



SPoRT Quarterly
October – December 2013

The SPoRT REPORT

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Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), Huntsville, AL
<http://weather.msfc.nasa.gov/sport/>

The SPoRT Center is a NASA- and NOAA-funded project to transition unique observations and research capabilities to the operational community to improve short-term weather forecasts on a regional scale. While the direct beneficiaries of these activities are selected Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) and National Centers, the research leading to the transitional activities benefits the broader scientific community.

Quarterly Highlights

WRF Model using Cloud Computing Captures Central America “Tehuantepecer” Event

The Tehuantepecer is a strong mountain-gap wind traveling through Chivela Pass in eastern Mexico typically occurring in the late Autumn and Winter months. Tehuantepecers originate when post-cold-frontal northerly winds over the western Gulf of Mexico advance equatorward as a strong high pressure system moves into the U.S. Southern Plains. The gradient wind accelerates southward by cold air damming and blows through the gap in the Sierra Madre Mountains. North-northeasterly winds then surge into the Gulf of Tehuantepec in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Wind speeds can reach up to hurricane force in extreme scenarios in the Gulf of Tehuantepec. Tehuantepecer winds can extend over 100 km in the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean and can influence waves propagating over 1000 km away. These strong winds also produce up-welling that brings cooler sub-surface waters to the surface over the Gulf of Tehuantepec, sometimes lasting several days.

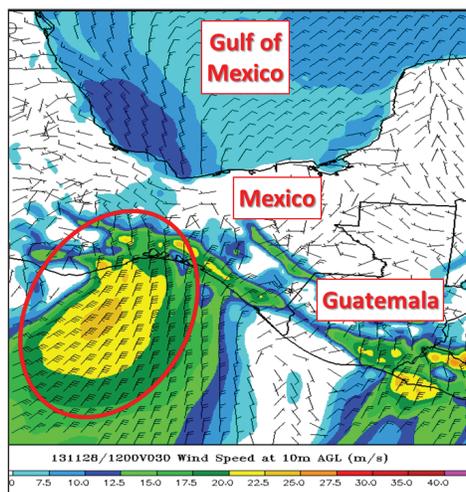


Figure 1. Thirty-hour WRF model forecast 10-m winds capturing Tehuantepecer event at 1200 UTC 28 November.

Tehuantepecers occurred frequently during November 2013, as several cold air masses plunged southward through the western Gulf of Mexico creating ideal conditions for the phenomenon. These events were accurately forecasted by the Weather Research and Forecasting

(WRF) model runs over Central America. Through a collaboration between SPoRT, NASA SERVIR, and the Ames Research Center, the WRF model was configured to run once daily on a private cloud for 48 hours on a 12-km domain extending from the eastern Pacific Ocean to the eastern Caribbean Sea, and 4-km nested grids over portions of Central America and Haiti/Dominican Republic. The WRF output on the 12-km domain accurately depicted Tehuantepecers of varying intensity on 3 – 4 November; a prolonged event from 8 – 15 November (with a peak wind speed around 25 m s^{-1} on the 14th); 24 – 25 November; and a substantial event from 27 November to early December with peak winds again approaching 25 m s^{-1} .

The 30-h WRF forecast at 1200 UTC 28 November 10-m wind speeds depicts a distinct corridor of strong winds exceeding 20 m s^{-1} over the Gulf of Tehuantepec (yellow shaded region highlighted in Figure 1). The WindSat-derived wind vectors at 1240 UTC helped

validate the model simulated north-northeast wind speeds of 20-25 m s⁻¹ associated with the event (Fig. 2a). The forecast was further corroborated by the graphicast generated by the NCEP

Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) (Fig. 2b). TAFB is a branch of the National Hurricane Center that has a marine forecasting responsibility over the tropical eastern Pacific, Caribbean Sea, and

Atlantic Ocean. TAFB recently expressed an interest in acquiring the WRF “in-the-cloud” grids of near-surface winds to supplement the products generated within their gridded forecast editor.

