

**FOC HazCollect Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E)  
Test Review Group Meeting Minutes  
Feb 25, 2010**

**Attendees:**

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WFO Pittsburgh, PA: Joe Palko  
WFO Albuquerque NM: Kerry Jones, Todd Shoemake  
WFO Paducah, KY: Deanna Lindstrom  
Western Region: Craig Schmidt  
WFO San Francisco, CA: Tom Evans  
WFO Sacramento, CA: Kathy Hoxsie  
WFO Anchorage AK: Sam Albanese

OPS24: Jae Lee, Bert Vilorio  
OS51: Herb White, Art Kraus  
OST11: Steve Pritchett

Mercer County, PA: John Nicklin  
Daviess County, KY EM: Walter Atherton  
Hawaii EM: Tom Simon  
DHS/DMIS: Rick Hauschildt

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On Thursday February 25, 2010, the National Weather Service Test & Evaluation Branch (OPS24) hosted the first Test Review Group (TRG) meeting for the Full Operating Capability (FOC) HazCollect Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E).

The purpose of the meeting was to go over the status of the FOC HazCollect and to adjudicate any problems that were found during the previous week.

**I. Test Activities and Results**

1. Bert Vilorio announced that the field offices at WFO Pittsburgh PA (PBZ), WFO Paducah KY (PAH), WFO Honolulu HI (HFO), WFO Anchorage AK (AFC), and WFO Albuquerque NM (ABQ) have all started their OT&E tests.
2. On Feb 17, 2010, the OT&E was started at WFO PBZ. The dissemination test was successfully performed. John Nicklin (Mercer County PA emergency manager) successfully generated his DMIS client CAP message and the message was confirmed at HazCollect and was properly placed in the AWIPS PENDING directory. The test ADR message was transmitted and broadcast over weather radio. There were no SAME tones as expected.
3. On Feb 18, 2010, the OT&E was started at WFO PAH. The dissemination test was successfully performed. Walter Atherton (Daviess County KY emergency manager) successfully generated his DMIS client CAP message and the message was confirmed at HazCollect and was properly placed in the AWIPS PENDING directory. The test ADR

message was transmitted and broadcast over weather radio. There were SAME tones as expected.

4. On Feb 22, 2010, the OT&E was started at WFO HFO. The dissemination test (State Message) was successfully generated by Tom Simon (State of Hawaii emergency manager) was flagged an error in AWIPS as an additional NWRWaves state code "000" setup was not performed at the site. Tom Simon generated a local Honolulu county message and this test ADR message was properly generated, disseminated, and broadcasted. After WFO HFO performed the necessary state code procedure, a retest was successfully performed on Feb 25, 2010 and the state message was properly verified at the PENDING directory and broadcasted. There were SAME tones as expected.
5. On Feb 23, 2010, the OT&E test team notified all authorized HazCollect users and proceeded to successfully perform internal testing including mode changes, and message correction and update processing. Subsequently, after the test, the OT&E test team reactivated the HazCollect mode to active status and re-notified all authorized HazCollect users regarding the HazCollect active mode restoration.
6. On Feb 24, the OT&E test team started the OT&E with WFO AFC and the Anchorage local EM (Genevieve Maurits). The EM experienced DMIS client setup issues, so a retest has been scheduled for Monday March 1, 2010 with WFO AFC and the local EM.
7. On Feb 25, OPS24 started the OT&E with WFO Albuquerque (ABQ) and the local EM at Santa Fe, NM. OPS24 traveled to Santa Fe, NM, to confirm and validate EM message creation and provide DMIS client setup support since both WFO ABQ and the Santa Fe NM emergency management groups were new to the HazCollect operational testing. The Santa Fe EM was able to successfully generate and post a test ADR message which was verified at the field office AWIPS and Console Replacement System (CRS) for subsequent broadcast. However, right before the DMIS client message was sent, the Albuquerque transmitter broke down, and was unavailable to broadcast the test ADR. While the message was successfully verified and confirmed at the field office, subsequent weekly test messages by the local EM should confirm actual broadcast via weather radios next week. During the OT&E with WFO ABQ, the local news media was present to ask questions regarding the HazCollect system and the current testing performed. Kerry Jones (WFO ABQ WCM) was able to answer their questions and provide guidance on what to expect during the duration of the OT&E testing.
8. Bert Vilorio announced to the TRG members that there were no outstanding test trouble reports (TTRs).

## **II. Miscellaneous discussion**

1. Kerry Jones inquired that their Watch Warning Advisory (WWA) map did not display the ADR message that was received at the AWIPS pending directory and sent to CRS during the WFO ABQ testing. Kerry added that Mike Mach, who was present at WFO ABQ during the tests, reiterated that ADRs are not normally considered warnings and that the TEST verbiage on the message could have precluded the ADR from being displayed in the website map. Herb White and Art Kraus concurred on the ADR non-display and

added that a filter could have been in placed for the TEST verbiage in the message contents. Art Kraus will inquire from Bob Bunge (OPS33) if such filter is actually enforced.

2. John Nicklin (Mercer County EM) and Tom Simon (State of Hawaii EM) both inquired about an observed latency, especially when using mobile broadband, during logging and seemingly timing out and getting an error on the DMIS client login screen. Rick Hauschildt explained that there is an existing latency issue but also added that there are steps to minimize and/or information regarding the time out. Rick took an action to provide the information/handout to OT&E test team regarding this additional information.

### **III. Action Items**

1. Art Kraus will inquire from Bob Bunge regarding any ADR filters and their non-display in the WWA map.
2. Rick Hauschildt will provide handout describing the login latency issue in the DMIS client software