



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

November 6, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Leadership Corner: Growth Through Adversity

By Kim Runk, WFO Las Vegas MIC

(With thanks to John Jannuzzi and Andy Bailey for their valuable editorial suggestions)

December, 1964. A guard ship leaves Cape Town, South Africa to deliver a new inmate to Robben Island, a maximum security prison five miles off the coast. His name: Nelson Mandela. Mandela would spend almost 27 years of his life there as a falsely accused political prisoner. Ostensibly he was convicted for sedition against the government, but the truth is he was jailed for opposing racism. Mandela was forced to do hard labor in a quarry by day, returning at night to confinement in a small cell, sleeping on the floor, with a bucket for his toilet. He was allowed to write one letter every six months and once a year, he was permitted a visitor - for 30 minutes.

If I were subjected to the experience of Nelson Mandela, I'm almost certain it would have crushed my spirit and broken my will. I'm not proud of it, but I honestly don't believe I have the strength of character to tolerate that level of unjust treatment, without ending up bitter and resentful.

Not so for Mandela. His own assessment is that Robben Island was the crucible which transformed him into a mature leader. Through a clever intellect, charming charisma and uncompromising integrity, Mandela eventually earned the admiration of even the cruelest prison officials, and assumed an unquestioned leadership role as a prison inmate. He emerged from that experience a man equipped with the right mix of wisdom, maturity and universal respect to take on the great political battles that brought down apartheid and created a democratic republic in South Africa.

What are the qualities that allow a leader to prevail, and even thrive, while enduring the most severe trials of life? Through the lens of Nelson Mandela's experience, I can think of at least three.

1. Self Awareness

In 2001, Mandela told Oprah Winfrey, "If I had not been in prison, I would not have been able to achieve the most difficult task in life, and that is changing myself." In John Maxwell's book *"Winning with People"*, he identifies the "Big Picture Principle" as a key component for personal growth and success. It's a viewpoint to help people see past their selfishness and to recognize a greater reality than themselves. Nelson Mandela didn't pity himself as a passive victim. He saw his confinement as a chance to build his own character. Instead of allowing his jailors to define or dehumanize him, Mandela fashioned a heroic identity for himself, one that inspired millions in Africa and around the world.

2. Relational Awareness

Nelson Mandela held on through 27 years of brutal imprisonment because he had an unswerving faith that his suffering would ultimately contribute to freedom and justice in South Africa. He maintained an optimistic hope that his situation could and would change. But he also understood that his ultimate influence on the larger environment began with his relationships right there at Robben Island. He patiently invested himself in the lives of others; fellow prisoners as well as guards, in order to build a

foundation of trust that would eventually grow into a nationwide constituency powerful enough to topple an oppressive system of government.

3. Situational Awareness

A mature leader possesses an awareness of the surroundings and the ability to flex and adapt. He or she develops an intuition that senses the needs of the moment and prioritizes them over personal comfort. Those who manage to develop this trait have the capacity to adjust to the demands of their situation and create opportunities for change. Mandela never wavered in his principles: devotion to democracy, equality and personal growth. Despite terrible provocation, he never answered racism with racism. But he did change his methods and his strategies, according to the needs and circumstances of the day.

Summary

All three of these qualities could be summed up in one word: *perspective*. People who successfully go through a character building crucible of adversity have the right perspective about themselves and others. They cultivate meaningful relationships which result in mutual growth. They have the ability to see the bigger picture within the heat of the moment. Effective leaders can look beyond the problem, the issue, or the dark hour to find the will and composure to overcome, even seeing opportunity in the obstacles.

Nelson Mandela's life is a triumph of the human spirit. In the prime of his life, he was serving a life sentence with no reasonable expectation for freedom or vindication. By the end of the century, he had not only been released from prison, but he won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, and was inaugurated as the first democratically elected President of South Africa in 1994. He retired from public life in 1999 to his boyhood home town, a living legend and an inspiration throughout the world to all who are oppressed and deprived.

