



# AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION

\*\*\**Serving the Present – Remembering the Past – Air Force Weather*\*\*\*



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 20

February 2012

### ***Join in Celebrating the 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AIR FORCE WEATHER (1937 – 2012)***

It was 142 years ago when President Ulysses S. Grant signed a joint resolution of Congress on February 9, 1870, authorizing the secretary of war to establish a weather service under the U.S. Army Signal Service. Over the years that followed, weather functions were split off to other agencies such as to what we now know as the US National Weather Service. The US Air Force Weather function considers it officially began on July 1, 1937. On that day, The War Department transferred the responsibility for providing weather services from the Signal Corps to the Army Air Corps and the US Army Air Corps Weather Service was born. This new weather service consisted of about 280 enlisted men and 22 officers manning 40 weather stations. They were led by 1st Lt Robert M. Losey, who reported directly to the Army Air Corps Commanding General. Captain Randolph P. "Pinkie" Williams, an officer in the Army Signal Corps' Meteorological Section, is called the "Father" of Air Force Weather due to his aggressive initiatives, studies and reports that helped convince leaders to transfer the meteorological service from the Signal Corps to build the kind of weather service the rapidly growing Air Corps needed.

Shortly after the US entered WW II, the Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces (USAAF). The USAAF Commander, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold expanded the mission of the Weather Service to include support to the Army Ground and Support Forces and by early 1945, the USAAF Weather Service reached a peak strength of 19,000. These individuals operated 900 weather stations, with

nearly 700 of those located in 58 other countries. USAAF Weather Service personnel served in all parts of the world from the ice caps of Greenland to the jungles of the Pacific. They set up stations alongside advanced airstrips; accompanied the first wave of troops storming ashore such as on Pacific Islands and the Normandy beaches; provided aerial observations; trained observers and forecasters and many other tasks still being accomplished in 2012.

Weather women joined in as the Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps was formed and soon became the Women's Army Corps (WAC). Bates and Fuller in their *America's Weather Warriors 1814-1985* indicate, "In May 1943, the first weather women began appearing at army weather stations. All told, 242 WACs performed weather duty during WW II."

These and many other historical accounts will no doubt be talked about as the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Air Force Weather is celebrated in many ways.

Air Weather Association members and indeed all past and present members of USAAC, USAAF and USAF Weather can join in celebrating in many ways:

- Spread the jubilee news worldwide
- Attend and participate in related local and national events
- Send in photos, historical accounts and "war stories" to the AWA for further distribution to historians at the Air Force Weather Agency and to be put on display at the AWA reunion. These can be sent by e-mail, regular mail or brought to the reunion (see page 2).

#### Mailing information:

Air Weather Association  
1697 Capri Way  
Charlottesville VA 22911-3534

E-mail: [AirWeaAssn@aol.com](mailto:AirWeaAssn@aol.com)

## **AWA REUNION 2012**

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The Air Weather Association biennial reunions are organized by the volunteer board of directors for members, spouses and guests to enjoy meeting and reminiscing with old friends, making new friends and seeing attractions of the location chosen.

**The AWA Reunion 2012 will also be a celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Air Force Weather. AWA members will join with members of other weather alumni associations, current Air Force Weather and reserve component personnel, spouses, other family members and guests. Most activities will be for all 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary attendees.**

**When:** AWA Reunion 1-5 August 2012

**Where:** Omaha, Nebraska and nearby Offutt Air Force Base, the home of the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) Headquarters. The reunion hotel is the [DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Omaha Downtown](#) 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102

**Agenda:** The program schedule is still being developed by a committee of AWA members, Air Force Weather personnel and other volunteers. The final schedule and costs of activities will be available on the AWA Web site at <http://www.airweaassn.org> and sent out in e-mail and regular mail in late spring.

The current plan is for Wednesday, 1 August to be an arrival day for those attending from out of town.

