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# AWS Observer

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## New advisor

# Melson named to lead AWS enlisted members

CMSgt. Charles T. Melson will assume duties in October as the Air Weather Service Senior Enlisted Advisor.

He will succeed CMSgt. George M. Horn, who will retire after 33 years active duty.

Chief Melson was born on Nov. 12, 1937 in Bridgeville, Del., and graduated from Bridgeville High School in 1955.

Joining the Delaware National Guard in 1956, he enlisted in the Air Force in 1960 and completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

After attending the basic weather observer course, he was first assigned to Detachment 3, 3rd Weather Squadron at Shaw AFB, S.C. and in 1963, was assigned to Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam.

Completing the weather forecaster course in 1965, and later the staff weather officers course, he held forecasting positions from 1965-69 at Det. 12, 24th WS, Sheppard AFB, Texas; from 1969-73 at Det. 14,

31st WS, Hahn AB, Germany and from 1973-75 at Det. 23, 26th WS, McConnell AFB, Kan.

In 1975 he was reassigned to Headquarters 5th Weather Wing at Langley AFB, Va., and served as the wing weather officer to the first operational F-15 wing in the Air Force.

From 1977-79 he was the detachment chief with Det. 23, 7th WW at Kirtland AFB, N.M., and then returned to Langley to serve as the senior enlisted advisor to the commander of 5th WW.

Chief Melson is a graduate of the Military Airlift Command NCO Academy at Norton AFB, Calif., and the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter AFB, Ala. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management from St. Leo College, St. Leo, Fla.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.



CMSgt. Charles T. Melson

# Air Force celebrates anniversary

The United States Air Force celebrates its 35th anniversary as a separate military service on Sept. 18.

Historically, its origins are more than twice as old — stemming from founding of the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in 1907.

Saluting the past as they train today, the anniversary theme of Air Force men and women is "Ready Then — Ready Now."

Many still alive can remember the news of the first successful powered flight of a heavier-than-air flying machine at Kitty Hawk, N.C., in 1903. Spanning the years between the 120-foot solo of Orville Wright and today's global missions and

beyond, the growth of aviation has been as spectacular as the launch of an Air Force missile.

Fostered in World War I, the potential of airpower flashed bright reflections from the shiny, canvas-covered wings of combat-loaded fighter, bomber and reconnaissance aircraft.

Front-mounted machine guns, firing through whirling, wooden propellers, were the weapons of attack. Today's equivalent fighters can knock out a 60-ton tank or disable a ship at sea.

Airpower displayed its might in World War II as allied aircraft exerted decisive pressure in attaining unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.

Flushed with honors won in two world wars, the Air Force was recognized as a separate service, co-equal with the Army and Navy, on Sept. 18, 1947.

Within a year, its aircrews flew to new fame in Operation Vittles, history's largest peacetime demonstration of airpower. Flying Berlin Airlift missions around the clock, Air Force and allied pilots transported more than 2 million tons of food, medicine, and coal to the beleaguered citizens of the former German capital. The 15-month operation answered the Soviet blockade of the Western sector of the isolated city, by affirming America's commitment to a free West Berlin and impressing the world that American airpower was a force to be reckoned with.

Despite peaceful resolution of the 1948-49 Berlin Blockade, the fires of war soon flared in Korea. Answering the call of the United Nations, U.S. Air Force jets rose to defend South Korea from attack by the communist north. Earning an aerial victory margin of 10-1, over Soviet-built MiG-15s, Air

Force pilots proved the superiority of their training and aircraft.

Historians record that had it not been for the U.S. Far East Air Forces, South Korea would not be an independent nation today.

In Vietnam, the Air Force again carried the war to the enemy. Flying cargo aircraft, helicopters, fighters, fixed-wing gunships and bombers, its airmen provided close air support to ground forces, aerial resupply to forward areas, air strikes on enemy supplylines and medical evacuation.

In each area of operation the Air Force established new standards of efficiency, resulting in the best-fed, the best-cared for and the best Air Force-supported fighting man the world has known.