Fortunately, few of us will be called to endure the degree of adversity faced by Nelson Mandela. Even fewer are destined for his level of greatness. But each of us can learn from him. We can choose to let difficulties make us bitter, or we can choose to use them as opportunities for growth. John Wooden said it this way: "There is a choice to make in everything you do. But in the end, the choices you make; make you." It's time to choose.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Service of the Week: WFO Pocatello Assists in Search and Rescue Effort: Going the Extra Mile: Senior forecaster Bob Survick and SOO Dean Hazen used adaptive techniques from the Fire Weather Program to assist a search and rescue effort for a lost hunter in Custer County in the central Idaho mountains as an early fall winter storm neared. Dean took the initial request and provided data from the WFOs' gridded forecasts. The next day Bob obtained additional information from the 911 dispatch and used the Web-based Fire Weather Spot. Because Bob had to use "CIIFC" (which was not preprogrammed) as the requesting agency, he found that it would take a lot of time to enter all the possible city/state/federal groups who might request help. Instead Bob suggested we add NWS as a formal "Spot" requestor. Senior forecaster Dawn Harmon, the WFO GFE program manager, developed a "NWS" spot request which we used successfully the next day to assist in these types of requests. As Dawn noted: "This is HANDY to help fulfill a specialized request for a forecast that may not come from a fire agency... **We put the effort into the grids, let's let them work for us.**"

WFO Pocatello received thanks and compliments from the Custer County Sheriff for the prompt and quality forecasts during their search efforts. This lost hunter walked out, cold and shivering, but alive!

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month by Mike Cantin

On behalf of the Western Region Diversity Action Committee, I invite you, and your office, to celebrate Native American Heritage Month this November.

Native American Heritage Month began in 1990, when a joint resolution was approved by, then President, George Bush. This month-long celebration is designed to highlight the contributions Native Americans have made through the centuries, as well as to highlight their cultures. In an effort to garner a more personal perspective on the importance of Native Americans, several members of the Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla in northeast Oregon were interviewed. Following are samples of their replies. For a complete set of questions and answers please contact me at michael.cantin@noaa.gov.

Question 1: If you could teach someone one thing about your culture what would it be?

“That we still exist; we are living history, not living cultural guilt. We are just as much American than anyone, yet we are so discarded in national or even local policy. Our history should be applied when making policy decisions.” - Althea Huesties-Wolf

“Thankfulness. I am thankful for every living thing, I am thankful to the creator for what has been placed on this earth. That includes other people and other beliefs.” - Alanna K. Nanegos

Question 2: Do you feel like the average US citizen has a good perception of Native Americans? Please describe.

“No. Through my participation in parades held in cities and our interaction with the public, I feel that there are still millions of people away from the reservations that still believe that Indians live in tepees and ride horses for transportation. One young girl was shocked to see that I actually wore socks when I removed my moccasins. I think she was rather disappointed to see me in jeans and tennis shoes after removing my buckskin dress and moccasins. I think the average US citizen thinks we still live like we did 100 years ago and that everyone is poor, uneducated and un-employed. It's quite comical to ride a horse through the Portland Rose Parade and have even the adults making war whooping sounds and pointing at us saying ‘look at the Indians’.”

Question 3: Is it difficult to keep your culture alive amongst younger generations in the tribe? Please describe.

“No, not on the rez; kids love to be Indian. We will always yearn to learn more, even in age. The biggest backfire on this yearning is time spent protecting and defending your way of life. Unfortunately, much of this type of reacting happens with our neighbors; whom reap most of the financial benefits of our casinos. It seems the further get from the rez, the more people like Native Americans.” -Althea Huesties-Wolf

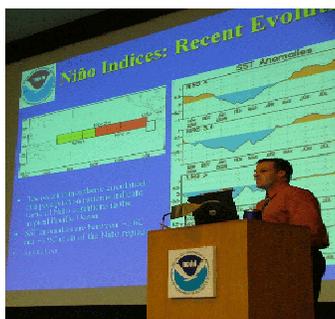
We hope you have been enlightened by these answers, and perhaps have a better understanding of the personal side of Native American Heritage Month. During November we hope you and your office can make an effort to learn about Native American culture through presentations, visits, books, videos, or online information.



(L to R) WFO Oxnard Joe Sirard and WFO San Diego Don Whitlow

WFOs LOX and SGX Team Up for Marine Outreach: The Los Angeles/Oxnard and San Diego Weather Forecast Offices once again provided a strong NWS presence with a booth at the International Sail and Power Boat Show in Long Beach October 5th through 8th. The booth was in the Discover Boating area of the boat show with several hundred people of all levels of boating experience stopping by. Many marine-related awareness brochures and information sheets, as well as information on NDFD, hurricanes, tsunamis, NOAA Weather Radio, and the popular NWS Cloud Chart were handed out. Many positive comments on the service provided by the NWS were provided, in addition to important feedback on the local NWS marine program. The booth was staffed by Joe Sirard,

Ryan Kittell, and Jamie Meier from WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard, and Don Whitlow from WFO San Diego. All in all it was a great team effort!