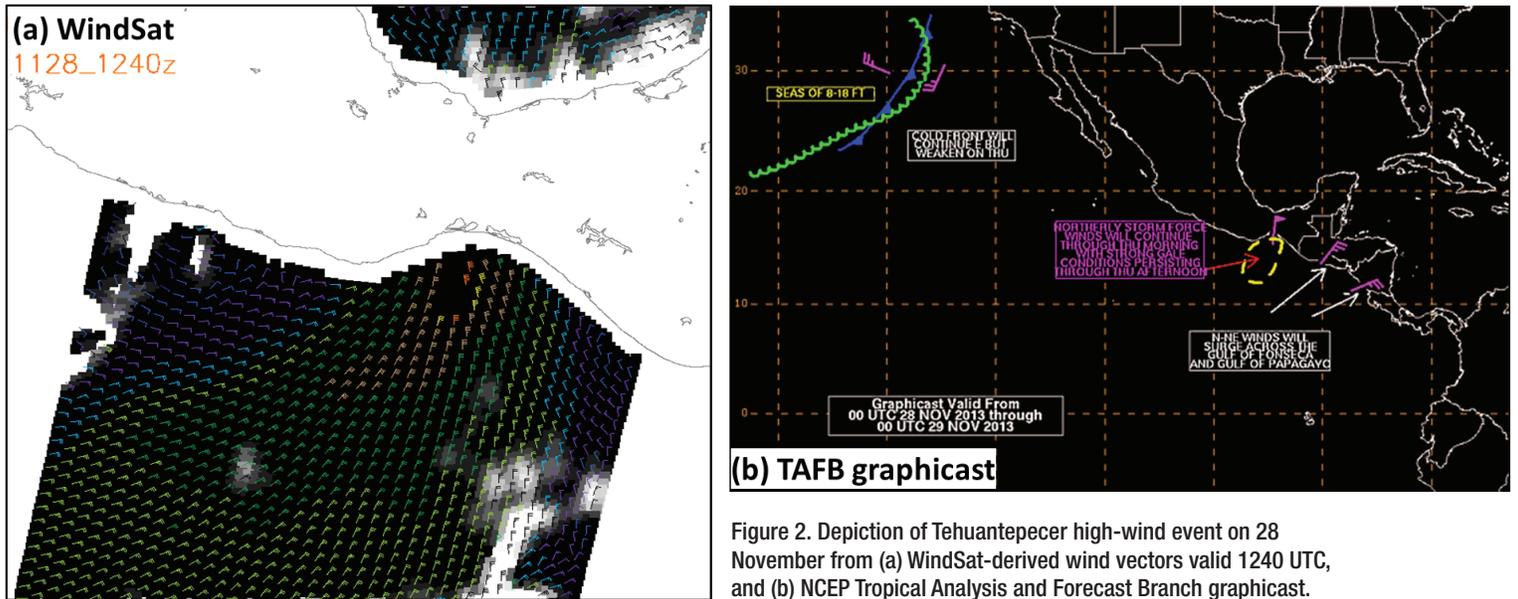


Figure 2. Depiction of Tehuantepecer high-wind event on 28 November from (a) WindSat-derived wind vectors valid 1240 UTC, and (b) NCEP Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch graphicast.

Satellite Proving Ground Activities

SPoRT has received additional funding from the GOES-R/JPSS Visiting Scientist Program (VSP) to support partners in order to enhance collaborations in specific focused areas of interest to the GOES-R and JPSS programs. These activities are summarized below.

SPoRT/CIRA/CIMSS Joint Implementation of RGB Products in AWIPS II at NCWCP

This VSP activity is focused on continuing work with the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) in Fort Collins, CO and the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) in Madison, WI to build a more robust RGB recipe system within the AWIPS II architecture. When finished, this plug-in will provide the means to create Red, Green, Blue (RGB) recipes using various combinations of input imagery and can be stored as scripts for later recall. This architecture will allow the AWIPS II system to be more flexible in configuring

and sharing RGB recipes. The project involves SPoRT scientists Andrew Molthan and Emily Berndt, NOAA/NESDIS scientists Bradley Pierce, Debra Molinar, and John Knaff, CIRA scientist Scott Longmore, and Kaba Bah (CIMSS). The travel funds will be used by various scientists to coordinate with users at the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP).

