

ASOS OT&E TRG Meeting

May 17, 2012

Attendees

NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD:	U.S. Navy
Neal DiPasquale OPS2	
Joe Fiore OPS24	
Joe Facundo OPS22	
Rick Parry OPS22	U.S. Air Force
Chet Schmitt OPS22	Chuck Beebe
Jennifer Dover OPS22 SFSC	
Peggy Hoch OPS23	
Hak Kim OPS23	
Toni Remy OPS23	NCAR
Bert Vilorio OPS24	
Greg Dalyai OPS12	
Joe Devost OPS12	
Chris Stark OPS32/AOMC	
NWS Regions and WFOs	FAA
Jim Durr Alaska Region	Cal Smith
Bob Brashears Central Region	Bing Huang
Brian Hirsch Central Region	
Robert Weaver Central Region	
Guy Drebing Eastern Region	
Mike Esip Eastern Region	
Kevin Murray Eastern Region	
Tim Rutkowski Eastern Region	
John Bush Pacific Region	
David Meek Pacific Region	
Lew Harrington Southern Region	
Scott Birch Western Region	
John Knox Western Region	
Adam Mathis Western Region	
Son Nguyen Western Region	
Steve Leedy Western Region	
Dave Jerkins Western Region	
NWS Training Center	
Bob Retzlaff	

On Thursday, May 17, 2012 the National Weather Service Test & Evaluation Branch (OPS24) and Software Branch (OPS23) hosted the ASOS V3.06 Phase 1 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 Summary for V3.05 and V3.051 OT&E and the Options Table on how to proceed to V3.06 Phase 2 OT&E. The TRG was also asked to vote on the following:

If V3.05/3.051/3.06 Phase 1 OT&E was successful
Which option to use for Phase 2 of the V3.06 OT&E.

DISCUSSIONS:

Status – V3.06 Phase 1 OT&E

Joe Fiore began the meeting by mentioning that the status is the same as of the last TRG meeting - 22 Phase 1 NWS/FAA 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
ANJ - Sault Ste Marie, MI
CDJ - Chillicothe, MO
BFD - Bradford, PA
WAL - Wallops Island, VA
ATT - Austin, TX
P68 - Eureka, NV
OLS - Nogales, AZ
OVE - Oroville, CA
BMQ - Burnet, TX
IGX - Chapel Hill, NC
CLM - Poet Angeles, WA
P28 - Medicine Lodge, KS
LOL - Lovelock, NV
UZA - Rock Hill, NC

Since the last report there have not been any pressure missing messages or any other critical issues from the 22 sites that have installed V3.06. The FAA has reported that warm starts due to FTI have decreased significantly as a result of V3.06 installation. Chillicothe, MO (CDJ) reported that the site (an SCA site) is getting messages which indicate the cabinet temperature is out of range. However, within 1 minute the cabinet

temperature is within range and the message goes away. Bob Brashears reported that 2 of 3 sites (CDJ and ANJ) in the Central Region are also experiencing this problem. He is also concerned that if this becomes a more serious issue then it could become a workload problem with the techs. Per Rick Parry, when this occurs the data is reported in brackets [] but the data on the one minute screen never goes missing. Rick further explained if > 25% (2 or more) of the 10 second pressure readings during the previous 1 minute are missing, then the data will be reported as missing on the one minute screen and in the METAR/SPECI reports. This problem cannot be reproduced at Sterling, and could possibly be a hardware problem. This problem has only been experienced at sites with a single cabinet. Tim Rutkowski mentioned that the Eastern Region has 4 single cabinet sites participating in Phase 1 of the OTE and none of those sites have experienced this issue. Joe Facundo said since the data never goes missing then it is not a serious issue, however, this problem will be placed as a watch item TTR. The single cabinet ASOS at Sterling will also be used to simulate a test for this problem. OPS24 will write a TTR on this problem.

Joe Fiore has analyzed the number of occurrences of the "Cabinet Temperature Out of Range" and "Cabinet Temperature Within Range" messages in the SYSLOGs from the 7 SCA sites participating in V3.06 Phase 1 OT&E. The following table summarizes the results as of Friday COB. There was NEVER enough bracketed [] pressure data to cause the pressure to go missing at ANY of the 7 SCA sites.

SCA Site Name	Number of Occurrences	Dates of Occurrence
CDJ : Chillicothe, MO	3	5/8, 5/12, 5/13
ANJ: Sault Ste. Marie, MI	2	5/8, 5/9
P28: Medicine Lodge, KS	1	4/2
DMH: Baltimore Inner Harbor, MD	1	5/1
NYC: Central Park, NY	1	5/15
1V4: St. Johnsbury, VT	0	
P68: Eureka, NV	0	

The Navy has received V3.06 and documentation through the OPS12 secure website. V3.06 has not been installed at the four Navy sites (KJGU, KNKT, KNBS, and KNIP) because the Navy has not completed training of their observers and Air Traffic Controllers on the changes in V3.06. Joe Facundo stated that he will ask the Navy management about the status of the 4 Navy sites preparation for OT&E.