On Thursday, 2 August, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities (presentations, remembrances and tours) will be held for all at the AFWA Headquarters building on Offutt Air Force Base. AWA will be renting buses for most activities. That evening, reunion attendees and others may wish to have dinner with friends, in unit/squadron alumni groups or at the Reunion Hotel restaurant. The greater Omaha area has many restaurants and riverboat Casinos are nearby along the Missouri River.

On Friday, 3 August, a Golf Outing will be scheduled with a morning start, local tours will be available for those not golfing and, for all, the **AFW 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet** will be that evening at the DoubleTree Hotel.

For Saturday, 4 August, local tours will be available and the AWA reunion buffet dinner will be at the DoubleTree Hotel in the evening with other Anniversary celebration attendees most welcome to join in.

Sunday, 5 August will be day of departure. Many may want to join for breakfast before departing.

All attendees from out of town are welcome to come to Omaha early and stay late. AWA Reunion rates at the DoubleTree Hotel are being offered from 30 July to 8 August. AWA Reunion room discount rates are also offered to other Air Force Weather alumni association members and all 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration attendees.

**DoubleTree Hotel room AWA discount rates:**

\$94 + tax (currently 18.16%) for single or double

\$114 + tax for a triple (three people)

\$124 + tax for a quad (four people)

Guestroom rate includes daily hot breakfast buffet and omelets and cold breakfast buffet in Signatures Restaurant.

Room reservations can be made by phone to the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha at 402-636-4913 or toll free to a central reservation system at 800-222-8733. Be sure to mention our group name: *Air Weather Association Reunion*

Room reservations can also be made online at a special Web site:

[http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/O/OMA-H-DT-AIR-20120730/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/O/OMA-H-DT-AIR-20120730/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

The group name, *Air Weather Association Reunion* is already stated on that site so you won't have to add any other Special Account information unless you have other promotional information that may lead to special rates. If you are a Hilton Honors member, there is a place to provide that information.

**Please reserve rooms by July 9, 2012** to obtain the AWA Reunion discount rates.

The DoubleTree Hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to/from Eppley Airport and The Old Market. Parking for registered guest automobiles at the hotel is \$7 per day.

If problems with room reservations occur, please e-mail Kevin Lavin at: [AirWeaAssn@aol.com](mailto:AirWeaAssn@aol.com) or call him at 434-989-2174 (cell).

# AWA & AFW ANNUAL AWARDS

Each spring, the U.S. Air Force Director of Weather announces the winners of the Air Force Weather (AFW) Annual Awards for the previous calendar year. Your AWA also provides special recognition to the individual award winners. They are honored with the AWA John and Barbara Collens Award for being *the best of the best*.

Major General (Ret) John W. Collens III, Commander of the Air Weather Service (1974-1975), formally founded the AWA in 1987. He and his wife Barbara led the association to many successes including supporting fund raising efforts for individual and group causes (caring for our own), organizing AWA reunions every two years and growing the membership. They accomplished this all in the spirit of "Serving the Present – Remembering the Past – Air Force Weather". General Collens retired from the AWA Board of Directors at the end of 1994. To remember and honor the great unselfish work of both he and his wife, the annual AWA Awards to Outstanding Air Force Weather personnel were named the AWA John and Barbara Collens Awards.

The five AFW Awards to the outstanding airman, NCO, SNCO, company grade officer and civilian were expanded to 15 in 2006 to cover battlefield, staff and operational weather categories. The awards were also expanded over the last few years to include more Air Reserve Component categories as the Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard are increasingly involved in day-to-day operations. Individual awards number 25 for 2010.

