

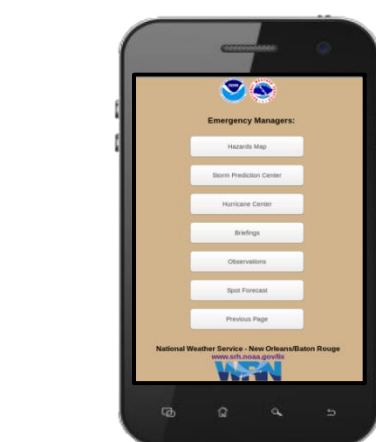
## Matthew J. Moreland, Tim Erickson, Angel Montanez, Ken Graham National Weather Service Forecast Office New Orleans/Baton Rouge

### BACKGROUND

The Super Bowl is an “event of national significance” which is supported by a wide range of federal, state, and local government departments. The Super Bowl entails the highest level of Federal support for any event except for the Presidential Inauguration. The NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office began planning for Super Bowl support nearly a year in advance of the event by attending planning meetings with core partners. The team of Emergency Response Specialists attended a tabletop exercise in December and supported the Sugar Bowl in early January as a “practice run” for the event. Logistics and protocol for deployments had to be worked out well in advance including special security clearance for deployment to the Superdome. For the week of the Super Bowl (January 28-February 4, 2013), the NWS office staffed for a major event, employing an “office coordinator” position and deploying meteorologists on rotating shifts to several EOCs. Tens of thousands of tourists were in the city during this period with every hotel room in the city sold out. Air traffic at airports in the New Orleans area increased to nearly four times the normal amount, with critical military operations taking place. Outdoor activities were held during the week including concerts, a large outdoor media event, and the NFL Experience. Significant weather impacted the New Orleans area during the first part of the week, with other threats later in the week including credible FBI security threats and the unexpected power outage during the game. The NWS support for the Super Bowl event in New Orleans provides a model and series of best practices that the agency can carry forward when providing weather support for future large-scale planned events.

### NWS “WHOLE AGENCY” COLLABORATION

1. Southern Region Google Sites Page	2. Emergency Response Mobile Tool	3. Web-Based Toolkit (one-stop)
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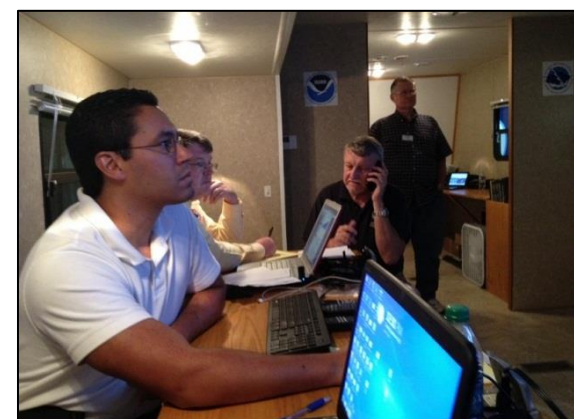
Southern Region Google Sites Page    Emergency Response Mobile Tool    Web-Based Toolkit (one-stop)

- Multi-faceted coverage: aviation, marine, land, spot forecasts. Quality NDFD forecast essential. Deployed meteorologists provided on-site briefings
- Office Coordinator” Position: staffed to generate one unified set of briefing slides and coordinate between forecasters and deployed meteorologists
- Collaboration between local NWS office, NWS Center Weather Service Unit Houston, and NWS Southern Region HQ

