

ASOS OT&E TRG Meeting

February 2, 2012

Attendees

NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD:	U.S. Navy
Joe Fiore OPS24	Ron Heatherdale
Peggy Hoch OPS23	
Hak Kim OPS23	
Toni Remy OPS23	
Rick Parry OPS22	U.S. Air Force
Chet Schmitt OPS22	No participants
Jennifer Dover OPS22 SFSC	
Khien Nguyen OPS24	
Aaron Poyer OPS24	NCAR
Greg Dalyai OPS12	No participants
Sergio Marsh OS7	
Barb Burgos AOMC	
NWS Regions and WFOs	FAA
Jim Durr Alaska Region	Bing Huang
Bob Brashears Central Region	
Robert Weaver Central Region	
Bruce Cromell Eastern Region	
Dave Eckberg Eastern Region	
Mike Esip Eastern Region	
Matt Ferrell Eastern Region	
Kevin Murray Eastern Region	
Tim Rutkowski Eastern Region	
John Bush Pacific Region	
Steve Butler Pacific Region	
Alan Lowe Pacific Region	
David Meek Pacific Region	
Scott Birch Western Region	
Adam Mathis Western Region	
Son Nguyen Western Region	

On Thursday, February 2, 2012 the National Weather Service Test & Evaluation Branch (OPS24) and Software Branch (OPS23) hosted the ASOS V3.05 OT&E TRG Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the ASOS Software V3.051 (1st debug load) Limited OT&E, any Test Trouble Reports (TTRs) from V3.051 OT&E to date, and the ongoing V3.05 test for password changes.

DISCUSSIONS:

Status – Limited V3.051 OT&E

Joe Fiore led the meeting and began by giving the status of the V3.051 Limited OT&E debug load.

As of January 30, none of the three Limited OT&E sites running the ASOS V3.051 debug load have reported any “Missing Pressure” message. Some “Pressure Sensor Response Timeout” and “Cabinet Temperature out of Range” messages were reported in the SYSLOG at SCA sites. The “Cabinet Temperature out of Range” message in the SYSLOG is not valid if seen immediately after report processing has been turned on. This issue will be fixed in ASOS V3.06.

New TTR 309 – Unexplained Freezing Rain Sensor Timeouts

Rob Weaver helped identify the issue of unexplained freezing rain sensor timeouts at ANJ - Sault Ste. Marie, MI. OPS24 will review the SYSLOGS from the other V3.05/V3.051 OT&E sites to see if this message has been seen at any other sites. Joe Fiore reported that he reviewed the SYSLOG and determined that there was no meteorological reason for this de-ice. Hak Kim stated that this de-ice was a clamp de-ice. The frequency was 39972; there was no freezing rain and nothing on the probe. Kevin Murray inquired if there will be enough instances during the OT&E to verify freezing rain events. Joe Fiore stated that three good instances of freezing rain and mixed freezing rain and snow to test the ice accretion algorithm have been verified at Guadalupe Pass but more freezing rain events are still needed. TTR 309 has been placed as a “watch item”. Joe asked the V3.05 OT&E sites to verify that the Ice Accretion Remark has been set to ON by the System Manager (SYS) via the REVUE-SITE-PHYS page.

Status of Password Changes for Central and Western Regions

On January 24 three sites in the Central Region successfully changed their passwords, CDJ (Chillicothe, MO), ANJ (Sault Ste., Marie, MI), and P28 (Medicine Lodge, KS). On January 25 two sites in the Western Region were scheduled to change their passwords, P68 (Eureka, NV) and SMP (Stampede Pass, WA). P68 successfully changed the password, however SMP was unable to change the passwords due to bad weather. Aaron Poyer reported that there has not been any reliable data from SMP since December 23.

Joe Fiore mentioned that the AOMC had some trouble tickets stating “AOMC unable to dial into V3.05 sites due to password issues”. It was determined that some of the AOMC technicians may not have read an email before the event which was sent out by the

AOMC Manager pertaining to the password changes. Barbara Burgos (OPS32) will check with AOMC on this issue.

Data Analysis Summary

Joe Fiore stated that they have obtained a great deal of METAR/SPECI observations that contain many of the improvements in V3.05. Joe reported that 100% of the improvements/OTR fixes in V3.05 have been validated. He also reported that 50% of the Meteorological Algorithm improvements have been validated. One very good Ice Accretion event has been validated, and several frost events were also validated. The group expressed concern that freezing rain and freezing drizzle events may not be able to be tested because of the mild winter in the U.S, and the delay of OT&E Phase 2.

OT&E Phase 2, V3.06

Peggy Hoch asked if the FAA was ready for Phase 2 of the OT&E. Bing Huang reported that the FAA had stopped work on training materials due to the software problems found during the V3.05 OT&E, and an assumption that the software may not be deployed. Peggy stated that the OT&E Phase 2 will move forward; and if all goes well; the plan is to deploy the software at all sites. Bing then asked for a System Test plan for V3.06. The plan is being drafted by Khien Nguyen and will be provided to the FAA for review.

Currently V3.051 debug load is running well but will not be fielded operationally. If V3.051 continues to perform well without any problems, then the OT&E will continue with ASOS V3.06 after a successful V3.06 System Test (ST). ASOS V3.06 contains fixes for five TTRs that were found in V3.05 and one RC – RC 12510 (TTR 207).

- TTR 294 – Extraneous Zero's in AUDLOG
- TTR 295 – Pressure Data Missing and Pressure Sensor Response Timeouts
- TTR296 – “T” Group not Included in the SPECI Report
- TTR 297 – TEC Ability to Remotely Clear Pressure Sensor DQ Errors or Pressure Sensor Response Timeouts and Restore Pressure
- TTR 307 – Cabinet Temp Missing in 10-sec Pressure Archive After Report Processing Turned On
- RC – 12510- Reduce Warm Starts by FTI Comms (TTR 207)

If any other critical TTRs are found in the V3.051 debug load, they will also be included in V3.06. ASOS V3.051 will continue running at the limited OT&E sites until February 9. If no “pressure missing” errors occur then V3.06 System Test (ST) will begin on February 10, running over that weekend. Test procedures will start the week of February 13 and ST will continue for about 3-4 weeks. If there are no critical TTRs found during the V3.06 ST then the OT&E will follow, starting with existing sites and adding FAA sites. The V3.06 OT&E Phase 1 will run for approximately one month.

If there are no problems with the V3.06 OT&E Phase 1, and the FAA has successfully completed all of their training and union negotiations, then Phase 2 can begin at the FAA Phase 2A sites, followed by FAA Phase 2 sites. V3.06 OT&E Phase 2 would continue until enough meteorological events have been captured (per an ACCB/APMC decision) to successfully verify the algorithms.

Field/Regional Questions & Discussions

Rob Weaver asked which TTRs will be included in V3.06. These are listed above in “OT&E Phase 2, V3.06”.

The next ASOS V3.05 TRG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2:00-3:30 pm (EST), SSMC-2 Room 4246. The conference call dial in number is 1-877-690-0813; participant pass code – 8521699#.