

Report on the ANSS NetOpsVI Workshop.

Mitch Withers, April 4, 2012

Fifty-six people gathered at UC Berkeley on Tuesday and Wednesday March 27-28, 2012 for the sixth NetOps workshop. The focus of the workshop was field operations. While most attendees were field technicians and engineers, participants also included seismic network managers, software developers, seismologists and IT experts. Twenty organizations were represented including academia, the public sector, and both earthquake and volcano hazards programs. The workshop agenda included two full days (http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/people/mwithers/NetOpsVI/agenda_20120313.pdf) of discussion on nearly all aspects of seismic station design, maintenance, and operation.

Numerous observations were made during the workshop, some of which include:

- New equipment often arrives in large batches with very short deadlines and no additional personnel. Routine O&M suffers. More time and people are needed for major upgrades and expansions.
- There is frequently insufficient time and staff for effective preventive maintenance.
- Overlap of staff turnovers is highly desirable.
- Common station documentation tools are needed.
- Can there be stipends for technical staff to visit and work with other networks. In some cases it might be an expert visiting a network to provide direct assistance on a specific need and in others it might be a novice visiting a larger network for immersion training.
- We should have a portable deployment SOP and Best Practices document.
- How about that NetOps wiki (Author's note: several people have put significant efforts into this over the past few years without success. The primary impediments are time, security, and need for a proactive hosting organization).
- NEPA documents approved for ARRA upgrades expire in 3 years. These were very time consuming. Can the renewals be streamlined? Can they be centralized? Can there be assistance? Costs are also a concern—some originals cost \$3500 for a single site evaluation.
- We need an ARRA for infrastructure, e.g. upgrade/replacement of aging wiring, vaults, towers, power converters, grounding improvement, etc.
- Is there a liaison with first responders groups so we can take advantage of such things as the 700MHz band?

This report is available at http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/people/mwithers/NetOpsVI/report_v3.pdf

The list of participants is available at <http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/people/mwithers/NetOpsVI/Participants.pdf>