By conflict's end, the application of airpower was credited with sparking peace talks that, after four years, led to the freeing of American prisoners of war.

Though the regulations might phrase it differently, U.S. airmen say their mission is to fly and fight.

As any third grader who has faced a bully knows, preservation of peace and independence depends on being strong and ready. The same goes for the United States.

Today's Air Force of 828,000 military men and women in the active-duty and reserve forces and a contingent of 247,000 civilians is strong and ready now. With the support of the nation it will continue so. (AFNS)

Editor's Note — See page 2 for insight into Air Weather Service origins.



# AWS traced to Army Signal Corps

By John Fuller

In launching Project Warrior, the former Air Force chief of staff wrote, "I firmly believe that a career-long study of military science and history is essential to develop our perspectives and prepare the Air Force to meet the challenges of the future."

In connection with Project Warrior, this column will become a regular feature. In it, highlights from Air Weather Service's history will be expanded, with the objective of making you, the men and women of AWS, more aware of your heritage.

Under Project Warrior, Air Force units and activities around the world are observing the Air Force's 35th anniversary. AWS can trace its beginnings to organized weather elements in the Army which date to the War of 1812.

AWS' origins are with the Army Signal Corps. Between 1870 and 1891, by direction of Congress, the Signal Corps operated this nation's weather service. In 1891, Congress established the U.S. Weather Bureau and transferred the civilian meteorological service from the Signal Corps.

## WWI

Meteorology in the Army waned from then until the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917. Soon after the American Expeditionary Force landed in France, its commander, General John J. Pershing, expressed a need for a meteorological service and the Signal Corps Weather Service was revived. Weather information was not only applied to artillery, but also to aviation, as Allied pilots found the prevailing westerlies one of their

biggest concerns.

Before the war ended in 1918, some 200-to-300 Signal Corps weathermen saw service in France (some were wounded in action) at such memorable battlefields as Chateau Thierry and the Argonne Forest. The golden fleur-de-lis in today's AWS emblem commemorates that service.

AWS' commonly accepted birthdate is July 1, 1937, when the mission of providing weather service to the Army's air arm was transferred from the Army Signal Corps to the Army Air Corps. In addition to approximately 100 Air Corps enlisted men on weather duty, 180 Signal Corps enlisted men were transferred to the Army Air Corps Weather Service. They and 22 officers (10 who later attained general officer rank) manned 40 weather stations. Thirty-five were located in the continental U.S. while five were overseas; two in Hawaii, two in the Panama Canal Zone, and one in the Philippines.

Seven years later, at the peak of World War II, AWS had 19,000 military personnel assigned, its largest strength ever.

## WWII

AWS personnel served with distinction in WWII. The first officer killed in the service of the U.S. during WWII was Capt. Robert Losey, one of the original 22 AWS officers. Another of those 22, Capt. Randolph P. "Pinkie" Williams, the "father" of AWS, was killed in France in 1944 when his photo reconnaissance plane was shot down.

And yet another of that original 22, Capt. Leon Johnson, led one of the four B-24 bomber groups on the famous Ploesti raid of 1943. He was one of five

to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for that raid. Later he became the only former AWS officer to earn the rank of four star general. Ellsworth AFB, S.D., is named for Col. Richard E. Ellsworth, the man who commanded the 10th Weather Squadron in the China-Burma-India Theater and helped pioneer night flights across the notorious Himalayas' "Hump."

Detailed analyses by people from AWS helped determine the date the first atomic bomb was dropped, and the dates of the invasions of Africa and Europe. AWS observers parachuted with airborne forces immediately behind the beaches at Normandy just hours before H-Hour on D-Day. AWS observers and forecasters also parachuted into Yugoslavia's mountains and worked with Tito's partisans against German occupation forces. And AWS weathermen operated behind Japanese lines in China, Indochina and the Philippines.

Five 7th Weather Squadron enlisted men lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field, and some fifteen 5th Weather Squadron enlisted men, most killed or taken prisoner, were among the last-ditch defenders at Bataan and Corregidor. Before the war ended, 70 officers and enlisted men from AWS were listed as killed or missing in action.

