Status Report September & October 2005

Problems at NCRFC

NCRFC is still recovering from hardware problems they experienced on the rax. The hardware problems began with the hardware move that was required as part of the pre-OB5 install steps. They do have the database reinstalled from one of their level-0 archive tapes and the shefdecoders are running and posting data.

During the recovery process NCRFC has discovered some very important information related to the firmware versions on existing hard drives versus replacement hard drive. More information will be forthcoming as it is available.

Another Bug Fix for OB5/OB6 shefdecoders

In mid-September new versions of the raw and processed shefdecoders were made available. This interim release includes the bug fix for the last high priority bug for the two decoders. It fixes the problem with posting data older than 1970. Check the RFC Support Group's ftp site for the new executables.

Other Bug Fixes

NCRFC has been provided with a new version of get_params, to test to see if the bug they reported earlier this past summer has been fixed. Testing will not occur until the rebuild of their rax is completed.

WGRFC and APRFC will be testing a new version of process_stage that should fix a bug reported by WGRFC this past week.

Move to postgreSQL, Build OB7

The rax test system, ax2-nhdr, at HL was upgraded again in mid-October to the latest versions of the OS and DBMS that the AWIPS folks have indicated will be the versions for OB7; these are RHE4 and PostgreSQL 7.4.8. As stated previously, by having the same versions as the rest of AWIPS this will allow for easier support and maintenance and eliminate concerns of upper management about the complexity of maintaining different versions. Juliann Meyer is working with HL sys admin folks to ensure the COTS such Motif/Xmotif that some of the applications need is installed after the upgrade to RHE4.

The postgreSQL versions of the raw and processed shefdecoders have been completed and will be installed on ax2-nhdr for thorough shake-down testing. In addition, Juliann

will be doing some specific performance testing, collecting information on inserts and updates to pseudo-array tables versus single value per row tables. Also need to ensure that recent bug fixes to the OB5/OB6 versions of the raw and processed shefdecoders are included in the OB7 versions of the decoders.

Transition of OHD Archive Scripts

OHD began collecting data to support Office of Global Program research in 1993 (ABRFC) and had been collecting from all RFCs since 1996. It has since been used by a variety of OHD researchers, RFCs, and outside cooperators. The data collected so far can be accessed through the OHD web page http://dipper.nws.noaa.gov/hdsb/nhds.html

As of September 30, 2005, OHD discontinued the collection of these data, in part, because the OGP funds have been gone for some time and there are no longer OHD resources to continue. In addition, RFCs now have the RAX machines for archiving. The process of transitioning the OHD scripts to collect and store the data in the local offices on the RAX machines is the current subject of a series of conference calls with OHD (Donna Page) and the RFCs. The group is currently working to define a common comprehensive flatfile structure to accommodate the archive requirements for data common to all RFCs (especially data required to be archived by NWS Directive 10-911) and local data. Agreement on a directory structure and updated scripts are anticipated by the end of November.