Total Lightning to Forecast Offices and CWSUs

This year’s VSP lighting activity is a follow-up to the successful “Operational Application Development of Demonstration Geostationary Lightning Mapper Total Lightning Observations in the Colorado Front Range” activity that began SPoRT’s collaborations with the Boulder, Colorado and Cheyenne, Wyoming forecast offices. The funding will allow SPoRT scientist Geoffrey Stano to visit partners to expand on the Front Range collaboration, and integrate new lightning mapping array data into existing partner operations. The visit will also coordinate with the Spaceflight Meteorology Group and extend

collaborations to the aviation-focused Center Weather Service Units (CWSUs) in Albuquerque, Denver, and Houston. The effort will continue to bring total lightning observations from numerous lightning mapping array partners to operational forecasters.

Collaboration with NOAA’s Pacific Region

This new VSP activity has been established in collaboration with Bill Ward from NOAA’s Pacific Region. The Pacific Region will likely be one of the first to benefit from ABI data shortly after the launch of GOES-R. As such, this region is looking to expand collaborations with product developers to prepare their forecasters for the future abilities of GOES-R. SPoRT scientists Geoffrey Stano and Matthew Smith will visit Pacific Region WFO to learn about the region’s specific needs and concerns and to determine what SPoRT capabilities will best support those needs. This will establish the initial collaborations and focus future collaborations to address specific forecast issues.

WFO Corner

Huntsville

WFO Huntsville participated in an evaluation of Red, Green, and Blue (RGB) imagery for aviation and cloud analysis during the month of October. Although latency issues with the data were present with the polar-orbiting imagery, the usefulness was still evident. Forecasters liked the resolution and the ability to more clearly determine the location of fog in some of the narrow valleys on northeastern Alabama.

Forecasters at the WFO were excited about the implementation of NASA Land Information System (LIS) data in AWIPS II. These data were originally in AWIPS I, although sub-surface data were never displayed properly. Data interruption began however in the spring

of 2012 when Huntsville switched over to AWIPS II as one of the operational test and evaluation sites. After the formal testing and evaluation period with AWIPS II ended, LIS data were brought back into AWIPS II. Some of the operationally useful parameters include skin temperatures, relative integrated soil moisture at various depths, and green vegetation fraction. These parameters have been used by NWS Huntsville forecasters for a couple of years to aid in the determination of drought designations and in assessments of areal and flash flooding threats. Forecasters have already had several opportunities to use the data since their implementation in mid-December.



Recent Accomplishments

GOES-R/JPSS Satellite Champions Visit SPoRT

SPoRT invited the six current satellite liaisons to meet with the SPoRT program in Huntsville, AL on 12-14 November 2013. The liaisons represented the NOAA/NWS Alaska Region, Aviation Weather Center (AWC), the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC), the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), the Warning Decision Training Branch (WDTB), the Weather Prediction Center (WPC), and the Satellite Analysis Branch (SAB) of NESDIS. The liaisons represent their respective organizations, primarily in support of GOES-R activities, but also the JPSS Proving Ground with the launch of VIIRS aboard Suomi-NPP. The goal of the visit was to enhance SPoRT collaborations with the liaisons through an exchange of technical information about SPoRT, and to incorporate their ideas into future collaborations. During the meeting, SPoRT

team members gave a comprehensive review of current and planned transition activities. Likewise, each liaison presented an overview of their current science activities and discussed their roles and responsibilities at their specific Center. The visit set the stage for SPoRT and the satellite liaisons to build stronger collaborations as the end user community prepares for the GOES-R era. The focused interaction will continue in early 2014 with the first of several regular SPoRT-satellite liaison coordination calls planned for 2014. This will help guide SPoRT activities in several collaborations, including the upcoming Spring Program in Norman, Oklahoma in May 2014.

LIS Transition to AWIPS II

Output from the SPoRT real-time configuration of the LIS was transitioned to AWIPS II at the NWS Huntsville forecast

office. The SPoRT-LIS runs the Noah land surface model at 0.03-degree resolution over the southern and eastern Continental U.S., forced by regional NCEP analyses and Stage IV hourly precipitation. The LIS simulations are cycled such that hourly land surface model output is available in real-time for initializing local numerical weather prediction models and examining soil moisture fields at sub-county scales for drought and flood potential. This past quarter, the SPoRT team developed the means to ingest and visualize the LIS fields within AWIPS II without the need of a specialized plug-in. The methodology involves a customization of AWIPS II variable table files for defining the LIS fields, and then invoking the internal GRIB2 decoders to extract the variables from the LIS GRIB2 files.