The Air Weather Association Board of Directors sent out congratulatory letters, cash awards and free lifetime AWA memberships as the AWA John and Barbara Collens Awards in 2011 to the 25 AFW individual award winners. The AWA Board on behalf of all AWA members congratulates and thanks all AF Weather Award winners (individual and group) for accomplishing outstanding service – *well above and beyond!* **The individual winners:**

**AIR FORCE WEATHER FIELD GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Lt Col Steven Storch**, USSOCOM, Aviation Tactics Evaluation Group, Fort Bragg, NC. Currently: Commander, 368th Recruiting Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah

**AIR RESERVE COMPONENT WEATHER FIELD GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Lt Col William Smith**, AFRC/STRATCOM, Joint Functional Component Command Global Strike, Offutt AFB, NE

**AIR FORCE WEATHER STAFF OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Maj Geoffrey D. Dawson**, USAFE, HQ USAFE/A3W, Ramstein AB, GE. Currently: Student US Army Command & General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS

**AIR FORCE WEATHER COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Capt William Frey**, USAFE, 100th Operations Support Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, UK. Currently in Master's Degree program at AFIT, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

**AIR RESERVE COMPONENT WEATHER COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Maj Laura Maddin**, AFRC, 12<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Flight, Scott AFB, IL

**AIR FORCE BATTLEFIELD WEATHER COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Capt James Caldwell**, AFSOC, Detachment 2, 10<sup>th</sup> Combat Weather Squadron, Fort Campbell, KY

**AIR RESERVE COMPONENT BATTLEFIELD WEATHER COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**2Lt Mark Gibson**, ANG, 123<sup>rd</sup> Weather Flight, Portland, OR

**AIR FORCE SPACE WEATHER COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**Capt Todd Blum**, AFSPC, 21<sup>st</sup> Operations Support Squadron, Peterson AFB, CO

**AIR FORCE WEATHER SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**MSgt Michael Sanborn**, AFWA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weather Squadron, Offutt AFB, NE

**AIR RESERVE COMPONENT WEATHER SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**MSgt Melissa Arbisi**, AFRC, 12<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Flight, Scott AFB, IL

**AIR FORCE BATTLEFIELD WEATHER SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**MSgt Scott McCormick**, USAFE, Detachment 5, 7<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron, Illesheim, GE

**AIR RESERVE COMPONENT BATTLEFIELD WEATHER SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**MSgt Kenneth Campbell**, ANG, 123<sup>rd</sup> Weather Flight, Portland, OR

**AIR FORCE SPACE WEATHER SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**MSgt Shane Siebert**, AFWA, Detachment 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weather Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM

**AIR FORCE WEATHER NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**SSgt Paul Alfred**, ACC, 612<sup>th</sup> Air Base Squadron, Soto Cano AB, Honduras. Currently: 36th OSS/OSW, Andersen AFB, Guam

**AIR RESERVE COMPONENT WEATHER NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

**TSgt Ernesto Ruiz**, ANG, 214<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ

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(continued from page 3)

AIR FORCE BATTLEFIELD WEATHER  
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

**SSgt Robert Schlichtenmyer**, USSOCOM, Aviation Tactics  
Evaluation Group, Ft Bragg, NC

AIR RESERVE COMPONENT BATTLEFIELD WEATHER  
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

**TSgt Joshua Uhl**, ANG, 208<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight, St Paul, MN

AIR FORCE SPACE WEATHER NONCOMMISSIONED  
OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

**TSgt Donald Milliman**, AFWA, Detachment 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weather  
Squadron, Hamilton, MA. Currently: NCOIC, Weather Flight,  
Incirlik AB, Turkey

AIR FORCE WEATHER AIRMAN OF THE YEAR:

**SrA Carey Bowman**, AFWA, 26<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather  
Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA. Currently: SSgt Carey Bowman,  
18<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron, Pope Field, NC

AIR RESERVE COMPONENT WEATHER AIRMAN OF THE  
YEAR:

**SrA Michael Draper**, AFRC, 12<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Flight,  
Scott AFB, IL

AIR FORCE BATTLEFIELD WEATHER AIRMAN OF THE  
YEAR:

**SrA Joey Cedillo**, AFSOC, 10<sup>th</sup> Combat Weather Squadron,  
Hurlburt Field, FL

AIR RESERVE COMPONENT BATTLEFIELD WEATHER  
AIRMAN OF THE YEAR:

**SrA Daniel Hicks**, ANG, 123<sup>rd</sup> Weather Flight, Portland, OR

AIR FORCE WEATHER STAFF ENLISTED MEMBER OF  
THE YEAR:

**MSgt Jerrod Webb**, AMC, HQ AMC/A3W, Scott AFB, IL

AIR FORCE WEATHER CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR:

**Mr. Milton Kooyman** (GS-12), AFWA, 15<sup>th</sup> Operational  
Weather Squadron, Scott AFB, IL

AIR FORCE WEATHER STAFF CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR:

**Mr. Hoover Hodge** (GS-12), AFSOC, HQ AFSOC/A3W,  
Hurlburt Field, FL

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### Organizational Group/Team Awards:

OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT IN  
WEATHER OPERATIONS: 2Lt M. Gibson, MSgt K.  
Campbell, TSgt M. Fisher, SSgt M. Jenkins, ANG, 123<sup>rd</sup>  
Weather Flight, Portland, OR

OUTSTANDING OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRON:  
25<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Squadron, AFWA, Davis-Monthan  
AFB, AZ

OUTSTANDING BATTLEFIELD WEATHER SQUADRON:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Weather Squadron, ACC, Fort Hood, TX

OUTSTANDING SPECIALIZED WEATHER SUPPORT  
UNIT: 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Weather Systems Support Squadron, AFWA,  
Hurlburt Field, FL

OUTSTANDING AIR FORCE WEATHER ORGANIZATION  
(below squadron level): 19<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron  
/Weather Flight, AMC, Little Rock AFB, AR

OUTSTANDING AIR RESERVE COMPONENT WEATHER  
FLIGHT: 208<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight, ANG, Saint Paul, MN

OUTSTANDING AIR FORCE SPACE WEATHER  
ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: 2<sup>nd</sup> Weather Squadron,  
AFWA, Offutt AFB, NE

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## AWA MEMBERSHIP

AWA lifetime membership is still only \$9.00 and we've been averaging about 100 new members per year for a total now of over 5,400 (present and past). Membership is open to civilian and military personnel who serve, or have served, in a USAF/USAAF weather support unit (including aerial reconnaissance), or a weather training unit, regardless of AFSC/MOS, and to the surviving spouse. Membership is Lifetime. No annual dues. **Please help recruit new members.** An application is attached on pages 7 & 8. The application can also be copied from the AWA Web site at <http://www.airweaassn.org> or contact your volunteer board of directors at [AirWeaAssn@aol.com](mailto:AirWeaAssn@aol.com) or 434-296-2832 and we'll send you applications. The AWA Board also needs help in finding lost members. The list is posted on the AWA Web site. If you hear of any members not receiving this newsletter, please notify us.

Currently, the members of the AWA Board of Directors are:

### Kevin Lavin

Chairman, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor  
e-mail: [AirWeaAssn@aol.com](mailto:AirWeaAssn@aol.com) tel: 434-296-2832; 434-989-2174

### Don Farrington (retiring from board after 2012 reunion)

Reunion Organizer and Assistant Treasurer  
e-mail: [cdcfcsf@aol.com](mailto:cdcfcsf@aol.com)

### Kelly Klein

e-mail: [tkkleinsr@msn.com](mailto:tkkleinsr@msn.com)

### Wayne McCollom

e-mail: [mccollom@wisperhome.com](mailto:mccollom@wisperhome.com)

### David Wilson

e-mail: [nosliw94@charter.net](mailto:nosliw94@charter.net)

### Steve Walden

Maintains database and roster; AWA Locator - Address Changes  
e-mail: [steve\\_walden@msn.com](mailto:steve_walden@msn.com)

### Jim DeCarufel

Webmaster of [www.airweaassn.org](http://www.airweaassn.org)  
e-mail: [jimdecarufel@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdecarufel@yahoo.com)

**The AWA Board needs more members especially to take over the lead positions. Please consider volunteering.** We'd appreciate hearing from you.