WFO Seattle SOO Kirby Cook about the winter weather seasonal outlook

Recent Media and Emergency Management Workshops: WFO Seattle held a pair of media and emergency management workshops on October 17 and 18. Close to 100 people attended including representatives from on-air weather talent, TV, radio and newsprint reporters, schools, water and sewer districts, federal, state, county, local and private sector emergency managers, the U.S. Coast Guard and American Red Cross. The identical two-hour workshops addressed the seasonal outlook for the upcoming winter, an update from the Washington State Climatologist, a briefing on the new Historical Weather DVD, and information on what is new for this winter in NWS hydrologic and weather products and services.



WFO Seattle Hydrologic Program Manager Brent Bower presents the latest hydro and flood products and services for this winter

Annual Whatcom County Pre-season Flood and Winter Weather Preparedness Meeting: WFO Seattle Hydrologic Program Manager Brent Bower and WCM Ted Buehner participated in the annual Whatcom county pre-season flood and winter weather preparedness meeting in Everson on October 3rd. About 40 people attended the meeting including representatives from the cities of Lynden, Sumas and Everson, several school districts and native American nations, businesses like Puget Sound Energy and Audience Central, the American Red Cross, and agencies like the Washington State Dept of Transportation, Whatcom Transit Authority, US Army Corps of Engineers, county and local law enforcement and fire districts, and several county agencies and flood districts. Brent and Ted provided the latest winter weather outlook, and new and revised NWS weather and flood product information for the coming winter season.



(L to R) Jon Chamberlain - WFO Bismarck, Mark Antolik - MDL, and William Rasch - WFO BYZ regarding IFPS issues during a poster session

Billings and Glasgow Host 10th Great Divide Workshop: Celebrating a decade of successful workshops, the 10th Annual Great Divide Workshop was held in Billings, MT on October 3-5, 2006. The workshop was co-hosted by WFOs Billings and Glasgow. NWS Director D.L. Johnson opened the workshop with a presentation titled, "Future in the Digital Age." Invited guest speakers included:

Dr. Tom Bogdan, director of the Space Environment Center
 Jack May, Director of the Aviation Weather Center
 Dr. Eve Grunfest from the Weather and Society: Integrated Studies (WAS*IS) program within the NCAR Societal Impacts Program
 Greg Stumpf from the Meteorological Development Laboratory at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK
 Jared Guyer from the Storm Prediction Center
 Rich Bann from the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center

Mark Antolik from the Meteorological Development Laboratory

Roger Hill, a noted storm chaser who has been in several severe weather documentaries (and soon to be recognized for having the most number of tornado encounters) was the banquet speaker. He gave a DVD presentation on some of his favorite chases he has been on, and discussed a few of his adventures in Montana.

A total of 49 people attended the conference, representing 9 different states, two military installations, and eight WFOs, four National Centers, and both Western Region and National Weather Service Headquarters. All the presentations can be viewed at the following website:

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/byz/local_news/greatdivide/presentations06.pdf.



The Newest StormReady County: Washoe County, Nevada was recognized as Western Region's newest StormReady County on October 10th. Pictured here are Brig Gen David L. Johnson USAF (ret.), Jane Hollingsworth (WFO Reno MIC), Katy Singlaub (Washoe County Manager), Bob Larkin (Washoe County Commissioner), and Aaron Kenneston (Washoe County Emergency Manager). Congratulations all!



Jay Wilson, Earthquake and Tsunami Program Manager with Oregon Emergency Management talks about the earthquake and tsunami threat to the Pacific

Earthquake-Tsunami Workshop...Are You Ready?: On Saturday, October 21st the NWS in Medford, OR participated in a four hour Earthquake-Tsunami workshop in Coos Bay, OR. The theme of this workshop was preparedness. TsunamiReady funding contributed to the 123 page workbook and resource guide given to the 159 attendees. The workshop focused on disaster preparedness for individuals, families, communities, and businesses. Presentations included the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis in the Pacific Northwest, and the importance of having a disaster plan. The NWS, Red Cross, Amateur Radio, Coos County Emergency Management, and Coos County Citizen Corps. Setup booths for more personal contact with the public, and to hand out educational material. The workshop featured open questions to a panel of "experts" that consisted of local officials, a state representative, and NOAA representative WCM Ryan Sandler.



NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard participates at USC Emergency

Preparedness Fair: Forecaster David Sweet and WCM Eric Boldt from WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard staffed a booth at the first annual Emergency Preparedness Fair for the faculty and students at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. This was a well-attended event held in the center of campus that included participation by the USGS, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Services, Department of Public Health, Urban Search and Rescue, LA Coroner, Los Angeles City Fire Department, Department of Water and Power, American Red Cross along with many private vendors selling first aid and earthquake

survival kits. One of the main attractions was the "Quake Cottage" where volunteers sit inside a replicated room and ride out a 8.0 magnitude earthquake. This was all-hazards preparedness fair with information on earthquakes, natural disasters, wildfires, flu pandemics and terrorist attacks.