Summary of Assessments

As part of the transition from research to operations, SPoRT conducts assessments of new and experimental products to understand their impact on NWS forecast operations. Products to be evaluated by end-users are generated by SPoRT or through collaborations with external partners. The evaluation paradigm first matches a product with a high-priority forecast challenge that

can be improved through the transition of this product. Then a specific period is identified for the assessment corresponding to an appropriate time of the year. For example, the Nighttime Microphysics RGB product has the potential to better differentiate fog from low clouds compared to traditional spectral difference imagery. Fog and low clouds occur most frequently in the

Autumn months for inland NWS Southern Region WFOs, and tend to occur later for the coastal WFOs. Therefore, SPoRT conducted two separate assessments (Aviation and Cloud Analysis) with these groups in 2013, in addition to several other product assessments. The table below summarizes components of the assessments started over the last year.

Product Assessments CY 2013/2014

Name	Products	WFO/National Center	Date	Description	Report ¹
Rainfall (West Coast)	NESDIS GOES-R QPE, CIRA LPW	EKA, MTR, MFR	March – April 2013	Atmospheric river events	06/15/2013
HWT Spring Experiment ²	UAH GOES-R CI, PGLM, tracking tool (AWIPS II)	NSSL/HWT	May – June 2013	Warning test bed environment	TBD (GOES-R PG)
VIIRS Nighttime Imagery	VIIRS DNB, Nightmphysics, Dust RGBs	BOU, CYS, TFX, ABQ	July – August 2013	Fire, smoke, and dust	02/15/2014
Rainfall (High Latitude and PR)	NESDIS GOES-R QPE, CIRA LPW	AFC, AFG, AJK, APRFC, SJU	July 15 – September 15 2013	High latitude/tropical environ.	01/15/2014
AWC Summer Experiment ²	UAH GOES-R CI, PGLM mosaic (NAWIPS)	AWC	August 2013	Aviation applications	TBD (AWC)
NHC (Tropical PG) ²	SEVIRI RGBs	NHC, TAFB	August – October 2013	Tropical cyclone forecasting	TBD (CIRA)
WFO Convective Products Evaluation	UAH GOES-R CI	CRP, ABQ, MLB, HUN	September – October 2013	Convective initiation	2/15/2014
Aviation and Cloud Analysis – SR Inland	VIIRS DNB, Nightmphysics RGBs, 11-3.9 um GEO/LEO Hybrid	ABQ, HUN, MRX, OHX, RAH, TFX	September 15 – November 15 2013	Clouds at night for aviation	03/15/2014
Aviation and Cloud Analysis – SR Coastal	VIIRS DNB, Nightmphysics RGBs, 11-3.9 um GEO/LEO Hybrid	CRP, HGX, LIX, MFL, MLB, MOB	December – January 2014	Clouds at night for aviation	04/15/2014
Aviation and Cloud Analysis – AK and WR	VIIRS DNB, Nightmphysics RGBs, 11-3.9 um GEO/LEO Hybrid	AAWU, AFC, AFG, AJK, APRFC, EKA, MFR	December – January 2014	Clouds at night for aviation	04/15/2014
NESDIS Snowfall Rate	NESDIS Snowfall Rate	BTV, LWX, RLX, ABQ, SAB	January – February 2014	Assessing microwave-based snowfall rate product in operations	05/15/2014
NCWCP & NHC Winter Demonstration ²	Air Mass RGB, AIRS Ozone Retrievals, Hybrid	WPC, TAFB, OPC, SAB	January – April 2014	Structure of winter storms centers	TBD (GOES-R PG)
OPG Tracking Tool ²	Tracking tool (AWIPS II)	Operations PG	April – May 2014	Tracking tool for operational applications	TBD (GOES-R PG)

¹ Status and anticipated completion date for assessment report

² Not a SPoRT-led assessment

New Projects Funded by SPoRT through ROSES 2013

Every three years, SPoRT formally solicits involvement of the external community in the transition of research capabilities to the operational weather environment through the NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science (ROSES) solicitation. The 2013 ROSES opportunity titled “A.33: NASA Data for Operations and Assessment” focused on short-term weather prediction and explicitly sought proposals for collaboration with SPoRT to transition NASA products or capabilities to operational end users. The winning proposals were selected through the NASA peer review process in August 2013 and awardees announced in December 2013. SPoRT looks forward to starting collaborations with these PIs during the first part of 2014. The new collaborators are:

- **“Data Assimilation and Evaluation of GPM Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar and Microwave Imager Data with the GSI Data Assimilation System,”** Xuanli Li (University of Alabama in Huntsville; PI). This project aims to develop techniques to assimilate Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) dual-frequency precipitation radar (DPR) and GPM Microwave Imager (GMI) data into the operational Gridpoint Statistical Interpolation (GSI) data assimilation system. This research will initially include analysis of ground validation GPM data and actual GPM data, developing code

to ingest these datasets into GSI, and producing numerical simulations that demonstrate the impact of these data on numerical weather prediction forecasts from the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model. SPoRT’s role in this project is to advise on use of the GSI and ensure that code modifications are tested within an operational code infrastructure. SPoRT will also facilitate calls between the PI and the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation as an outlet for communicating results of the project to the broader operational data assimilation community.

- **“Transition and Enhancement of ATMS Snowfall Rate Product and Its Fusion with Weather Radar Data,”** Huan Meng (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)/ University of Maryland; PI). This project aims to build capabilities for using data from the Advanced Technology Microwave Sounder (ATMS) to develop and transition a snowfall rate (SFR) product that is a follow-on to the current NESDIS Snowfall Rate product from NOAA POES and EUMETSAT Metop satellites. The SFR products can provide information about snowfall rates in data void regions over land, such as the

undulating terrain of the mountain west. A secondary part of the project is to merge these SFR products with radar data to make the product more easily integrated into the forecast process in the same way that SPoRT has developed hybrid imagery products to handle the temporal limitations of polar-orbiting imagers. SPoRT’s role in this project is to transition the new ATMS SFR products to operational end users, and by developing training and conducting assessments of predicted impacts.

- **“Transitioning of an Integrated 0-1 Hour First-Flash Lightning Nowcasting, Lightning Amount and Lightning Jump Warning Capability,”** John Mecikalski (University of Alabama in Huntsville; PI). This project aims to develop and transition a nowcasting algorithm for lightning initiation, amount, and lightning jump to help the community prepare for Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) data. The product will use GOES lightning initiation verified against in situ data from the Lightning Mapping Array, forecasts from the WRF model, and proxy GLM data for this 0-1 hour time-continuous algorithm. SPoRT’s role in this project is to provide total lightning expertise as well as to transition the nowcasting product to operational end users and developing training and conducting assessments.

Spotlight on New SPoRT Graduate Students

Nicholas Elmer

Nicholas Elmer is a first-year graduate student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville working with NASA SPoRT. A native of Indiana, he graduated from Saint Louis University in December 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology and a minor in engineering mathematics. His Master’s thesis is focused on correcting for the limb-cooling effect observed in infrared satellite channels in order to produce more useful products for SPoRT end users. Currently, the limb-cooling effect causes the imagery to inaccurately represent atmospheric conditions due to individual channel biases and increased atmospheric absorption from an extended path length near the limb. While this issue applies to all satellite sensors, the primary goal of this correction is to improve the utility of RGB imagery derived from polar-orbiting satellites. By

developing a regression algorithm using the JCSDA Community Radiative Transfer Model to remove these effects, the goal is to create corrected RGB imagery for each satellite sensor, allowing easy comparison of images from different satellites and the eventual development of an RGB Air Mass hybrid product.

Jordan Bell

Jordan Bell joined the SPoRT team in May 2013 as a graduate student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Science with a minor in Geography and obtained a GIS certificate at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He previously worked with the SPoRT team as a summer intern in 2011, where he was mentored by Jonathan Case and developed a project examining the SPoRT

greenness vegetation fraction (GVF) product and the impact of the GVF on land surface and numerical weather forecasting models. Jordan coauthored a recently published IEEE article featuring the work of his intern project, titled “A Real-Time MODIS Vegetation Product for Land Surface and Numerical Weather Prediction Models.” Thus far, Jordan’s graduate work with SPoRT has focused on an examination of tornado damage tracks associated with the severe weather outbreak of April 27, 2011, and support for SPoRT’s Applied Science: Disasters activities. Jordan’s thesis work will be focused on developing an objective and statically-driven algorithm that helps to improve the detection of hail damage using multispectral satellite data. Jordan will also continue to support the SPoRT Disasters Team and other SPoRT colleagues with his valuable GIS skills.