Test Trouble Report (TTR) 318, RVR Remark Not in Body of Observation When Tower Visibility is <= 1 Statute Mile was discussed. After analysis it was determined that Runway Visual Range (RVR) will not be reported in the body of the observation when the tower visibility is <= 1 statute mile, the tower visibility is the prevailing visibility (less than surface visibility), and the **RVR remark is edited**. This problem only occurs when the RVR remark is edited; the problem does not occur if the RVR remark is automated. All other cases of visibility appear to work as designed. This problem occurs in both the latest baseline software (V3.06) as well as older versions of software

(V2.79Y). The FAA has agreed that this problem is not critical and may be fixed in a future software load

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

The data analysis summary was distributed to the TRG for comments. So far, comments have been received from Alaska, Pacific and Southern regions. The Field Systems Operation Center sent their response to the regions’ comments to the TRG.

OT&E V3.06 – Phase 2A and 2B

Before Phase 2 OT&E begins the TRG and ATRB vote on whether Phase 1 of the OT&E was successful (no critical TTR's), and whether to proceed to Phase 2A and 2B at sites with observers and air traffic controllers. There were two votes taken during the TRG meeting. For the first vote, the majority of the TRG voted that Phase 1 of the OT&E was successful, and that the OT&E could move forward into Phase 2 of the V3.06 OT&E. The second vote was to determine which of three options the TRG would take during Phase 2 of the OT&E. The various options were discussed and the OT&E team addressed regional concerns on the options. The number of votes cast by the TRG follows:

- Option 1 - Wrap Up V3.06 for Phase 1 and allow implementation at Level D&O sites - **5**
- Option 2 - Continue OT&E at Phase 1 sites until Phase 2 of the OT&E is complete - **1**
- Option 3 - Add FAA FTI problem sites to Phase 2 of the 3.06 OT&E - **3**

The TRG recommended proceeding with Option #1 - Wrap up V3.06 OT&E for Phase 1 and allowing implementation of V3.06 at Level D and O sites with the regions selecting the sites. The TRG discussed the concern that when a site goes operational after the OT&E concludes, it is no longer supported by the OT&E team. Any issues that arise after the OT&E for an operational site that has installed V3.06 would be directed to the Implementation Manager for assistance. The TRG also agreed to proceed to Phase 2A once the FAA observers and air traffic controllers have completed training on the changes to V3.05/V3.06.

The TRG members voted in the following way:

Name/Organization	Function	Vote 1	Vote 2 OPTION		
			One	Two	Three
Joseph Fiore (W/OPS24)	Test Director	Y	√		
Bing Huang (ATO-T)	FAA Focal Point	Y	√		
Kevin Murray	Eastern Region ASOS Focal Point	Y			√
Lewis Harrington	Southern Region ASOS Focal Point	Y			√
Bob Brashears	Central Region ASOS Focal Point	Y	√		

Scott Birch	Western Region ASOS Focal Point	N			√
James Durr	Alaska Region ASOS Focal Point	Y	√		
John Bush	Pacific Region ASOS Focal Point	Y		√	
Dan Sobien (WFO TBW)	NWS Employee Organization Focal Point	Not present			
Joseph Facundo (W/OPS22)	ISSO (ASOS)	Y	√		
Gerald "Wayne" Knight (SPAWARSYSCEN)	Navy Focal Point	Not present			
Blake Lasher (NCDC)	NCDC Focal Point	Not present			

The TRG recommended to the ATRB that the OT&E proceed to Phase 2. ATRB will meet in the near future to vote on whether to proceed to Phase 2 of the OT&E. The ATRB will then recommend to the ACCB on whether to proceed to Phase 2.

The next step before proceeding is to present the TRG recommendation to the ATRB and then to the ACCB.

Field/Regional Questions & Discussions

The FAA asked the NWS to pass the training material for the observers and air traffic controllers to the designated individuals at each site. There was a lot of discussion about who should be responsible for sending the training material to the observers and air traffic controllers and who the "designated individuals" are. The NWS will meet with the FAA to discuss this topic this week.

The next ASOS V3.06 TRG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2:00-3:30 pm (EDT) SSMC-2 Room 4300 (Please note room change). The conference call dial in number is 1-877-690-0813; participant pass code – 8521699#.