



# Research and Innovation Transition Team (RITT) and The RITT Forum

Stephan Smith

Office of Science and Technology
National Weather Service

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#### **Outline**



- Issues & Premises
- Background
- Reality Checks
- Commitment to Improving Transition
- Current RITT Activities
- RITT Involvement with NEP Task
- Key Summary Points
- The RITT Forum



#### **Issues & Premises**



#### **Issues**:

- -NOAA's research and operations components are not optimally aligned
- -Current R2A transition function could be more productive

#### **Basic Premises:**

- 1) Research and Innovation are the lifeblood of NWS Operations
- 2) NWS must invest in a process, staffing, and infrastructure that support bringing results of innovation and research into NWS operations

R2A=Research to Application --- source external to NWS I2O= Innovation to Operations --- source internal to NWS



#### Background



- SAB Research Review Team assessment of transitions (2004)
- NOAA Transition Board (initiated 2005, sunset 2008)
- NOAA Transition Policy updated & LOTMs established (NAO 216-105; 2008)
- ➤ NEP W&W Transition Task (2007); findings presented Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 2009
  - 1. Examine research and applications portfolios within W&W Goal
  - 2. Review projects and execution funding of the portfolios
  - 3. Characterize portfolios in terms of alignment and transition focus
  - 4. Provide lessons learned applicable to other Goal portfolios
  - 5. Develop criteria for prioritizing projects in the portfolios



#### Background



#### **Key Definitions:**

- Incubation Project: Exploratory research project addressing one or more objectives of NOAA 5-year research plan and/or NWS requirements
- Innovation Project: NWS Regional efforts to improve NWS Operations based on localized needs that could be expanded to national capability
- Transition Project: Incubation or innovation project deemed mature, scientifically valid and technically ready for implementation into NWS Operations



#### Reality Checks



- Transitions are not budget neutral and must be adequately resourced
- NOAA's culture places high value on Research and Operations, but not (yet) on Transition .
- PPBES not managed at project level
- Research platforms incompatible with operational platforms drives up transition costs
- ➤ Early identification of "incubation" projects and planning reduces the costs of transition and reduces risk (improves chances of success)
- R2A/I2O must be addressed both tactically and strategically



#### Commitment to Improving Transition



Research and Innovation Transition Team (RITT; est. March 2009)
Mission: To Facilitate the Transition of Innovation and Research
Projects into NWS Operations

NWS.HQ.RITT@noaa.gov

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/RITT/

#### **Team Functions:**

- 1) Staffs NWS Line Office Transition Manager (LOTM)
  - Manages LO transition portfolio
  - Fosters applicable LO transition projects through PPBES
  - Ensures development of appropriate transition plans
  - Coordinates with other LOTMs, Program Managers and Goal Teams
- 2) Defines, tracks and monitors incubation, innovation, and transition projects



#### Commitment to Improving Transition



#### RITT Functions (continued):

- 3) Defines and sets targets for transition performance metrics
- 4) Establishes and maintains a forum for sharing of information and discussion of new ideas leading to improvements in NWS Operations
- 5) Maintains strong collaboration with OAR Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (PPE) Office, particularly in establishing a joint of NWS-OAR R&D Project Database
- 6) Performs "help-desk" function for researchers/innovators considering transition, planning for transition, or actively involved in transition projects



#### **Current RITT Activities**



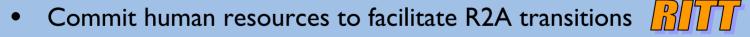
- Project Support
  - GPS-Met
  - RTVS → NEVS
  - Easy-to-Deploy Buoys
  - NWS Field Innovations (e.g., Mobile Alerts, IRIS, NPOP)
- Building Joint OAR-NWS Project Database and annual data collection
- Supporting LOTM on NEP Transition Task
- Establishing R2A Capitalization Fund
- RITT Forum



#### RITT Involvement with NEP Task



- Preserve PUSH PULL dynamic between Research & Operations
- Institutionalize R&D project data collection
- Prioritize investments based on entire portfolio
- Implement transparent prioritization model that aligns with NOAA's goals & objectives and justifies investment decisions
- Establish R2A Capitalization "Fund" to support timely transitions 📆 🗓



- Maintain routine engagement between LOTMs
- Complex endeavor requiring flexibility and a spirit of cooperation



#### Key Summary Points



- ➤NWS and OAR have collaborated to establish an R2A framework to better align their respective project portfolios
- ➤RITT represents a long term commitment to improving transitions in NOAA
- ➤ NOAA is poised to significantly improve its R2A productivity



#### **RITT Forum**

NWS.HQ.Ritt.Forum@noaa.gov



- A monthly forum among stakeholders in NOAA's Weather and Water Enterprise, the focus of which is the transition of research and innovation to NWS operations.
- An informal and collegial exchange of ideas and information designed to educate and raise awareness of transition opportunities and issues within NOAA



## RITT Forum Members



#### RITT Core Members

 Stephan Smith, Doug Hilderbrand, John Schattel, Laura Cutrer, Mark Oberfield, Kari Sheets, and Steven Pritchett (OST)

#### NWS Innovation Advisory Board (IAB)

Pete Browning (CR), Andy Edman (WR), Ken Johnson (ER),
 David (Rusty) Billingsley (SR), Bill Ward (PR), Carven Scott (AR)

#### NWS HQ and NCEP Points of Contact (POC)

Cindy Woods (OCWWS), Dennis Miller (OHD), Irene Parker (OOS),
 Gustavo Limon (CIO), Lauren Morone (NCEP)



## RITT Forum Members (cont.)



#### OAR POC's

- Stephen Weygandt (ESRL/GSD)
- Jian-Wen Bao (ESRL/PSD)
- Steve Ruberg (GLERL)
- Christian Meinig (PMEL)
- Kevin Manross (NSSL)
- Kurt Hondl (NSSL)
- Mike Coniglio (NSSL)
- Jian Zhang (NSSL)



#### RITT Forum Format



- 20-30 Minute informational presentation of incubation or innovation project
  - (Alternating monthly between OAR project and NWS Region project)
- Followed by discussion of selected project within the context of transition
- Exchange of other transition-related information





### Questions?