the NCAR Gulfstream-V (based in Boulder, CO).



(L to R): Rick Dittmann (WFO Great Falls WCM), Ken Ronish (Fergus County Commissioner), Karen Marks, Fergus (County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator), Steve Brueske (WFO Great Falls MIC), and Monique Lay (Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Public Information Officer and Montana StormReady Advisory Board Member)

Fergus County, MT, Now StormReady: WFO Great Falls presented Fergus County officials with StormReady road signs on Feb. 23.

MIC Steve Brueske and WCM Rick Dittmann presented the signs to Fergus County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, Karen "Tootie" Marks, and Fergus County Commissioner, Ken Ronish. Montana StormReady Advisory Board Member Monique Lay, the Public Information Officer for the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services was also present for the ceremony in front of the historic Fergus County Courthouse in Lewistown before local television, radio and newspaper media.

Ms. Marks and her staff used fundraisers to buy and distribute NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receivers in public facilities throughout the county.

Pacific NW Aviation Conference and Trade Show: The Pacific NW Aviation Conference and Trade Show was held at the Western Washington Fairgrounds new exhibition and conference center in Puyallup. Displays included a NOAA National Weather Service booth manned by Washington and Oregon forecast offices. Forecasters Todd Lericos and Matt Fugazzi (WFO Spokane), Clinton Rockey (WFO Portland), Gordon Hepburn (WFO Pendleton) and Danny Mercer, Dana Felton, and Dustin Guy (WFO Seattle) staffed the booth for the 2-day event. NWS aviation products and services were shown, including use of a laptop with live Internet service to demonstrate many on-line products, as well as other NWS products and service materials. About 13,000 people attended this year's event, the greatest attendance ever.

WFO Addresses Crop Convention: Glen Sampson, MIC at WFO Tucson gave a presentation to the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) convention on Jan. 19 at the request of NAICC organizing officials. Topics discussed were the NDFD, advances in climate forecasts, and the availability of probabilistic forecasts. Approximately 60 people attended this session during the convention, which included about 700 participants.



Logan, UT, Recognized as StormReady: The City of Logan, UT, was recognized as a StormReady community during a city council meeting on Feb. 21. Logan became the fourth Utah community to earning the distinction, joining Tooele County, Tooele Army Depot, and San Juan County. MIC Dr. Larry Dunn and WCM Kevin Barjenbruch presented StormReady signs and a certificate to the city representatives.

(L to R) WFO Salt Lake City's MIC Dr. Larry Dunn presents StormReady materials to Will Lusk, Logan Safety/Environmental Health manager, and Randy Watts, Logan mayor.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Successful HMT Stopping Early: The OAR Hydromet Test-bed (HMT) is currently completing the 14th Intensive Operating Period (IOP). So far, the HMT has captured several impressive meteorological and hydrological events on the American River near Sacramento. Nearly 45 inches of precipitation have fallen in the target area near Blue Canyon (located in the Sierras between Reno and Sacramento) since the HMT started last December. Since all of the science objectives have been achieved and the HMT budget is limited, OAR has decided to stop the HMT three weeks early. A project summary will be scheduled for early April. Planning will start in a few months for next years HMT activities. A special thanks to the CNRFC HAS group for their daily HMT briefings!

RTMA: The Real time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) data will begin flowing to the offices late this month. The RTMA data sets have been developed through a joint effort at NCEP with cooperation from OAR, NESDIS and the University of Utah. The initial fields will be temperature, dew point, wind, and sky cover. SSD is working on a mod-note and testing at Seattle Forecast Office. The RTMA is the first step in the much larger effort called the Analysis of Record (AOR).

Gridded MOS: MDL is currently implementing a new set of enhancement to the gridded MOS fields. SSD has transmitting this data through the WR WAN to the three WR evaluation offices. The offices are Medford, Monterey, and Missoula.

DMIP-2 has Begun: The National Weather Service announced the launch of the second phase of the Distributed Model Intercomparison Project (DMIP 2). The evaluation of next generation hydrology models will focus on the Oklahoma area and the American and Carson basins of the Sierras near Reno. For more information, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hrl/dmip/2/index.html>

FX-NET Upgrade: The FX-NET upgrade is nearly complete in preparation for the 2006 fire weather season. FSL (Jebb Steward) is finishing up the last of the server configuration changes. A new client will be issued to the IMETs.

Additional NWS Training Classes: A one time only supplement to the NWS training budget was approved last week. The additional training classes and activities are:

Resident Courses and Workshops

- Climate Services Operations 1 class
- Climate Variability
- CRS Maintenance
- DATAC
- Field Operations Management
- Management and Supervision
- Fall Protection and Rescue
- RFC Workshops
- VISIT Teletraining
- Admin Staff Training
- LINUX
- Canadian Alpine Class
- Additional Leadership Class—Different Vendor

New Training

- Boundary Layer Symposia
- Spill Prevention
- CPR/First Aid
- DLAC-2/Simulation on WES
- Public/Private Partnership (NWSHQ)
- LMS Support
- AMS Journals
- Effective Writing (NWSHQ)

WR Gridded Verification: The verification project is just about ready to start. The plan has been submitted to the Union Impact and Implementation (I&I) process, as part of the regional IFPS decision process. All of the Mod-notes are ready to go. The proposed sets of instructions are:

Proposed Implementation Table

Step	Description	Mod-Note	Install time	Initial Training (web module)	User Training
1a	Clean up decoding and ingest of Mesowest data	WR06-003	1 hour	NA	NA
1b	Update MatchObsAll tool to latest version (v 0.98)	NA	1 hour	NA	NA

2	Install the QC Tool Mod-note	WR06-004	1 hour	yes	yes (1)
3	WR version of BOIVerify	WR06-005	3 hours	yes	yes(2)

* Will use off-week SOO/DOH conference calls to introduce/roll out each Mod-Note.

