Friends and Partners of Aviation Weather

Session 3

October 12, 2011
Aviation Weather Programs

Challenges & Opportunities in Today’s Environment

- Constrained Federal Budgets
- Organizational Realignments
- Renewed emphasis on Portfolio-driven investments
- Interagency Coordination
- Valley of Death Issues
Initial FAA capital planning for FY2012 > $3B

- Political reality compels lower planning target
  - House Mark - $2.798B (~ $322M below request)
  - Senate Mark - $2.630B (~ $489M below request)
  - RE&D reductions at $15M (House) and $33M (Senate)
  - Final answer??

- Significant reductions in NextGen Weather Programs (NNEW/RWI)

- Investment planning continues but .....
Organizational Realignments

Manny concurrent organizational shifts

- Establishment of NextGen Organization outside ATO
- Establishment of Program Management Organization (PMO) within ATO
- Establishment of Central Services Organization (Budget, IT, Acquisition) outside NextGen or ATO

All well intended but .....
A New Paradigm for NAS-wide Management: Continuous Interdisciplinary Involvement

- “Hand-offs” are eliminated in favor of collaboration. NextGen, LoBs, Staff Offices, Programs and Operations engage throughout the capability lifecycle.
- A single FAA-wide process for changes to the NAS that works with all contributors to the NAS.
- This collaborative approach requires shared accountability, responsibility and risk. This is achieved through direct and obligatory engagement.
- The collaborative teams will be responsible for activities such as requirements mgmt, configuration mgmt, and assumption/constraint mgmt.
NextGen Design Considerations

The underlying principles for the NextGen Organizational top-level design will carry forward in the functional design of the full organization:

- Ensure appropriate assignment and recognition of responsibility, accountability and authority

- Ensure sufficient and consistent integration and communication
  - Amongst planning, program management, and operating group
  - Across all lines of business in NextGen activities

- Ensure the NextGen effort is receiving the attention and resources necessary to successfully achieve its vision

- Ensure NextGen operating model creates a platform for continued development of the FAA program management capability
Portfolio-Driven Investments

- Moving away from single investment program focus
- Pool of operational benefits & business case shared across portfolio
  - Aligns with ATM-Wx integration concept
  - Operational value of ketchup + mustard drives commitment to invest
- Portfolio level manager to assess advocate new capability additions
Interagency Coordination

- Presenting a coherent interagency story is most critical in a constrained federal budget environment
- OMB & Congress continue to inquire about cross agency impact/value of budget decisions
- Interagency coordination of long range research efforts also coming under scrutiny
Valley of Death Issues

- Research and Development budget is also under pressure and tighter scrutiny on value of investment is likely

- Many valuable advances in state of weather science and technology with no clear pathway to operational transition

- Business case approach for R&D initiatives has not been standard practice
  - Who is sponsoring this research?
  - To what end?
  - How will we know that we have achieved the objective?