AWA is now on Facebook with Kevin Lavin, Joseph Tabaco and Jim DeCarufel as administrators. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/airweaassn>

## ◀ IN MEMORIAM ▶

These deceased AWA members have been reported to the Board of Directors since the last Newsletter, May 2010.

Rank	First Name	Last Name	Year	Rank	First Name	Last Name	Year
Lt Col	Daniel C.	Agnone	2008	Cpl	John	Livengood	2009
	Judy	Albro	2010		Sharon	Lucas	2010
	Lee	Appleton	2009	Col	Howard E.	Lysaker	2010
Maj	Donald M.	Austin	2009		Doris	MacDonald	2009
Maj	Kenneth R.	Avery	2007	SSgt	Charles	Marchiando	2010
SMSgt	James T.	Barrett	2007	SSgt	William R.	Martinez	2011
MSgt	Robert M.	Beall	2011	Lt Col	George T.	Matteson	2011
Lt Col	Lloyd	Behrendt	2011	Lt Col	William R.	Maugans	2010
Tsgt	Clyde R.	Bellamy	2007	SMSgt	Robert F.	McGlew	2009
SMSgt	Kenneth W.	Bickett	2011	Capt	Howard G.	McNeil	2010
CMSgt	Robert E.	Bickford	2009	Cpl	James F.	McNeill	2005
	Patricia	Bilyeu	2011	1Lt	Asa D.	McRae	2007
Col	Hiram Pierce "Bill"	Bilyeu	2012	Lt Col	Horace W.	Meredith	2008
Sgt	Arthur R.	Blatt	2009		Jean	Messecar	2004
Lt Col	Arthur W.	Bostick	2010	CWO4	Donald	Messecar	2008
CWO4	Philip	Boucher	2004		Virginia	Mikell	2010
CMSgt	Dan	Brantley	2009	Capt	Richard J.	Mizgorski	2011
	Carolyn	Brantley	2010	Lt Col	William P.	Moore	2011
CMSgt	Don	Buck	2008	Lt Col	Carrell T.	Murrell	2009
Lt Col	Alfonso H.	Butera	2010	Lt Col	Edwin	Myers	2011
Lt Col	Robert J.	Calvesbert	2008	A1C	Ronald H.	Newburn	2009
Lt Col	Lewis N.	Chittock	2011	Sgt	Joseph	Nunez	2007
Sgt	Neil	Clemans	2009		Lynette L.	Nybo	2007
	Wilma	Collins	2008		Mary	O'Neil	2011
SSgt	Harry	Cooper Ph.D.	2010	Capt	Charles A.	Oostdyk	2010
	Barbara	Corbell	2008	MSgt	Indulis J.	Plaudis	2008
	Joe E.	Covington	1993		Carrie	Plaudis	2008
MSgt	Douglas L.	Cox	2010	CWO	Richard	Poole	2006
Maj	Ruben Gustav	Danielson	2009	SMSGT	Vernon A.	Porter	2003
MSgt	Walter Carl	Dills Jr	2010	Col	Robert J.	Powers	2010
Capt	Cecil P.	Dotson	2010	Lt Col	Thomas A.	Prizio	2007
	Thomas G.	Durden		A1C	Edward J.	Rehberg	2010
SSgt	Robert O.	Erickson	2009		Elizabeth H.	Rexon	2008
Maj	John K.	Farnsworth	2010		George S.	Richmond	2010
Lt Col	Aldino	Faschini	2006	Capt	William H.	Riester Jr	2008
SMSgt	Raymond A.	Fawcett	2008	TSgt	Thomas W.	Riser	2004
Col	David H.	Fish	2009		Constance	Roudebush	2007
	Annette	Flattery	2011		Harold E.	Roudebush	2009
	Rosemary	Fuhrmann		MSgt	Carmen R.	Sanderson	2010
TSgt	Harold M.	Gibson	2008	TSgt	Shawn T.	Sankey	2011
CMSgt	Henry E. "Jim"	Godbout Jr	2011	SSgt	Lowell A.	Schuknecht	2010
Col	Robert W.	Gossett	2011	Lt Col	Dorothy A.	Scobie	2005
	Jess E.	Gunter	2003		Mrs. Ida E.	Scott	2009
Col	James W. "Bill"	Hall	2011		Bridget	Seeley	2010
Lt Col	Gordon R.	Hammond	2011	Maj	John P.	Seeley	2010
Sgt	Harold	Hebele	2010	MSgt	Wilfrid N.	Sievers	
SMSgt	William	Henry	2007	MSgt	Jesse	Smith	2009
	Marie	Henry	2012	Lt Col	John R.	Spiegle Jr.	2005
	Sally	Hyde	2011	Lt Col	Edward E.	Stallcup	2009
SMSgt	Don B.	Hyde	2011	Lt Col	Richard C.	Suehr	2009
Col	Robert A.	Jacobs	2011		Margaret	Susko	2009
Sgt	Donald E.	Johnson		SSgt	Sidney J.	Thomson	2008
Lt Col	Edward P.	Johnson	2009	Capt	Montgomery V.	Truss	
Col	Robert D.	Johnston	2009		Nancy	Try	2011
	Melba	Kahle	2008		Ann	Turco	2010
	Leendert	Kamelgarn	2010	1Lt	Paul J.	Waite	2008
Lt Col	George W.	Kronebach	2009	CWO 4	Marion E. "Skip"	Waldorf	2011
Col	Irving	Kuehnast	2010	SMSgt	Dave	Wallace	2010
Lt Col	William J.	Landsperger	2006	TSgt	Garriott V.	Wallbridge	2009
SMSgt	Kenneth	Lawrence	2008	Capt	Rupert	Wells	2008
Lt Col	Joseph F.	Leszcz	2010	SSgt	John F.	Whittemore	2010
	Shirley	Levin	2007	Lt Col	Eugene Wesley	Wiggins	2009
TSgt	Sam	Levin	2008	CWO4	Don B.	Wigington	2009
				A1C	Dave	Wright	2010
				Lt Col	Willys D.	Wuest	2010
				Capt	Kenneth W.	Young	2005
				Lt Col	Sebastian	Zappula	2010
					Euna	Zimmerman	2003
				Col	Arnold	Zimmerman	2011

