

SES-131-87
7 July 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Analysis Branch, ADD/ESG/FBIS

FROM: Laird Steinberg
System Engineering Support, GE

SUBJECT: Field Bureau Automation ERB Meeting Report

1. An FBA Engineering Review Board was held on 30 June 1987 at 1300. See Attachment A for the list of attendees. See Attachment B for the agenda.

2. [] opened the meeting and reviewed the minutes of the last FBA ERB meeting.

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a. The draft FBA CM Policy has been reviewed by C/ESG. Bill Stanbridge will incorporate the changes recommended by C/ESG and provide the revised FBA CM Policy to Twila by 28 July 1987.

b. Bill has received the LEC Bureau training handout on DR Procedures and will formalize the FBA ERB DR Procedures by 14 July 1987.

c. The FBIS Security Officer's bureau PC Security procedures have been received and reviewed. [] will work with the S.O. to finalize the procedures while [] is in Hong Kong.

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d. The BACH 1.3 software has been sent by unclassified pouch to all of the bureaus, except Vienna and Hong Kong. Twila sent out a message informing the bureaus of the forthcoming pouch, a detailed list of contents, and instructions.

e. Twila will be contacting Paraguay to insure the delivery of their Victor PC in time to have BACH 1.3a up and running prior to 21 August.

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3. Twila reviewed the status of open DRs. See Attachment C for the DR Status Report.

a. DR-AU-001-87 FBA TRANSMIT

LEC has investigated the DR and determined that resources will not be available to develop the desired change to the FBA-1 system until the FBA-2 development begins. In the interim, LEC recommends the use of a stand alone PC workstation on the backup commo line. The primary commo line would remain connected to the TRANSMIT PC workstation on the LAN. Twila will send a message to advise Vienna. Scott Carpenter will investigate this desired change for possible impact on the FBA-2 requirements. DR is closed.

b. DR-AU-003-87 Press Agency UPS

The ERB has agreed with the LEC recommendation that all Press Agency PCs be on an UPS. LEC needs direction to implement this change. Twila will send a memo to LEC regarding this decision and have LEC change the FBA-1 configuration. DR is closed.

c. DR-AU-005-87 File Server Disk Space

The ERB has agreed with the LEC recommended solution to the problem created by the Novell scheme of a 4K minimum fixed block size. Twila will send a memo to LEC regarding this decision and have LEC make the following changes to the FBA-1 configuration;

(1) Expand the minimum amount of unrecognizable material that comes after a valid SOM and before the next EOM or SOM from 10 characters to 240 characters. This will reduce the number of invalid message files made.

(2) Provide a variable purge for Press Agency data. The purge function will default to 7 days, but the System Administrator can modify it to 3, 4, 5, or 6 days. This will make it easier for the System Administrator to purge Press Agency files and keep the log accurate.

LEC will complete development and testing of the required software and documentation changes by 15 July 1987. Twila will send a message to Vienna to verify the FBA-2 requirement for only 7 days on line storage of outgoing messages. DR remains open.

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d. DR-AU-007-87 Intermittent Operation of Yugo IBM PCs

Two Victor PCs are being shipped to Vienna by LEC to replace the failed IBM PCs. Nick will track the shipping process. DR is closed.

e. DR-AU-009-87 Change Press Agency Circuit to RS-232

Vienna has requested an upgrade to their Press Agency interface. Specifically, Vienna would like to change the circuit interface from current loop to RS-232. The ERB has assigned the DR to FED for investigation. DR remains open.

f. DR-AU-010-87 Video Boards

The ERB expects to receive the new boards from LEC by 28 July 1987. As soon as they are received, they will be sent to Vienna. DR remains open.

g. DR-AU-011-87 FBA TRANSMIT

Vienna has requested an extra PC for their backup commo line. This DR is related to the interim solution to DR-AU-001-87. Each bureau which requires an extra PC for their backup commo line will retain one PC (IBM or Leading Edge) for stand alone use on the backup commo line and one matching PC as a hot spare. DR is closed.

h. DR-AU-012-87 TRANSMIT Program Shortcomings

The TRANSMIT program does not operate the same as COMMOUT. LEC is investigating this complaint and will provide the ERB with a recommendation by 7 July 1987. DR remains open.

i. DR-AU-013-87 WriteNow Confusion

Vienna has experienced a problem with the PGUP and PGDOWN system and CTRL-F and CTRL-A commands on hyphenated words. This problem will be investigated by Lee Walker. LEC will provide the ERB with a recommendation by 14 July 1987. DR remains open.

