Tracking Meteogram: A Collaborative R2O Transition into the AWIPS-II Baseline

Kim Runk¹, Chad Gravelle¹, Ken Sperow², and Jason Burks³

¹ NWS Operations Proving Ground
² NWS Meteorological Development Laboratory
³ NASA Short-Term Prediction Research and Transition Center

ABSTRACT

The National Weather Service (NWS) created an Operations Proving Ground (OPG) as part of the Weather Ready Nation (WRN) initiative. The OPG was conceived as a complement to the NOAA family of testbeds, which plays an integral part in validating the “last mile” of the NWS Research-to-Operations (R2O) process. Operational Readiness Evaluations (OREs) at the OPG are designed to ensure promising new capabilities, such as those emerging from NOAA-affiliated laboratories, testbeds, and proving grounds, are evaluated by NWS forecasters in a realistic operational setting.

The first formal ORE was conducted at the OPG in May 2014. The weeklong experiment focused on testing the usability and usefulness of the Tracking Meteogram (TM), an AWIPS-II application developed collaboratively by the NASA Short-Term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center and the NWS Meteorological Development Lab (MDL). NWS operational meteorologists from four NWS Regions were invited to participate alongside subject matter experts, trainers, developers from both SPoRT and MDL, and OPG technical support staff. During the week, forecasters were placed into a variety of decision making scenarios, which became increasingly complex as the week progressed.

This presentation will discuss the developmental path that led to the TM being accepted for evaluation, the process by which validation experiments were conducted, major outcomes of the ORE session, lessons learned for inclusion in future evaluations, and ORE plans for 2015.