ASOS OT&E TRG Meeting

March 15, 2012

Attendees

NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD:	**U.S. Navy**
Joe Fiore OPS24	
Hak Kim OPS23	
Toni Remy OPS23	
Richard Parry OPS22	
Chet Schmitt OPS22	**U.S. Air Force**
Jennifer Dover OPS22 SFSC	
Khien Nguyen OPS24	
Thomas Renegar OPS12	
Greg Dalyai OPS12	**NCAR**
Joe Devost OPS12	
Christopher Stark OPS32/AOMC	
NWS Regions and WFOs	**FAA**
Tim Rutkowski Eastern Region	Jerry Kranz
Odell Prince Central Region	Bing Huang
Bob Retzlaff NWS Training Center	
John Bush Pacific Region	
Alan Lowe Pacific Region	
Lewis Harrington Southern Region	
Adam Mathis Western Region	
Son Nguyen Western Region	

On Thursday, March 15, 2012 the National Weather Service Test & Evaluation Branch (OPS24) and Software Branch (OPS23) hosted the ASOS V3.06 OT&E TRG Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the ASOS Software V3.06 Phase 1 OT&E, data analysis results of V3.05 and V3.051 OT&E, and the ASOS Software V3.06 OT&E Phase 2A, and 2B.

DISCUSSIONS:

Status – V3.06 Phase 1 OT&E

Joe Fiore began the meeting by mentioning that 9 sites have now installed ASOS V3.06. NAK - Annapolis, MD, DMH - Maryland Science Center, Baltimore, MD, NYC - Central Park, NY, GDP - Guadalupe Pass, TX, GIF - Winter Haven, FL, 1V4 - St.

Johnsbury, VT, POR - Portage Glacier, AK, TAN - Taunton, MA, and ANJ - Sault Ste Marie, MI. There have not been any problems with V3.06 to date. Some sites had questions about which passwords to use. Joe Fiore informed the group to be sure to use the last password that was used in the previous software version. As mentioned in previous TRG meetings if a site forgets the passwords they must use the chain of command that is in the password flow chart.

Twenty-six sites will participate in ASOS V3.06 Phase 1, including four Navy sites (KJGU, KNKT, KNBS, and KNIP) once NAVY observer and air traffic controller training is completed.

Joe continued with a discussion of the IFW QC algorithm (IFW QC Algorithm Summary prepared by Chet Schmitt is attached). Joe gave a brief description of some events that have occurred and how the algorithm is working as designed. NYC had missing wind data and the IFW QC algorithm correctly put the data in brackets most likely do to turbulence where the IFW sensor is located. Chet explained that with continuing analysis of the data during OT&E if good data is being flagged as bad then the algorithm might have to be amended. So far, the algorithm appears to be working as designed.

Bob Retzlaff from the NWS Training Center asked when an IFW sensor is configured, and the IFW QC algorithm flags the data as erroneous: how long will the data be missing and when can the wind data be expected to be reported again. Rick Parry explained that the wind data will go missing for about 3 minutes. However, Rick said that if a large bird (or some other obstruction in the path of the IFW sensors transducers) blocks the sensors path, the wind data can be missing for an extended period until several minutes after the obstruction is gone. He continued to explain the way the algorithm is designed that approximately 96% of bogus or erroneous winds will be removed from the data. It is possible that 0.17% of good data may be removed, but the benefits outweigh the chance that bad data is being sent. It is better to have no data than bad data. He reiterated Chet's statement that if a lot of good data is being removed then the algorithm may have to be modified. Greg Dalyai pointed out that the algorithm is getting rid of bad data, not observations. Chris Stark expressed concern if a maintenance flag is set then the AOMC will trigger a level one trouble ticket. Rick Parry said that no maintenance flag will be set and the SYSLOG and 14 hr. achieve should be checked to verify the data quality was bad (brackets [ ] around 5 second the wind observations and wind observations in the 12 hour archive. If the missing or erroneous wind data occurs during an hourly METAR or during a SPECI, the wind report will be missing. OPS24 and OPS22 will analyze the frequency of occurrence of erroneous wind data flagged by the algorithm for all sites during the entire OT&E, and the frequency of time that the wind report is missing from a METAR or SPECI when the IFW QC algorithm has flagged and removed bogus wind dat. OPS24 and OPS22 will also attempt to determine how often "good data" is flagged as erroneous by the algorithm.

Data Analysis & Summary of V3.05/V3.051 OT&E

An Interim/Final Report summarizing the Meteorological Events Data Analysis and a summary of many Phase 1 V3.05/V3.051 OT&E improvements/OTR fixes is in progress. The Summary of the Meteorological Data Analysis for V3.05/V3.051 will be sent to the OT&E Data Analysis Test Team for review, and then to the TRG. To date, there have not been any pressure missing messages from sites that have installed V3.051 or V3.06.

OT&E V3.06 – Phase 2A and 2B

Before Phase 2 OT&E begins the TRG will vote on whether Phase 1 of the OT&E was successful (no critical TTR's), and whether to proceed to Phase 2A and 2B with the sites that have observers and air traffic controllers. The start date will also depend on the FAA's completion of training the observers and air traffic controllers on the changes in V3.05/V3.06. Jerry Kranz mentioned the FAA will have a meeting next Tuesday about the training. The FAA has an action item to inform the ASOS OT&E test director and ASOS OT&E manager when they will be ready to begin V3.06 OT&E.

Joe Fiore and Joe Facundo had a meeting regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 of OT&E and will summarize the information to pass on to the group.

Field/Regional Questions & Discussions

Joe Fiore reminded the group that if password contacts information changes to notify Jennifer Dover and the AOMC. Chris Stark assured the group that all AOMC staff has been trained with the proper procedures for a lost password. Joe stated that the passwords will change again. The next password change is scheduled for the Central Region, March 20, and the Western Region March 22. Mickey Renegar is working on a procedure that will reduce manually entering passwords.

The next ASOS V3.06 TRG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2:00-3:30 pm SSMC-2 Room 4246. The conference call dial in number is 1-877-690-0813; participant pass code – 8521699#.