OTX Outreach Event: WFO Spokane participated in the Washington Science Teachers Association (WSTA) annual meeting held at the Spokane Convention Center on October 12-13, 2006. The two-day event attracted nearly 300 teachers from all corners of the state. General Forecaster/IMET Jeremy Wolf (pictured), Senior Forecaster Robin Fox and WCM Kerry Jones staffed a booth that featured various K-12 educational outreach materials as well as real-time weather information on the web. Information on the 2006 NOAA ship naming contest, where students in grades 6-12 in the states of

California, Oregon and Washington have an opportunity to name the fourth in a series of fisheries research vessels to be built for NOAA since 2003, was also provided. In addition, WCM Kerry Jones gave a presentation during a breakout session that highlighted several hands-on activities using a cloud-forming apparatus and physical model of the hydrologic cycle.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



Workshop participants in a breakout group in the CNRFC operations area

Customer Outreach Workshop Hosted by the CNRFC: On Thursday, October 26th, the California-Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) held a workshop for water resource managers and associates that operate within the CNRFC area of responsibility. The objectives of the workshop were:

- (1) To provide a forum for highlighting existing and anticipated future CNRFC capabilities associated with water resource management
- (2) Generate feedback from participants related to fulfilling their needs through CNRFC products and services
- (3) Promote discussion and networking among the participants

The workshop was attended by about 30 people not counting CNRFC staff and included representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Water Resources, NWS Weather Forecast Offices, several utilities and irrigation districts, as well as various county flood control and water resource agencies. Preliminary comments about the workshop have been favorable and feedback gathered from the participants is currently being processed by the CNRFC.

Wild and Wacky Weather: On Saturday, November 4th, Andrea Bair, WR Climate Services Program Manager and Jenna Meyers, WR GIS Program Manager, presented "Wild and Wacky Weather" at the 'Expanding Your Horizons Workshop'. This is in support of a science workshop targeted toward middle school girls in Ogden, Utah.



WFO/RFC Outreach Event: WFO Oxnard Senior Service Hydrologist Jayme Lober hosted a pre-winter coordination meeting for the California Dept. of Water Resources, the United Water Conservation District, and the 4 county governments they serve. Eric Strem the Development and Operations Hydrologist from CNRFC also participated in the event. A winter weather outlook, a presentation of the NOAA-USGS Debris Flow Project, and a discussion about at risk sites for debris flows was also held. CNRFC also gave a short presentation on their products and services as well.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

AWOC Winter Weather Training (AWWT) Update:

As a reminder, the AWOC Winter Training Module must be completed by **November 30, 2006.**

Per the November 28, 2005 Regional Director training memorandum, completion of the AWWT is required by all WFO staff who issue warnings and forecasts. This does not include CWSUs and RFCs, although they are encouraged to take the training as part of career development or personal interest.

Hydro-Science:

- **Day Burn Area– NOAA Debris Flow Intensive Research Area (IRA):** Day Burn Area will be the target area for the USGS – NOAA Debris Flow Intensive Research Area (IRA) 2006/7. The IRA will focus research efforts to improve understanding of debris flows in the west. A visit to the burn area is being planned for 10/12 for USGS, NWS, and NOAA scientists. Last year's IRA was near Burbank, CA in the Harvard burn area.
- **WR Hydrology Service/Science Vision:** Kevin Werner (SSD), Scott Dummer (HCSD) and Dan Matusiewicz (HCSD) are finalizing first draft of a hydrology service/science vision for WR. This draft will be distributed for comments within a few weeks.
- **Water Supply Verification:** Chad Kahler (SSD) has set up prototype web server to support the Water Supply verification web page.

Technology Infusion: Mike Doney (SSD) is leading an effort to organize the first four Technology Infusion projects for WR. As part of the planning effort, Mike Doney, Aaron Sutula (SSD), Randy Weatherly (Salt Lake City), Don Britton (Great Falls) and Andy Edman, plus Jason Burks (Huntsville) and Matt Duplantis (Shreveport) traveled to Southern Region Headquarters last week to collaborate. This meeting was also an extension on an ongoing joint WR/SR Cell/mobile project that the group has working on. A development/implementation plan for the following projects will be coming soon:

- **FLARE Project:** A real time, auto-updating display of current forecasts/warning for the offices and emergency managers.
- **IM Project:** Implement a IM ext capability that the office could chose to use to communicate with local government and emergency managers.
- **StormLog:** A standard, centralized by office spotter data base.
- **Cell/Mobile Warning Project:** A NWS warning interface for cell/mobile devices.