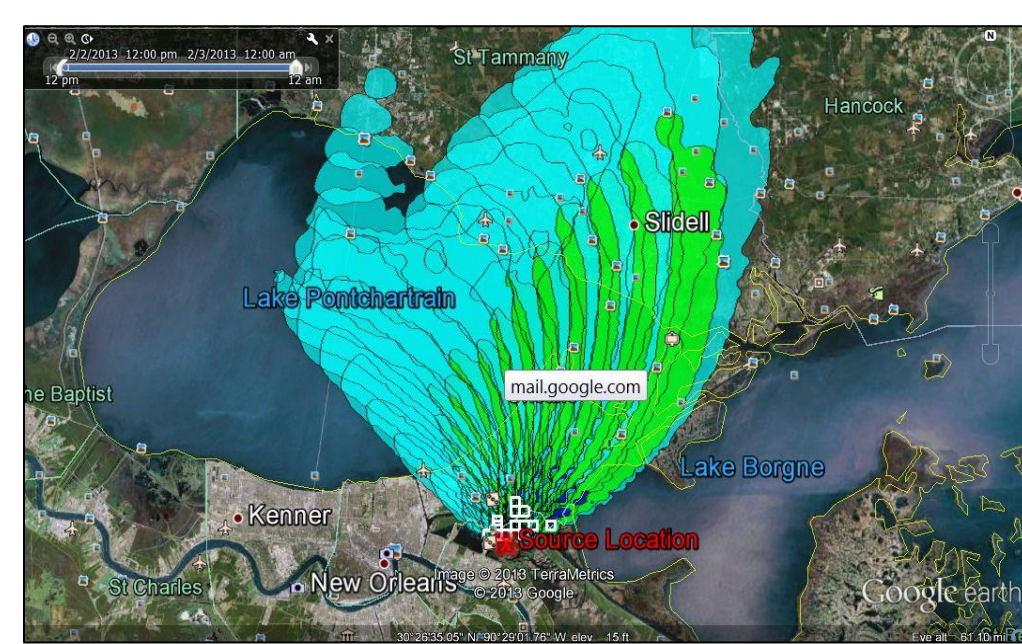
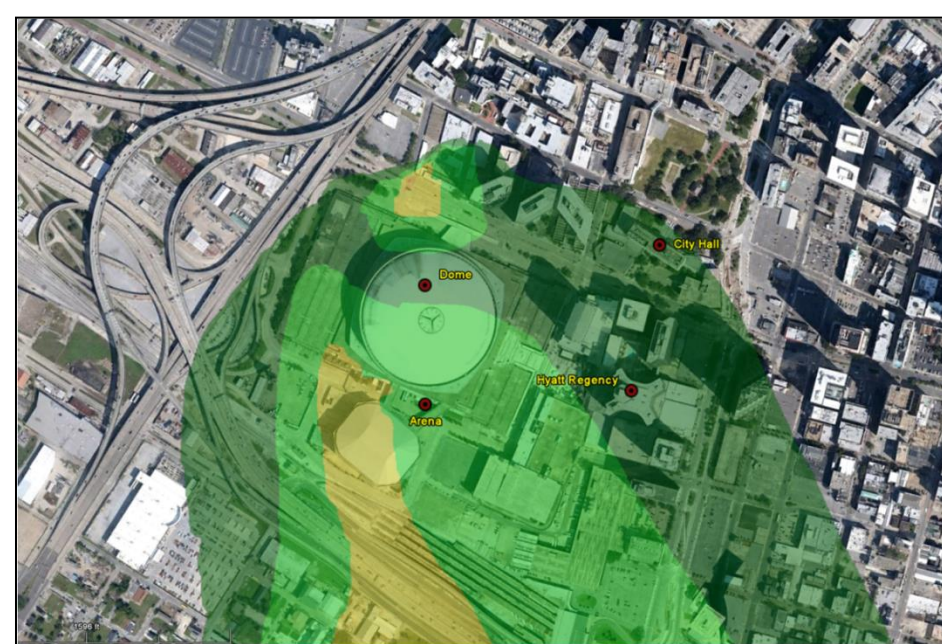
### BEST PRACTICES

- Months-long planning and pre-coordination with partners. Examples include FBI, Coast Guard, and City of New Orleans. They know our faces, capabilities, and expectations before the event begins.
- Staffing the office for heightened operations (such as a hurricane). Everyone had a role to play, and roles were clearly stated with briefings assigned in the daily “battle rhythm”. The “office coordinator” was essential to keeping everyone on the same page.
- Having an event-specific chat room in NWSChat which restricted access: frank and open discussion on the forecast between all the involved parties
- Plume modeling : essential for both public safety and economic concerns, but best to keep model results secure.
- Setting up “forecast thresholds” ahead of time – tailoring message to fit partners’ needs rather than our needs