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j. DR-AU-014-87 Press Agency Files

The Press Agency invalid message files are listed in the database but are not found when attempting to make a copy after a seven day purge was done on the database. This problem appears to be related to DR-AU-005-87. The ERB decided to wait until DR-AU-005-87 is resolved to determine if the solution also corrects DR-AU-014-87. DR remains open.

k. DR-AU-015-87 User Database Program

Vienna reported that the user database program lacks a page up feature and the capability to view the entire item on the screen. LEC will provide the results of their TI to the ERB on ~~21~~ July 1987. DR remains open.

l. DR-AU-016-87 Press Agency Program

Vienna has requested a daily Press Agency log versus the current seven day log. LEC is investigating this DR and will report to the ERB on ~~21~~ July 1987. DR remains open.

m. DR-AU-017-87 Hardcopy Printouts on PA received from APA

Vienna has requested the use of a stand alone PC in order to select and print only those Press Agency files needed by the bureau. The ERB requires additional information to justify the requirement. Scott Carpenter will draft a message to Vienna requesting additional information and justification. DR remains open.

n. DR-AU-018-87 AGERPRES Items Being Stored in Wrong Areas

The start sequence for the items was wrong and has been corrected. The problem is resolved. DR is closed.

o. DR-AU-901-87 Excessive Retransmission on AU Circuit

Vienna has reported successful communications on the DTS circuit without any modifications at the bureau. The ERB regards the problem as tentatively resolved and suspects that the Croughton switch corrected the situation. DR remains open.

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p. DR-MB-003-87 IBM PC Disk Problem

The ERB is still waiting for notification that the bureau has received the diagnostic software, reformatting instructions and replacement disk. Nick will investigate the status of the shipment. DR remains open.

q. DR-SK-001-87 BACH Capitalization Errors

The BACH 2.0 software is being developed and will correct the capitalization error problems. The BACH 2.0 software is scheduled for distribution about 30 September 1987. DR remains open.

r. DR-SK-003-87 Copal Printer Failure

LOGS has shipped the new Epson printer to replace the Copal printer. Nick will investigate the status of the shipment. DR remains open.

s. DR-BK-901-87 Multiple Press Agency Workstations on LAN

Multiple Press Agency workstations are required on the LAN for Okinawa. However, the present software allows for only 1 Press Agency workstation. LEC will develop the modifications required by 4 August 1987. DR remains open.

4. Twila reported on the status of the FBA-1 System at Vienna.

a. Twila received a message from Vienna informing the ERB that outgoing messages have been sent via the DTS circuit to Croughton without problems for three hours.

b. The preparation of an RFC to the TRANSMIT software will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Twila also reported on the status of Key West.

a. The failed Victor monitor has not been received at Headquarters or LEC. will investigate.

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b. In response to the Key West request for an ERB recommendation on additional printers which they wish to purchase, the ERB recommended the Okidata 192 Plus. [] is checking on the roll paper holders which are on order.

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c. The RFC regarding the ASCII communication system at Key West is being developed by Scott. He will present it to the ERB by 4 August 1987.

6. Twila reported on the status of the installation at Hong Kong.

a. The equipment installation is on schedule. The hardware installation ~~should~~ be completed by 26 ^{June} ~~July~~. All test messages have been successful. Copies of all messages have been sent to Bangkok and Okinawa. SAT is expected to occur 2 July 1987.

b. The laser printers are expected to arrive in Hong Kong ¹⁰ July. The Okidata 192 printers ^{are} due at LEC on 6 July. ~~100 may be delayed.~~ ^{d/a}

c. Hong Kong has 7 IBM PCs left at the bureau. The ERB received a message from Hong Kong requesting retention of these PCs for the following uses.

(1) One PC dedicated for use as a backup commo link with the antenna field.

(2) Two PCs for use in the editorial room as a stand alone for use during shift overlaps.

(3) One PC for use by the part-time Philippine monitor as a stand alone in the bureau.

(4) Two PCs for use by contractors at home in order to produce soft copy and prevent having to key ~~in~~ the work.

(5) One PC for use as a spare.

The ERB approved the request for number 3. and 5. above. Twila will send a message to Hong Kong approving these uses. [] will investigate the requirements for the additional requests when he arrives in Hong Kong.

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7. Open Discussion covered Scott's comments on [redacted] memo of 1 May 1987. The first two topics, regarding TRANSMIT software and the Press Agency and User Database software, have been covered by DRs. The third topic pertains to the use of the MakeLog, Wipe, and Phrase A programs. The ERB decided to consider requirement changes to the software for FBA-2 based on FBA-1 user comments. Scott will draft a message to Vienna regarding ~~the use of the~~ programs, ~~by FBA-1 users.~~
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8. The next Field Bureau ERB is scheduled for Tuesday, 7 July at 1300.

Laird Steinberg

Attachments:

- A. FBA ERB Attendees
- B. FBA ERB Agenda
- C. DR Status Report