

POINT PAPER
ON
OPERATIONAL PROCESSING CENTERS (OPC) OBSERVATIONAL DATA WORKSHOP

PURPOSE:

To provide members of the Committee for Operational Processing Centers updated information on the OPC Observational Data Workshop as required by COPC Action Item 2010-2.6.

BACKGROUND:

AFWA proposed that JAG/ODAA hold an annual/biannual observational data summit to:

- Discuss/exchange information on areas such as new data sources, quality issues, station metadata standards and consistency
- Address unclassified and classified data

In spring 2010, both the WG/CSAB and COPC endorsed the initiative. As the initiative gained momentum, the Executive Secretary of the JAG/ODAA briefed the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (FC) in November 2010. The FC fully supported the initiative and offered OFCM's help to facilitate the workshop.

DISCUSSION: The draft framework for the conference is indicated below:

Name: Operational Processing Center Observational Data Workshop

Date: 13-14 September 2011

(DOD members may continue with a third day to discuss classified data at some TBD secure location for DOD members only.)

Location: OFCM Conference Room, Silver Spring, MD

Purpose: Opportunity to discuss each Center's use of unclassified observational data for environmental analysis and prediction with the goal to identify and develop methods to resolve data coverage and source gaps.

Participants: Named representatives from AFWA, FNMOC, NAVO, NESDIS, and NWS (NCEP and TOC).

Structure:

- Pre-Workshop preparation work will be organized by the JAG/ODAA:
 - Develop Center specific data acquisition sources inventory
 - Start to discuss which sources are being exchanged and determine exchange challenges
- Day 1:
 - Will focus on reviewing and expanding an inventory of data available to and used by the OPCs. The key points below will be addressed:

- Data Received and shared by the OPCs
 - International data acquisition successes and challenges (e.g. Africa)
 - Acquisition of U.S. and foreign mesonet data; and non WMO international data exchange alliances
 - Opportunities and anticipated timing for new data exchanges
- Day 2:
 - Will focus on data coverage and source gaps and methods to mitigate. Topics may include:
 - Best value new data sources and data impact testing
 - Metadata accuracy and maintenance of station catalogs
 - Shared data processing and assimilation challenges
 - Shared data quality challenges and the possible need for follow-on Workshops

Expected Outcomes:

- A baseline of data acquired, used, and shared between the OPCs
- An identification of any gaps in international data coverage for follow-up action
- Improved analyses and forecasts through better use of data
- Prioritized plans for acquisition and timely use/sharing of new data sources
- Recommendations to fix problems with existing data types and to avoid problems with future data types
- Sharing work, code, data sources, and findings
- Recommendations on opportunities to expand collaborative activities and leverage new/future capabilities

Conference Deliverables: A workshop report that identifies: shared challenges; best practices; current and planned collaboration to address those challenges; forward recommendations and actions needed; and an online repository of conference presentations.