Service Evolution/Verification Project:

1. **New Version of Boiver coming:** Tim Barker has just finished adding a number of new capabilities/enhancements to Boiver. Aaron Sutula has completed the Mod-Note which is undergoing testing at 4 WR offices. Expect to release with a week or so.
2. **Two training modules for this fall!** David Myrick (SSD) has developed two new modules.
 - a. New Articulate training module that highlights the improvements to the latest version of Boise Verify.
 - b. Second Articulate module, describing the theory behind how the bias-corrected grids are created.
3. **New Smart Tool:** Ken Pomeroy (SSD) is working on the Thunder Attributes smart tool. It is designed to make it easier for forecasters to manipulate the Wx grid in GFE by providing an interface to add or remove the numerous possible attributes (dry, large hail, gusty winds, etc.) available to the "thunderstorm" value.
4. **New Plan for Fall** coming out next week. SSD will be drafting a service Evolution/Verification plan for the SOOs to review for the upcoming winter season.

HMT Planning: Planning continues for next winter's Hydro-met Test Bed activities in the Sacramento/Reno area. Reno and Sacramento will be providing a limited set of supplemental soundings to help support the OAR activity. We hope to be sharing this winter's evaluation goal soon!

Upcoming Science Workshops:

Thirteenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West: Thursday November 16, 2006: The Thirteenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held Thursday, November 16 on the University of Utah campus. This Workshop will be hosted by the Mountain Meteorology Group in the Department of Meteorology located at <http://www.met.utah.edu/research/mmg>. This year's workshop is focused on the lessons learned from field programs and operational deployments of surface meteorological equipment in the West. The Workshop is intended to be a forum to discuss the impacts of the practical limitations associated with surface instrumentation in the mountainous West on environmental records, data assimilation systems, and weather forecasts. To submit an abstract or register, please access the on-line registration form at http://www.met.utah.edu/jhorel/workshop2006/workshop_reg.html. The deadline for abstract submission is October 1. The registration deadline is November 1.

Training Update:

COMET: New Training Modules: The COMET Program announces the release of two new model training and resource page:

- **New Model Matrices: Ensembles and Marine Wave Models:** In addition to the Operational Models Matrix that COMET has made available since 1999, we've now added two new model matrices describing the characteristics of NWP models.
 - The Ensemble Model Matrix at http://www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/pcu2/ens_matrix/index.htm offers information on the configurations of the NCEP Short-Range Ensemble Forecast (SREF) and Medium-Range Ensemble Forecast (MREF) systems. Information on ensemble perturbation methods; NWP model resolution, dynamics, physics (precipitation,

- radiation, land surface and turbulence); and ensemble post-processing and verification links are provided.
- A new Marine Wave Models Matrix at http://www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/pcu2/marine_matrix/index.htm describes several wave models used by forecasters, including how these models forecast the generation, propagation, and dissipation of ocean waves, and the products they provide.

Warning Decision Branch – AWOC: AWOC Winter Weather training is available through the LMS. Please see <http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/winterawoc/index.html> for more details on the AWWT.

Teletraining Sessions: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for November is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The teletraining calendar is now at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp>

The teletraining planning calendar with other sessions is at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html>

The current sessions planned for November are:

- Gridded MOS November 1, 3, 9, 14, 16, 28, 30
- MODIS Products in AWIPS November 1, 17, 20
- Lake Effect Snow #2 November 2
- Water Vapor Imagery November 6
- Cyclogenesis November 7, 29
- CRAS Imagery in AWIPS November 9, 13, 21
- Using GOES in Forecast Process November 14, 15

Several recorded VISIT sessions are available via LMS: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>. Then, go to National Weather Service Courses and search on VISIT.

All previous sessions including those with recorded instructor audio and annotations are available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ts.html>

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NWR UHF: Joe Lachacz traveled to New Braunfels, TX to attend UHF training and to assist Southern Region on backup UHF procedures for NOAA Weather Radio program.

RRS at WFO BOI: The RRS installations at WFO Boise have been completed. The install went well and the installation team stated that the combined efforts of the WFO Electronics and SOD staff made the installation an easy one. KUDOS to Randy Miller, Lee Jenson, Tom Page, Gerry Deiotte and Mike Pereira and the electronics staff on a job well done!

WFO GGW Expansion: Sean Wink and Jim Chaisson were in Glasgow to attend the A&E team meeting regarding the expansion of the WFO.

SOD Program Reviews: The FY07 schedule for SOD Program Reviews has been posted on the intranet. You can access the schedule via the electronics page of SOD.