

ACRF INSTRUMENT TEAM MEETS AT SGP

The ARM Program has had unprecedented success in operating a large array of sophisticated climate-monitoring instrumentation — over a wide range of challenging conditions — to provide timely, high-quality data over a sustained period of years. This success is the result of careful, collaborative planning, preparation, and operation. Meetings like the one held recently help to reinvigorate and strengthen the relationships on which the program depends to sustain .

The ARM Climate Research Facility (ACRF) Instrument Team held its biennial meeting on July 24–26, 2007, at the SGP Central Facility near Billings, Oklahoma. The meeting was organized and chaired by Jim Liljegren, ARM Instrument Coordinator. Jim will be stepping down from this role on August 1, 2007, after almost five years at the helm. Taking over as Instrument Coordinator will be Jimmy Voyles, former ACRF Technical Director. (More about Jimmy Voyles is in the story below.)

In addition to instrument mentors, participants in the July meeting included scientists and site operations, infrastructure, and data management personnel. The meeting focused on discussions and interactions among instrument mentors and site operations personnel regarding instrument operation, maintenance, and calibration. Two days were devoted to classroom and hands-on sessions, and one day was reserved for discussions with other functional teams.

During classroom sessions, mentors presented brief overviews of their respective instrument systems, including purpose, major components, and operation. Also covered were changes over the last two years, including instrument calibration, data processing, and software upgrades. New or planned deployments, modifications, and upgrades to the instrument systems were discussed, as well.

Instrument mentors spent time with the site technicians who are responsible for daily instrument operation and maintenance. This interaction allowed technicians to raise current issues and concerns about the instrument systems for which they are responsible, especially instrument maintenance, operation, and calibration. Receiving feedback from technicians who encounter day-to-day challenges with instruments in highly variable, often harsh weather is an important aid for the mentors in developing maintenance procedures.

The next Instrument Team meeting will be held in 2009.

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JIMMY VOYLES BEGINS ROLE AS INSTRUMENT COORDINATOR



Mr. Jimmy Voyles, the current ACRF Technical Director, will move to the role of Instrument Coordinator effective August 1, 2007. In this role, he will provide leadership for the technical and engineering oversight of ACRF instrument systems and for the planning of future deployments. In addition, he will contribute to the broader engineering and operations needs of ACRF, including the planning and implementation of field campaigns. Congratulations to Jimmy, who now applies his valuable leadership and program knowledge to the role of Instrument Coordinator.

During his tenure as Technical Director, Jimmy brought his team leadership approach and management experience to the ACRF, in addition to his deep technical knowledge of the ARM Program. He established and maintained a strong relationship with the ARM Chief Scientist, the ARM Science Team Executive Committee, and the other ACRF managers. Jimmy also established management systems and communication protocols that have increased overall effectiveness and productivity and have disseminated the ACRF's contributions widely to the broader scientific community.

Jimmy has a degree in Electronic Engineering and Technology from the University of Houston and participated in the master's program in Electrical Engineering through Washington State University.