Upcoming Science Workshops

Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop – March 21-24: The National Weather Service Climate Services Division, in conjunction with the University of Arizona Climate Assessment for the Southwest and Arizona Cooperative Extension, is hosting the Fourth Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop (CPASW) at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, Arizona, on March 21-24, 2006. <http://cals.arizona.edu/climate/CPASW2006/index.htm>

Great Divide Workshop – Oct 3-5: The 10th Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana on October 3-5, 2006. WFOs Billings and Glasgow are sponsoring this workshop focusing on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. A call for papers and registration information will be made available during the spring of 2006.

More information can be obtained by contacting the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Billings, Montana at 406-652-0851, or in Glasgow, Montana at 406-228-4042. You can also email any questions to wr.great.divide.workshop@noaa.gov.

New WR Science Publications

WR TA-Lite 06-13

Critical Lightning Induced Wildfire Patterns for the Western Great Basin

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/talite0613.pdf>

By Rhett Milne, WFO Reno

Training Update

SHYMet for Interns Course: The Intern track of the Satellite Hydrology and Meteorology (SHyMet) Course will touch on Geostationary and Polar orbiting satellite basics (aerial coverage and image frequency), identification of atmospheric and surface phenomena, and provide examples of the integration of meteorological techniques with satellite observing capabilities. This course will be taught through a combination of web-based instruction and teletraining and will be the equivalent of 16 hours of training.

For NOAA employees, this course will be delivered through the E-Learning Management System (LMS). The first offering of the course will be from April 3 to June 30, 2006 and registration will open March 6, 2006. Registration for NWS employees will be done through their Science and Operations Officer. For WFO interns, offices may substitute this new,

updated satellite training course for the GOES training items listed on the Western Region Intern Progress Report. This course will be offered again in the spring of 2007. <http://e-learning.doc.gov/noaa/>.

AWOC Winter Track Orientation Teletraining Open for Registration: AWOC Facilitators are encouraged to attend the Facilitator Orientation session for AWOC Winter Weather Track. The Orientation session will introduce course facilitators to the Winter Weather track of the AWOC via teletraining. The course will include learning and performance objectives, an outline of instructional components, roles and responsibilities of students and facilitators, course administration (including registration and testing), timelines for delivery, and course completion requirements. Reminder: the AWOC Winter Track is mandatory for all Western Region WFO meteorologists

Registration is now open for the Facilitator Orientation. Sessions are scheduled from April 20, 2006 to June 1, 2006. All members of AWOC Facilitator mailing list have been enrolled in the Orientation session. If you wish to change Facilitators for this version of AWOC, please refer to e-mail from Mark Mollner dated February 10, 2006. To register for your AWOC Winter Track Orientation session go to: <https://wdtb.noaa.gov/security/logon.aspx>

Teletraining Sessions for March: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for March is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The teletraining calendar is now at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp>. The teletraining planning calendar with other sessions is at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html>

The remaining sessions planned for March are:

- GOES Sounder Data and Products (Basic, Mar 14,20)
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products (Basic, Mar 16)
- Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS (RSO 3) (Intermediate, Mar 23,24,28,29)
- Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature (Basic, Mar 31)

Several recorded VISIT session are available via LMS: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>. Then, go to National Weather Service Courses and search on VISIT.

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

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

SOD Program Review: Sean Wink and Joe Lachacz completed an electronics and facilities program review at the WFO in Pendleton.

Computer Room: WRH computer room expansion is complete, and a new computer rack has been installed. The rack is being used for the upgrade of FX-NET.

AWIPS in Portland: Gar Nelson traveled to the NWRFC and attended a meeting with Raytheon and the NWRFC. Discussions were regarding AWIPS at an RFC and database issues.

SOD/WRH Orientation: Jim Chaisson, new Facilities Engineering Technician, visited WRH and spent a couple of days getting acquainted with the Regional Office and the Systems Operations Division.

Safety: Harold Knocke visited the Las Vegas WFO to accompany NOAA Safety and Environmental Inspectors (Joe Duran, Minh Trinh) on the office Tier 1 inspection.

Communications: Steve Keene just completed the phone system and voice mail upgrades at WFO Elko. WFOs Phoenix and Flagstaff are the next offices scheduled for the upgrade the end of March through early April timeframe.

UPS Install: Lee Jenson traveled to WFO Elko to conduct a site survey for the upcoming APC UPS install.