### Significant Weather Emergency Response Vehicle (SWERV)

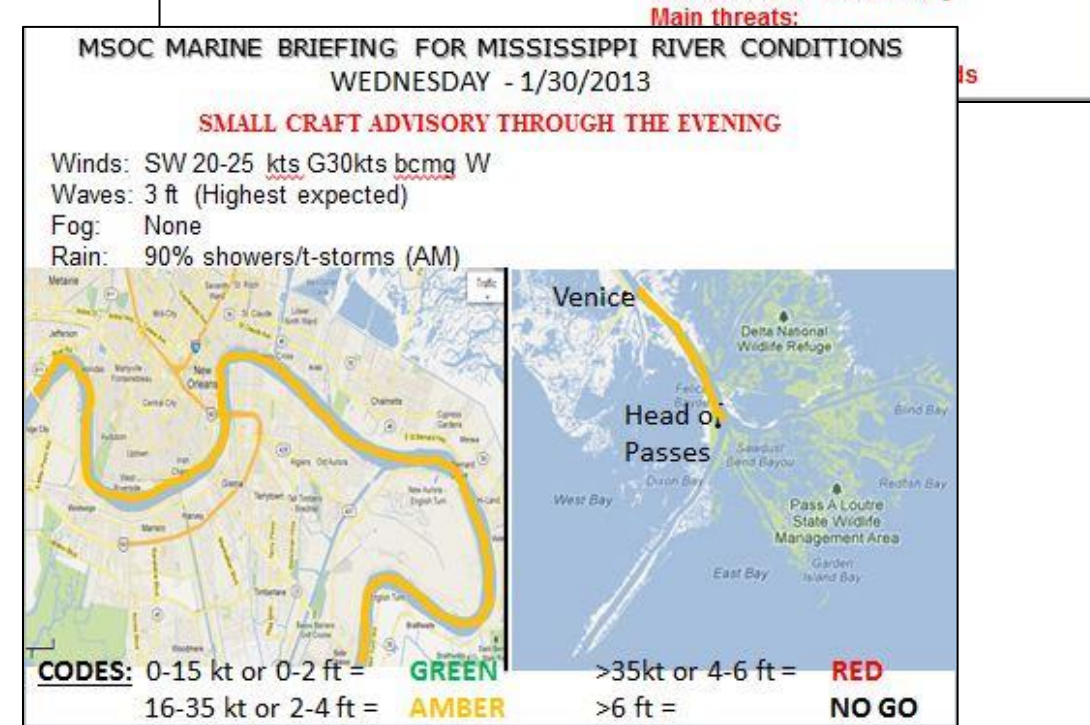
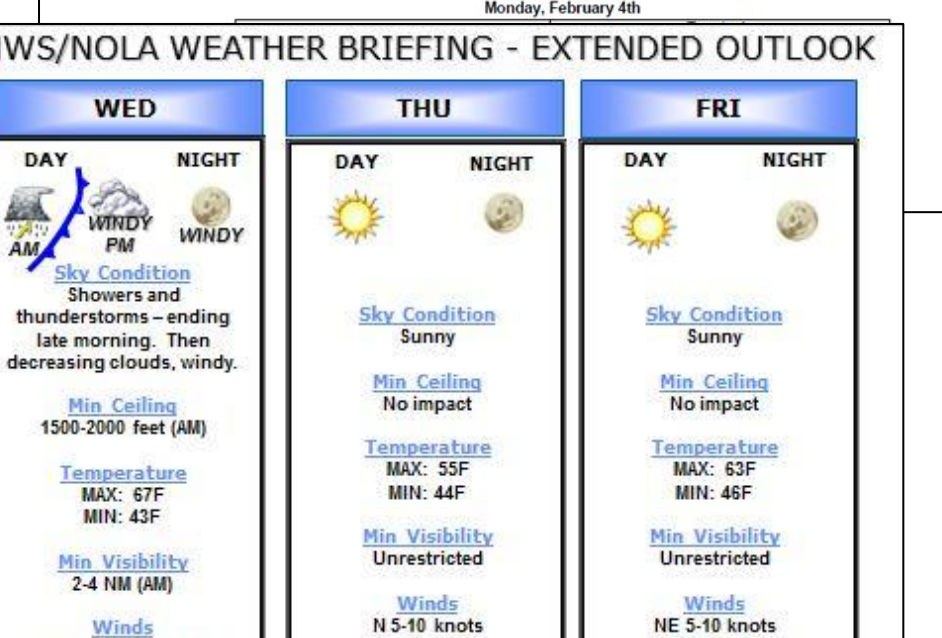
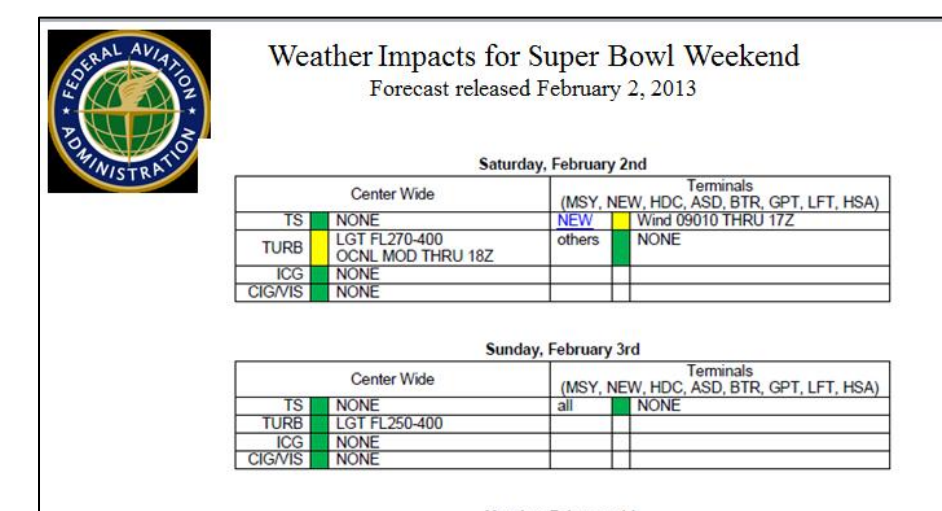
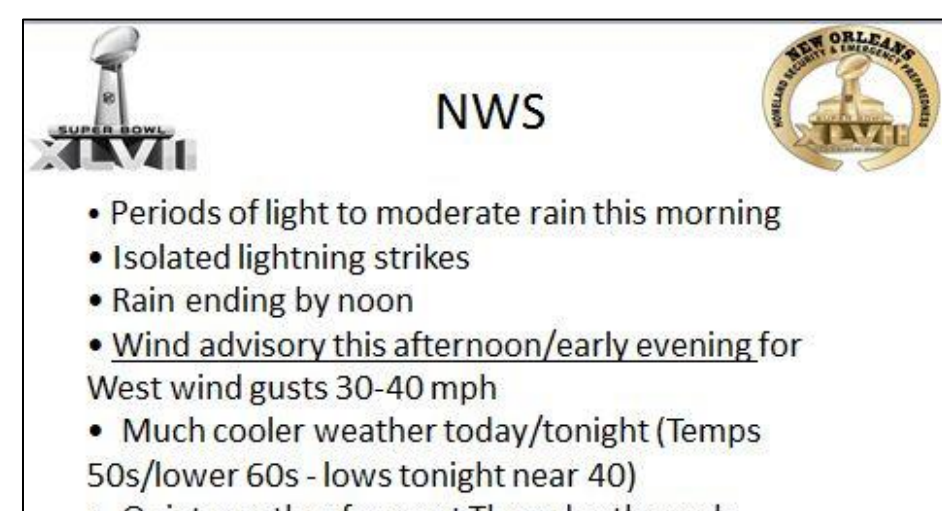