## ◀ IN MEMORIAM ▶ continued

A number of friends of members also departed: James Basford (2012); CMSgt Harold C. Hoffman Jr. (2011); Maj Troy Johnson (2012); Lt Col James C. Marshall (2012); Lt Col Clarence W. Neumann (2012); Lt Col Gary O'Connor Ph.D. (2012) and Maj Colin S. Reece (2010).

Two active duty friends were killed in action in Afghanistan: Capt Nathan Nylander was killed on April 27, 2011 when an Afghan military pilot opened fire during a meeting at an airport in Kabul killing nine Americans. Nate, 35, a meteorologist with the 25th Operational Weather Squadron; Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ was midway through a yearlong deployment as an adviser to the NATO Air Training Command at Kabul International Airport. On the day of the shooting, he was in a conference room with other Air Force and Afghan personnel when the gunman opened fire. Nate evacuated the room and then went into a hallway, where he and another officer fired their pistols at the gunman. Nate believed the assailant was incapacitated by his wounds and began helping the injured personnel. But, the gunman resumed the attack. Nate fired at the man again before being shot fatally. The USAF Chief of Staff, General Norman Schwartz, presented the Silver Star with Valor medal to Nate's family (wife Miriam and children Tyler, Elisabeth and Andru) at Davis-Monthan AFB. Gen Schwartz stated, "Capt Nylander could have left the building along with the people he guided outside, but he chose to stay and help those in danger. Our nation was blessed with such a brave and generous airman."