Spotlight on New SPoRT Members

Aaron Naeger

Aaron Naeger grew up in St. Louis, MO, which allowed him the opportunity to experience the vastly different weather conditions that can occur throughout a year. Although he enjoyed being outside playing baseball and football in pristine weather, he did not mind at all when unsettled weather moved through the area. Aaron would stay outside as long as he could in rain or snow storms to truly experience the weather. When the weather conditions became too dangerous, his mother thankfully would force him inside where he immediately turned on The Weather Channel. Then, after taking an atmospheric science course as a senior in high school, Aaron decided that he wanted to study the weather in college. Four years later, he was handed a Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Science during his graduation ceremony at the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2007. But, Aaron decided to further pursue his education at the University of Alabama in Huntsville where he was awarded a Graduate Research Assistantship beginning in August 2007. For his Master's Degree, Aaron focused on developing innovative satellite remote sensing techniques to improve the detection of clouds and aerosols in the atmosphere. In particular, he used multi-sensor observations from the MODIS and CALIPSO to better understand the vertical structure of clouds and dust aerosols through the atmosphere.

After receiving his Master's Degree in May 2010, Aaron began focusing on his PhD research involving radiative transfer and mesoscale modeling of clouds and dust aerosols. One of his major research goals was to improve the understanding of the impact of dust aerosols on tropical cyclones. Through conducting WRF-Chem model simulations on Tropical Storm Helene in 2006, Aaron showed that the storm significantly weakened due to its interaction with Saharan dust. Aaron completed this research in September 2013 and received his PhD in Atmosphere Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

In October 2013, he joined the SPoRT team where his research concentrates on Asian dust aerosols which can be transported across the Pacific Ocean to the western United States and influence the weather in this region. Aaron is currently using satellite remote sensing to understand the three-dimensional spatial distribution of Asian dust across the Pacific Ocean. Then, he will use a weather forecast model to simulate the impact of Asian dust on the clouds and precipitation across the eastern Pacific Ocean and western United States. Aaron hopes this research will improve weather forecasts for the United States.

Anita LeRoy

Anita LeRoy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics with minors in Mathematic and Astronomy from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN. More recently, she obtained a Master of Science degree in Atmospheric Science and a Master of Business Administration degree, both from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Her research background focuses on satellite detection of lightning and convection. As a member of the Training, Transitions, and Assessment Team in SPoRT, Ms. LeRoy works closely with forecasters and product developers evaluating experimental datasets and operational products.

Lori Shultz

Lori Schultz joined the SPoRT team in the summer of 2013. She served ten years in the U.S. Army as a CH-47D Flight Engineer, aircraft mechanic and Technical Inspector. In 2006, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN, with minors in both mathematics and photography. She finished her Master of Science work (climatological study of the tornadoes that form when a tropical cyclone makes land-fall) in 2008 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Previous research areas include radar studies of land-falling tropical cyclones, satellite-based surface energy flux and soil moisture estimation and satellite detection

of convective initiation over the U.S. Current research within SPoRT focuses on the applications of satellite data for disaster assessment. Other responsibilities include; working within the Transition, Training and Assessment team to build training modules for the end-users of the products developed/transitioned by SPoRT; coordinating the evaluation and assessment of these products with partner Weather Forecast Offices and other end-users of the data; interacting with research partners on the continued development and refinement of the data products.

Summary of AGU Activities

SPoRT participated in the 2013 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco (9-13 December), providing several oral and poster presentations. Jason Burks presented an overview of web mapping service capabilities to support ongoing disaster response and assessment activities, as well as web-based and handheld app development supporting the dissemination of various data products. These capabilities were supported in part through MSFC internal funding sources, including the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications, as well as a proposal awarded to the SPoRT team through the NASA Applied Sciences:

Disasters focus area. Andrew Molthan presented an overview of SPoRT's disaster analysis activities to date as well as future directions expected during a follow-on proposal award. Disasters activities were also emphasized in two Hyperwall presentations led by Andrew at the NASA exhibit hall booth. In addition, Gary Jedlovec presented an update on analysis of climate data gathered and trends observed at MSFC, as well as two presentations highlighting SPoRT's new Visualization and Collaboration Lab capabilities and supporting software.