### PLUME MODELING



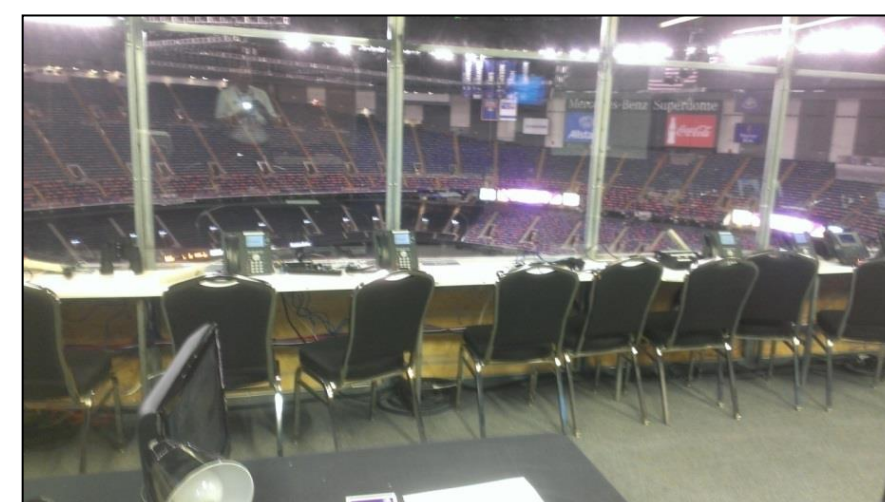
- “Credible threats” released from the FBI beginning three days prior to the game
- Worked with FBI to establish critical infrastructure points around New Orleans: including the Superdome and the practice locations for both teams
- Daily plumes generated for these points using HPAC (Hazard Prediction Assessment Capability) software from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency – military contractor
- Confidentiality/security: images were kept in-house (not posted or e-mailed) for use in case of emergency such as chemical release
- Marsh fire developed east of New Orleans on February 2 (the day before the game)
- NOAA Hysplit was run to track smoke plume --> the forecast kept the plume east of the city which saved the city \$100,000's in firefighting efforts

### DIFFERING PARTNERS – DIFFERING NEEDS CONSISTENT MESSAGE



### Marine Security Operations Center at the Port of New Orleans:

- Two meteorologists deployed with the SWERV days and evenings January 28 through February 4
- Core partners included Coast Guard, US Fish & Wildlife, US Customs & Border Patrol, Harbor Police
- Detailed briefings focused on marine partners and media interviews
- Sounding launches from Qinetiq, Inc.