AWA members who were at the 2010 reunion in Colorado Springs will remember US Army Spc Preston Dennis from Fort Carson who spoke at the Saturday evening banquet at The Club at Peterson AFB. AWA members Al and Sue Domenech sent a sad email last May: "It is with great sorrow that we send you this message in regard to our granddaughter Heather's husband. Spc Preston Dennis was killed by an IED on April 28, 2011 in Kandahar. We of course are still mourning our great personal loss, but before he left for his second tour, he told Heather that she should be strong in case anything happened to him. She IS strong. His funeral was on May 5th, and he is interred at the Veterans' Cemetery in Igo, CA, about 30 miles west of Redding. Sue and I are fortunate to have taped his speech the night of the banquet and we have distributed it to both families. We were blessed to have known him and have that special week with them in Colorado at the AWA reunion."

Please report departures to the AWA Locator, Steve Walden, at e-mail: [steve\\_walden@msn.com](mailto:steve_walden@msn.com) or call Kevin Lavin at (434) 296-2832. Departures will be posted in the Roster as it is updated on the AWA Web site ([www.airweaassn.org](http://www.airweaassn.org)). Obituaries sent in will be posted in the Departures section of the Web site.

## INVITATION TO JOIN AN E-MAIL LIST GROUP

All AWA members are invited to join the "ROWF" *Retired Old Weather Farts* e-mail list. This list is used to provide news via e-mail about weather people, events, and items of interest. To view the list of people already signed up, see the ROWF Web page at <http://rowf.info/>. To get on the list, send a message to AWA member Dave Pace at [davidpace@yahoo.com](mailto:davidpace@yahoo.com).

## More on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Air Force Weather Celebration

One of the highlights of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July 1987 included the presentation of a special study by the Military Airlift Command Historical Office. Ms. Rita M. Markus, Master Sergeant Nicholas F. Halbeisen and Mr. John F. Fuller authored *Air Weather Service: Our Heritage 1937-1987*. It is available along with other reports on the AWA Web site at: <http://www.airweaassn.org/reports/Air%20Weather%20Service-Our%20Heritage,%201937--1987.pdf>.

Today's Military Historical Offices don't have the resources for such a project. Thanks to AWA member George N. Coleman III, CMSgt, USAF (Ret.), an update is being prepared for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He believed that the "1937-1987" document could serve as an outline for creating a new document that would capture those significant events that defined the next 25 years for AFW. The AWA Board offered to help support the preparation of a document that would reflect "Air Force Weather, Our Heritage 1937-2012." AFWA agreed to this approach in December 2009. Since then, George has been working closely with Mr. Don May, AFWA historian, on researching prepared histories, special studies, and other information that would serve as the basis for an update. George has also gathered volunteer editors to assist and the report should be ready for presentation at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The Title Page will be:



These last two pages are for members to give to prospective members.



## AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION

*\*\*\*Serving the Present – Remembering the Past – Air Force Weather\*\*\**



✈ TO THOSE CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION ✈

The Air Weather Association was formally chartered in 1987 for men and women whose military or government-civilian careers were at any time with USAAF, USAF, USAFR or ANG weather units — past and present and surviving spouses. The founder and first chairman was Major General John W. Collens III, Commander of the USAF Air Weather Service (1974-1975). THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION, the only one of its kind, whether you are on active duty, in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve, or a veteran of service at any time with a USAAF or USAF weather unit including aerial weather reconnaissance units and weather training units.

Nostalgia binds us together and "we take care of our own." Camaraderie is our goal for all who identify with Air Force Weather, now or in prior years. The AWA maintains a central locator, an Internet Web site ([www.airweaassn.org](http://www.airweaassn.org)), organizes biennial reunions, and publishes an annual newsletter. The last AWA reunion was held in August 2010 in Colorado Springs, CO. The next AWA reunion will be in Omaha, NE during the period 1-5 August 2012 to join in the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Air Force Weather with the Air Force Weather Agency Headquarters at Offutt AFB NE and other organizations. Check the AWA Web site for updates.