Blog Summary

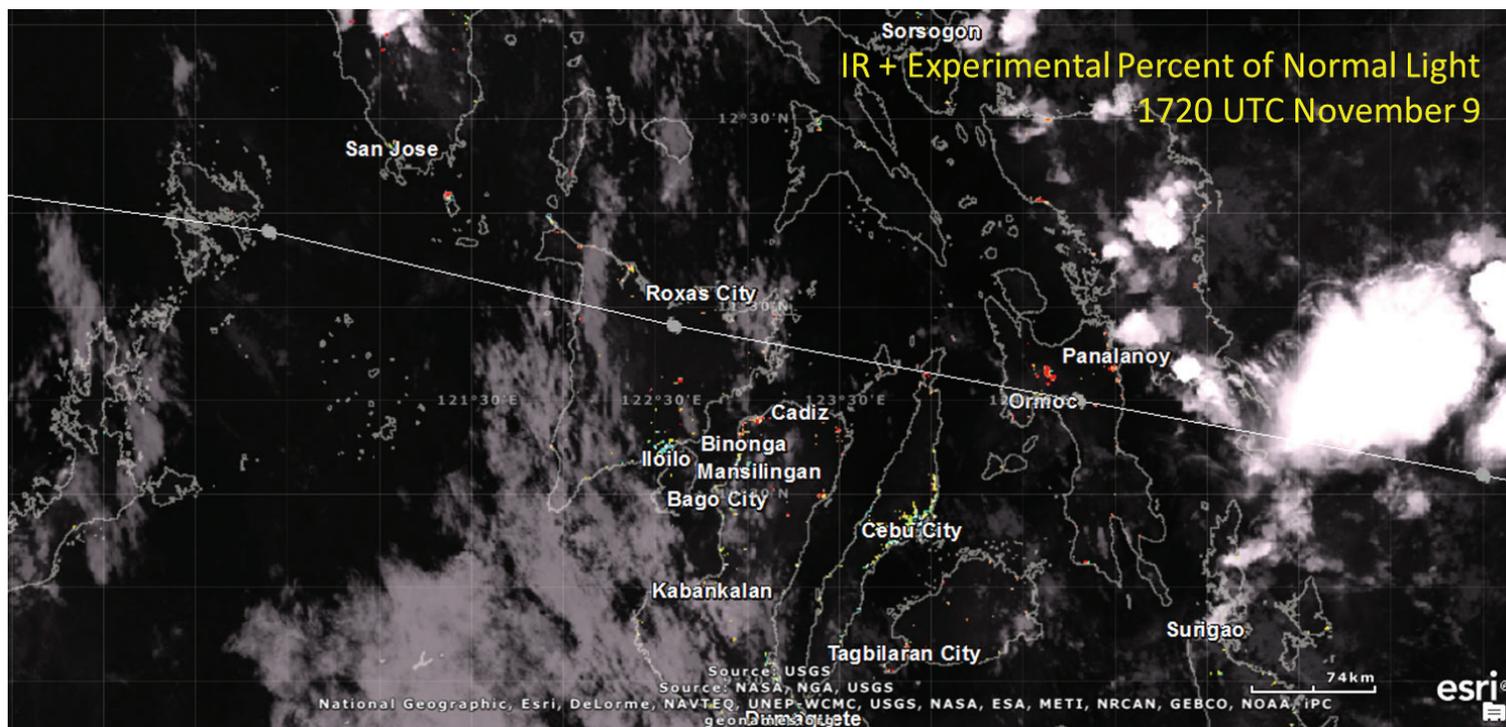
The SPoRT blog received over 3,000 views during the last quarter of 2013, pushing the total number of views over 50,000 since the blog's inception. Outside of the United States, the most views, 186, came from our friendly neighbors to the north, Canada. Following that, the other countries in the top five were Great Britain, South Korea and the Philippines. Views to our blog came in from most countries and from every continent. So, our readership truly spans the globe! We want to thank our contributors for their informative posts, which truly garner interest from all over the globe.

The post that received the most views during the month (585), and entitled, "Experimental DNB Outage Product

Following Super Typhoon Haiyan," showed an experimental "percent of normal light" product following the passage of Haiyan. The resulting image utilized differences between the NOAA/NASA black marble baseline and the VIIRS Day-Night Band Radiance imagery to show locations where city lights had been degraded following the passage of the destructive super typhoon. Another popular post (173 views) highlighted the ability of the VIIRS Day-Night Band to detect the Aurora Borealis. While not a direct meteorological application of the VIIRS instrument, it nonetheless can be useful at NWS offices for fielding calls from the public about the location and extent of the auroras. Since SPoRT conducted evaluations of the Suomi NPP VIIRS Day-Night Band and Nighttime Microphysics RGBs and

MODIS Nighttime Microphysics RGBs, several posts involved the ability of this imagery to detect the presence of low clouds and fog.

