

**RONMAC Steering Committee Meeting**  
**October 18, 2001**

Alejandro Gutiérrez, Max Campos, Jim Navarro & Lee Chapin

The following items were topics of discussion;

1. We discussed the possibility of having all RONMAC and “Mitch” monitoring stations on the same GOES channel, so that reception would be possible without adding costly (\$3300 ea) demodulators for each different channel. Max/Alejandro will inquire about the possibility of having the National Agencies in the “Mitch” countries agree to this. If it is acceptable to all of them Jim and I will speak to Kay Metcalf at NESDIS during Jim’s December visit to the U.S.A.
  - one of the subordinate issues here is that the various U.S. agencies involved in GOES telemetry in “Mitch” did not coordinate this, they each went out and got their own GOES assignments, so there are several different channels that the various systems are transmitting on. If they were all on one or two channels, then the people with GOES satellite ground stations (DRGS) could receive all of the data, as opposed to just receiving their own system data
  - by getting all of the assignments on one or two channels, the various people with DRGS systems could act as redundant data storage sites, thus increasing the reliability of data collection.
  - As it presently stands the RONMAC DRGS is the only functioning receive site in RONMAC/”Mitch”. The CRRH RONMAC DRGS has only two demodulators, which is sufficient for RONMAC. However to collect data from the other GOES transmitted “Mitch” would require the additional purchase of more demodulators at \$3300 each. This expense is not necessary, if we can solve this administratively.
2. Jim, Sasha and myself will provide an “executive summary” of the final project report to Max so that he can use it when visiting each country.
3. In an informal conversation with Luis Hernandez from the IGN in El Salvador, he told us that his boss, Lopez Meyer, did not want us to install the real-time data system at Acajutla because of personal differences with the CPN people at the port (we are planning on installing it in the CPN Operations office). This is troubling because we are on CPN’s property and need their support. We do not want to get involved in this sort of local politics. We will write a letter expressing our intentions to place the real-time system in the CPN office, then if Lopez Meyer comes back, in writing, and tells us “no”, we can reconsider our options.
4. We discussed “cleaning up” the remaining area that was originally designated in Alejandro’s UNA office for RONMAC. It is presently only 50% cleared. I suggested that we place a divider in the room to separate the RONMAC space, but that was difficult for Alejandro to do since this is “shared” space. Max later suggested that we use the present storage area as the RONMAC office. This is a very good suggestion, but it requires that some repairs be made and that air conditioning be added. Max will work this out with Jim and Alejandro to get the office moved to the present storage space.
5. I brought up my concern that we were nearing the end of RONMAC without an identified commitment for Jim’s position to continue.

- Alejandro assured us that UNA has made Jim's position within UNA official. He said that the letter from the Dean, that Max has a copy of, makes it official.
  - Alejandro said that the monetary compensation would be below what Jim is receiving under RONMAC. Max said that CRRH would make up the difference from a project funded by Taiwan.
  - Max also committed CRRH funds for Jim's travel expenses and for fax, telephone and internet access.
6. Jim, Max and Alejandro will put together a "critical path" on data delivery to see if funding can be found to support it.
  7. We also discussed Alejandro's desire to perform tidal data recovery for old records in Central America. Some of the old records have been sent to NOS, but nothing has been done with the data. I will talk to NOS about getting the records back to Alejandro. Max will work with Alejandro to get the people to digitize the data from the old records. Jim and I will visit a similar data recovery project presently going on with Gary Mitchem at USF during Jim's visit in December.
  8. One last item, that we failed to discuss during the meeting, but one that Jim and I discussed later, was the surveying at each of the RONMAC stations;
    - we experienced great difficulty in getting the sea-level sensor leveling done in all four countries. While the equipment was available, it was inconsistent in quality for this type of work. In the end, Jim and I had to use my personal survey equipment to go back to each site and "rerun" the levels. This will be a continuing problem.
    - I would like to find the funds to purchase a single set of basic equipment for Jim, so that he can be able to conduct consistent stability levels in the future. I can get a complete set (possibly a used autolevel) for under \$2000.