

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

FROM: W/OPS2 - /s/ John Van Kuren

SUBJECT: Operational Acceptance Test Report for the Radiosonde Replacement System, December 2005

The attached report describes the results of the Operational Acceptance Test (OAT) for the Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS). The RRS using modern technology is the replacement for the current Automated Radio Theodolite (ART) system used to collect and process upper air data. The OAT was conducted under the guidelines of the Operational Acceptance Test Plan for the Radiosonde Replacement System dated July 2005.

The RRS OAT was successfully conducted between August 1, 2005 and November 4, 2005, at four Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) [WFO Sterling, VA; WFO Chanhassen, MN; WFO Salt Lake City, UT; and WFO Corpus Christi, TX]. Upper air products from the four OAT sites were transmitted to the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) for use in their weather models. Upper air sounding data was sent to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) after each synoptic flight for archiving and use in NCDC products.

The RRS OAT Test Review Group recommends the following items be addressed and validated by means of a Follow-on OAT (F-OAT) prior to the start of the full RRS deployment:

- **All Impact 1 and 2 System Issue Reports (SIRs) are corrected;**
- **There is correction in and better quality control of radiosondes;**
- **A staffed RRS Help Desk is implemented;**
- **There is confirmation by the Upper Air User Community they are satisfied with the RRS data products for timeliness, reliability, and usability.**

Samuel Cochran, W/OPS24, is the RRS OAT director. Questions or comments should be directed to Sam by e-mail at Samuel.Cochran@noaa.gov; facsimile 301-713-0912; or telephone 301-713-0326 x112.

Attachment

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