OUR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP COST IS UNIQUE - JUST \$9 FOR YOU, and your surviving spouse continues as a member without cost during her/his lifetime. No other organization known to us will provide that and the following items for that small sum: a distinctive membership lapel/tie tack pin or ladies pendant; an informational Internet Web site, a central locator, biennial reunions, and as funds permit, an annual newsletter and roster. The roster is now on the Web site for members only.

The AWA does not have a paid staff. Volunteers are elected to serve on the Board of Directors and conduct our programs so that all funds go to providing services to members. Furthermore, we are an IRS-recognized not-for-profit association enjoying federal tax-exempt status. This has allowed us to establish an Outstanding AF Weather Airmen of the Year trust fund wherein we honor those selected by the Air Force. We present Outstanding Air Force Weather Airmen with the AWA John and Barbara Collens Award consisting of a congratulatory letter and a cash award. Contributions to the Fund are always accepted by the AWA treasurer and are tax deductible. Please also consider volunteering your time and talents as a member of the Board of Directors, webmaster, reunion committee member, publication editor or as a writer of articles for the newsletter.

"Take Care of Our Own" became more than a motto when we sponsored a Memorial Fund for the surviving families of those weathermen who perished enroute to the Gulf War in 1990. Our members and the Association treasury contributed \$30,000 to that worthwhile cause.

Join now by completing the application on the reverse side and mail it in. You will receive a welcome letter, the latest newsletter and the membership pin or pendant. You will also have your name added to the roster joining over 5,400 members already listed. Join us on Facebook also!

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Please provide this to a prospective member or reproduce it and provide to others. For further information or clarification, please contact the AWA Chairman at [AirWeaAssn@aol.com](mailto:AirWeaAssn@aol.com) or (434) 296-2832

AWA Form 2012-1

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# AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership is open to civilian and military who serve, or formerly served, in a USAF/USAAF or USAFR/ANG weather support unit (including air weather reconnaissance), or a weather training unit, regardless of AFSC/MOS, and to the surviving spouse.

**Membership is Lifetime. No annual dues.**

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Assn. Use) Release \_\_\_\_\_ (Assn. Use)

**\*Your NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **NICKNAME** \_\_\_\_\_

IF APPLICABLE, ENTER CURRENT SPOUSE'S  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL MAILING ADDRESS (including ZIP + 4)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE NO.** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **OR OFFICE PHONE** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have two addresses [for example, winter & summer], please enter both with phone numbers and the usual dates that you are at each location. Use the bottom or reverse side of the form if you need more space to include all information.)

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Service Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Current or Last Weather Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Current or Highest Military Rank Held \_\_\_\_\_ Current or Highest Civilian Grade Held \_\_\_\_\_

(CHECK ONE) Active Duty/ANG/RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ Retired Military \_\_\_\_\_ Prior Military Service \_\_\_\_\_

Civilian \_\_\_\_ Retired Civilian \_\_\_\_\_

War Veteran (on active duty during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, etc.)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to other AF weather alumni/association groups (check all that apply): 6 WS (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Air Weather Reconnaissance Association \_\_\_\_\_, 15 WS & 20 WS \_\_\_\_\_, 17 WS \_\_\_\_\_, 18 WS \_\_\_\_\_,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**\*SURVIVING SPOUSE OF WEATHER ALUMNI JOINING:** Please enter the deceased spouse's name, last rank held and year of death: \_\_\_\_\_

For Permission to Release Your Information, please complete the following. In a membership roster distributed only to AWA members, do you approve release of your name (yes\_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_); mailing address (yes\_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_); phone numbers (Home - yes\_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_) (Work - yes\_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_); e-mail (yes\_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_).

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENCLOSE A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$9.00 PAYABLE TO "AWA" AND INDICATE (check only one): Lapel Pin \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies Pendant \_\_\_\_\_.** (To order additional pins or pendants, send \$3 for each one.)

**MAIL form and payment to: AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN  
1697 CAPRI WAY  
CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534**