

## **ROSS Partner Conference Call Notes June 20, 2002**

Attendees:

ROSS Team: Neal Hitchcock, Nancy DeLong, Rex Alford, Mary Ann Szymoniak and Andy Gray.

Mike Caprata (?) BIA Rocky Mountain Area, and ROSS Partners.

Business Community Update—Neal:

- ◆ We have accomplished a lot of training to date, and have had to scale back a bit recently because of fires.
- ◆ Training revealed some software issues that were not found until we placed such a high degree of usage on the application. Although frustrating to trainees, this has been a very beneficial process.
- ◆ The speed at which resulting corrections were made reinforces in my mind the high quality of our contractor.
- ◆ Versata Corporation is also working with Lockheed-Martin to improve some processes that occur in the background of ROSS to increase performance.
- ◆ The fire situation will dictate what we can and can't get done this year.
- ◆ The ROSS application received Forest Service technical approval.
- ◆ Good luck.

Andy: I sent Neal's letter on implementation to all of the Partners. Please see the ROSS homepage (<http://ross.nwcg.gov>) for more information on corrective actions taken on issues uncovered during training.

Project Update - Andy:

Jon couldn't join us today but gave me some information that he'd like us to share with the Partners:

- ◆ Last night we began the initial steps for moving version 1.2.3 to production. We plan to move it on Monday (6/24), but Neal and Jon will make the final decision on that tomorrow. On any given day, 250 people are currently using ROSS production (and about 100 each night).
- ◆ The Coordinators will discuss on a conference call next week when to implement ROSS Status on a nation-wide basis. Jon is working on a paper with instructions on how to accomplish this.
- ◆ The IQS Import/Export for ROSS has been tested and will be released very soon. Instructions are being finalized.
- ◆ SACS IQS Import/Export is ready for testing, and will be released to the field as soon as possible.

Business Team Update – Rex:

I'd like to share some of the highlights of the next ROSS version (v 1.2.3):

- ◆ One of the key features everyone will use will be the reporting function. The reports themselves will have the same basic format you've been using, but will be much easier to use.
- ◆ Available reports will include:
  - Catalog Item Detail by Dispatch Center
  - Catalog Item Detail Listing
  - Order From – Providers, Subordinates, Selection Area

- Person - Non-overhead Listing
  - Person - Overhead Listing
  - Resource Item Detail for Aircraft
  - Resource Item Detail for Crews
  - Resource Item Detail for Overhead
  - Resource Item Detail for Overhead Groups
  - Resource Item Detail for Supply
  - Resource Status Detail by Availability Status
  - Resource Status Detail by Catalog Item
  - Resource Status Summary by Dispatch Center
  - Resource Status Summary by Dispatch Center Provider
  - Resource Status Summary by Subordinate Dispatch Center
  - Further Admin Reports will be available with each new release
  - Dispatch reports are under development (suggestions invited)
- ◆ Other capabilities will include:
    - ◆ External Place/Fill order
    - ◆ Edit request assignment (a unit will be able to edit a resource's travel, for example, up until the time it is due to arrive at an incident).
    - ◆ View detailed information on a resource.

Nancy: it's important to note that these Resource Order features will not be turned on initially – only the status portion of version 1.2.3 – until units are ready to begin using ROSS for dispatching.

Question (Kathy Wiegard):

We've encountered problems running reports on PC's with Windows 2000, and this is hampering moving forward on using Status. What's the progress on this?

Rex/Sue: The reporting function currently on Production was written before Microsoft released Windows 2000. We've been using reports on Windows 2000 platforms on ROSS Practice and there haven't been any problems. The release of v 1.2.3 should eliminate your problems, but we're interested in hearing back from you after it's released.

Question (Wendy Dougherty):

Can we run reports by district rather than by forest? Not being able to do this is cumbersome.

Rex: You can report by provider, not by home unit. Send sample of the report you'd like and we'll look at it. We should be able create nearly any report you need.

Question (Wendy Dougherty):

When doing status, you can sort by home unit, but it still shows all other records. Will you be able to filter by home unit and only show those records?

Sue: You can filter by provider, owner and incident. You can display the results by provider, home unit or owner.

Rex: Send me a note on that, Wendy. We might be able to meet your needs with a report.

Implementation Update - Nancy DeLong:

- ◆ I'd like to reiterate what Neal mentioned. We know it was sometimes painful to go through training and discover application problems, but boy was it valuable to us! Your work has helped improve the ROSS application, and we learned a lot about our training scenarios and are improving them as well.
- ◆ Several ROSS Training Sessions have been held in various Geographic Areas, but some have been postponed due to either a lack of instructors or fire activity.
- ◆ The data on ROSS Practice will be replaced with a copy of the Production data every first and third Saturday of each month. So, as you add or edit data on ROSS Production, you'll have an opportunity to use that more current data for practice.
- ◆ The ROSS Web-based training overview is complete and will soon be available on the web by clicking the User Support tab (Note: when Nancy and Flint have this on the web, Andy will send a note to the Partners).

Infrastructure Update – Andy:

- ◆ Steve Simon is on the Hayman Fire and couldn't participate in the call today, but he says everything is fine in the infrastructure department.

ROSS Partner Update – Andy:

- ◆ A big thanks to those Partners who stepped up and helped with training material development and by being trained as Instructors or Coaches.

Nancy: I'd like to second that.

Comment (Lindsey Lien):

If we go to Preparedness Level 5 nationally, it could affect the scheduled Alaska training sessions due to availability of dispatchers.

Nancy: If it does, please notify Rob Juhola.

## **ROSS Version 1.2.3 Highlights**

**6/20/2002**

The following is Steve Tarver's list of the most important new capabilities of ROSS version 1.2.3. This is not a complete list – just the highlights:

1. **External place/fill.** From the pending request screen you have some new menu choices on the action button in the middle of the screen:
  - **“Place request external”** can place request to an external organization that exists or created during the place external process.
  - **“Fill with new resource”** can fill a request with a new resource that has not been previously entered in the resource item database. Dialog box asks for name and preferred jetport and then proceed with the fill process as normal.
  - **“Fill with external resource”** can place a request with an external organization and then fill the request with an external resource. The resource can be previously entered or created at the time the request is filled.
  
2. **External incident.** From the incident screen you have the ability to create an incident for an external organization. The external organization may be previously entered on the organization screen or created at the time the incident is created. Dialog box asks for a name and unit ID of the external organization. When you are creating an external incident some additional fields become required. Contact person, contact phone number, and date/time of the contact from the external organization. After the incident is created the process is the same as for other incidents but the incident will be identified as an external incident on the screen.
  
3. **Edit request/assignment.** From the request status screen you can edit the request information and also edit the assignment information. Edit assignment gives the sending unit the ability to edit the travel information up to the time of arrival. You can also edit the financial code, contact information and add documentation.
  
4. **View resource.** From the request status screen you can view the detailed information about a resource that is being assigned. Dialog box shows the information from the resource item screen.
  
5. **Multi-Edit requests.** From the new request and the request status screen you can select multiple requests and edit the request information at one time for all the selected requests.