Balloon radiosonde launches from Qinetiq, Inc. a military contractor

The AWIPS Thin Client

Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and HSIN Connect

### DEPLOYMENTS

#### Unified Command Center at City Hall in New Orleans:

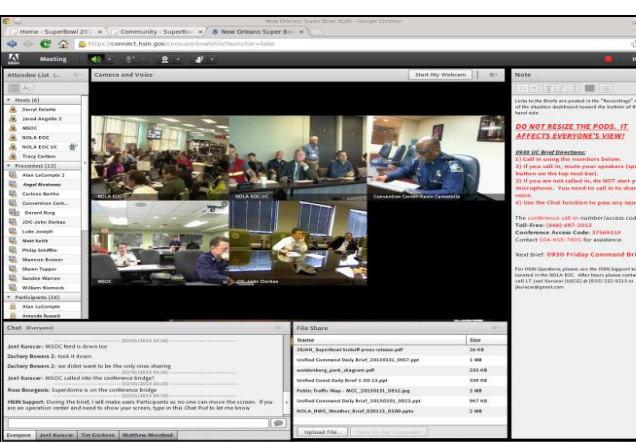
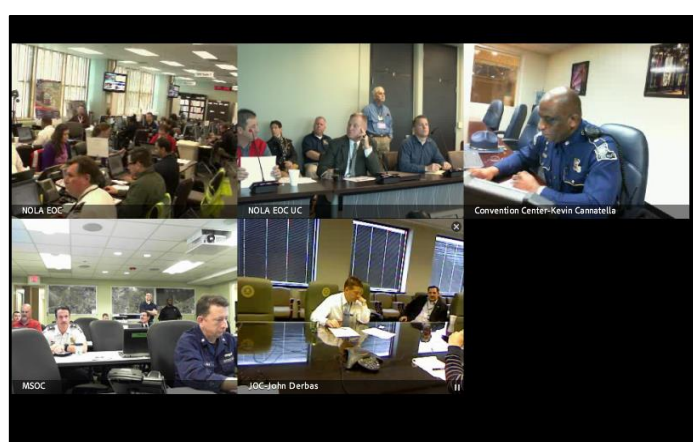
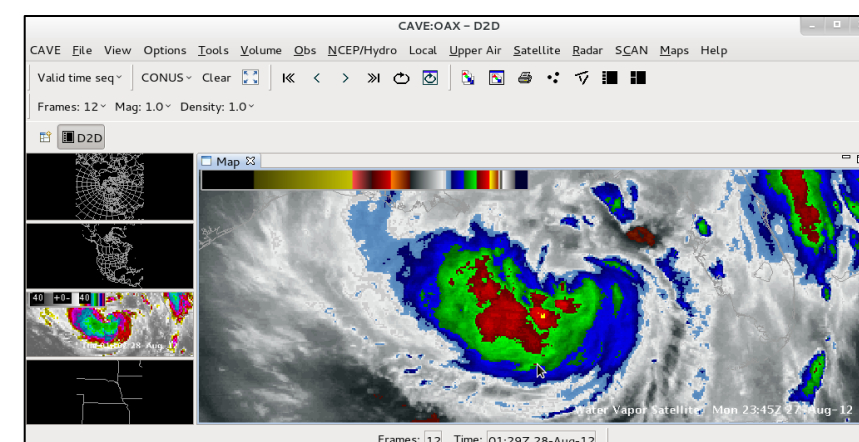
- One to two meteorologists deployed for 24 hour shift coverage January 28 through February 3
- Core partners included FBI, Department of Homeland Security, City of New Orleans, police and fire departments, state of Louisiana emergency management,
- Unified Command briefing included the mayor of New Orleans



#### NFL Control Room at the Superdome:

- MIC Ken Graham deployed on game day (February 3)
- Core partners included City of New Orleans, FBI, NFL Security and Operations
- “Crisis period” with unexpected power outage: had to rule out weather and terrorism

### TECHNICAL TOOLS



### PARTNER FEEDBACK

- “I love you guys – appreciate what you do”, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu to MIC Ken Graham
- “We sure appreciate what you all do for the city”, New Orleans Police Chief Ron Serpas
- “Thank you for your support...if there was an incident it was nice to know you were here”, NFL Director of Operations
- “I appreciate what you all do for us. Your forecast was spot on!”, Lt. Col. Jerry Sneed, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- “I gave a strong plug for you guys for the New York and New Jersey contingent next year. Your support has been great!”, Lt. Joel Kurucar, Coast Guard Sector New Orleans