While we can't mention all posts made during the quarter, the SPoRT group is very appreciative of the efforts of all of our collaborative authors. We were very happy to add several new authors and offices to our family this last quarter and look forward to their posts in the future. Please visit the Wide World of SPoRT blog to see these and other posts when you can, at <http://nasasport.wordpress.com>. If you would like privileges to post on the SPoRT blog, please send an email to Kris White (kris.white@noaa.gov). Thanks and we hope you'll keep reading!



Publications

The following article was accepted in March 2013, published via Early Access in May 2013, and now appears in the March 2014 issue of IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing:

Case, J. L., F. J. LaFontaine, J. R. Bell, G. J. Jedlovec, S. V. Kumar, and C. D. Peters-Lidard, 2014: A real-time MODIS vegetation product for land surface and numerical weather prediction models. *IEEE Trans. Geosci. Remote Sens.*, 52(3), 1772-1786.

2013 SPoRT Awards

In order to recognize the efforts of our collaborative partners in helping to carrying out the SPoRT mission, this year's SPoRT awards go to:

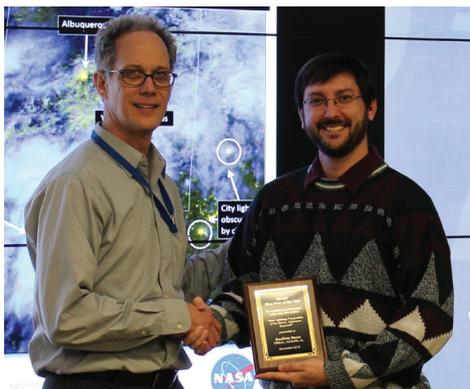
- Collaborative Partner of the Year — presented to the San Juan WFO for “Extraordinary Efforts in Demonstrating the Utility of Experimental Products in NWS Operations”
- Satellite Champion of the Year — presented to Amanda Terborg (CIMSS/SSEC, Kansas City) for “Outstanding Efforts to Integrate Experimental Data in to a National Center or WFO Operations.”



Amanda Terborg receiving the 2013 Satellite Champion of the Year award.

- Blog Post of the Year (co-winner) — awarded to Luis Rosa (HUN SJU) for his post titled “Tropical Rain Brings Historic Rain to San Juan, Puerto Rico”

- Blog Post of the Year (co-winner) — awarded to Geoffrey Stano (SPoRT, Products Team) for his post titled “Total Lightning Perspective of the Moore, Oklahoma Supercell” July 17th, four NWS



Geoffrey Stano was the co-winner of the 2013 Blog Post of the Year award.

Visitors

Dr. Iphigenia Keramitsoglou (National Observatory of Athens) was briefed on the SPoRT program on 30 October 2013 as part of her visit to the MSFC Earth Science Office. Dr. Keramitsoglou's research interests include the study the urban heat island effect in Greece, forest fires, and other public health applications through the use of satellite observations from NASA and EUMETSAT. She also is working to install a direct broadcast antenna to obtain real-time satellite data for the above mentioned applications. SPoRT provided some input on how it interacts with operational end-users, processes real-time satellite datasets, and develops unique satellite products to address specific operational applications.

Calendar of Events

- February 2 — 6, 2014: AMS Annual Meeting and Conferences, Atlanta, GA
- February 13, 2014: NWS Partnership Virtual Workshop
- February 20, 2014: Monthly WFO Collaboration Call
- February 25 — 27, 2014: Damage Assessment Toolkit (DAT) Summit, Huntsville, AL
- March — April, 2014: Experimental Products Development Team (EPDT) Workshops, Huntsville, AL
- March 10 — 13, 2014: NOAA Science Week Virtual Workshop
- June 2 — 6, 2014: Satellite Proving Ground/User Readiness Meeting, Kansas City, MO
- July 29 — August 1, 2014: JPSS OCONUS R2O Interchange Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii
- September 22 — 26, 2014: EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference, Geneva, Switzerland

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