Between WWII and Korea, during tests at Bikini and Eniwetok, an AWS B-29 weather reconnaissance crew was the first to fly into an atomic cloud. Radioactive debris from Russia's initial atomic bomb was first discovered by an AWS RB-29.

## The Korean Conflict

Within 24 hours after hostilities began in Korea in 1950, an AWS RB-29 was flown over the peninsula; within 48 hours, a weather detachment was airlifted from Japan to Tagueu.

An AWS RB-29 led the first B-29 strike from Japan against targets in North Korea. And when the Korean armistice was signed in July 1953, six men from AWS had lost their lives in combat. For their contributions in Korea, AWS ground and weather reconnaissance units earned 19 campaign streamers, three Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations, two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and four service streamers.

## Southeast Asia

AWS deployed an initial cadre of 23 weathermen TDY to Vietnam in December, 1961. Some assignments soon became permanent, with the activation of seven weather detachments and a squadron in 1962. That organizational structure grew to a weather group and three squadrons in 1966. Weathermen issued 29,488 target forecasts between January and June that year, compared to 6,174 in the same period a year earlier. By 1969 those units and subordinate elements were manned by more than 700 weathermen.

In 1965 theater weathermen introduced a weather satellite capability to Southeast Asia of such value to air operations that two years later, the 7th Air Force commander labeled it as "probably the greatest innovation of the war."

Between 1965 and 1969, AWS weather reconnaissance crews flew an average of two weather scout sorties per day in support of B-52 bombing missions from Guam to SEA. Between 1967 and 1972, they also flew rainmaking missions over selected portions of the theater.

Army authorities were highly appreciative of AWS support in SEA. In 1966, for instance, the commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division personally awarded Bronze Star Medals to all 18 members of the 5th WS unit supporting Operation Attleboro. During the highly-publicized siege of Khe Sanh in 1968, a volunteer 5th WS observer was flown into the surrounded garrison and generated a steady stream of observations and altimeter settings from there.

One of the war's more spectacular operations was a daring night raid by a small U.S. force on the prisoner of war camp at Son Tay, North Vietnam, in November 1970. The date of that raid, which was advanced a day due to weather, was determined by climatological studies and forecasts prepared by AWS personnel. The raid commander later wrote that, "as far as tactical considerations were concerned, weather was probably the most critical factor."

By the time the last weatherman departed SEA in 1976, four AWS enlisted men had been killed in action. AWS ground units in theater, including detachments, earned outright or shared seven Presidential Unit Citations, eight Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palms, 50 campaign streamers, 16 AFOUAs, and 10 AFOUAs with Combat "V" devices.

Among other crises and emergencies in which AWS support was important was the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49; the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962; the 1965 crisis in the Dominican Republic; the airlift of "beans, bullets, and bandages" to Israel during the Yom Kippur War of 1973; the tree-trimming incident in Korea in 1976; and the attempt to rescue American hostages from Tehran in April 1980.

Great strides have been made in meteorology during the 45 years of AWS' existence, particularly in areas such as numerical weather prediction, computer flight plans, clear air turbulence and solar forecasting, satellites, and severe weather prediction. Tall in the ranks of the vanguard of those advances were men and women from AWS.

Future columns in the Observer will delve more deeply into the events and people that helped assure AWS' place in military history and the profession of arms.

Mr. Fuller is the Military Airlift Command historian for AWS.



The "father" of Air Weather Service, Capt. Randolph P. "Pinkie" Williams (right), in balloon basket at Scott Field, Ill. in April 1935. It was largely due to Capt. Williams' efforts that the Army Air Corps Weather Service came into existence in 1937. In the basket with Capt. Williams is Capt. Orvil A. Anderson, renowned balloonist who rose to rank of major general in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Col. George E. Chapman  
AWS Commander

SSgt. Sue Shearer  
Editor

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# Command line

## Commitment, interest needed for growth

Commitment is a word that is used often in our profession, because it is succinctly descriptive of what we are all about.

My commitment to you is there; it's real and you can count on it. But commitment requires an element of involvement on both sides to make it effective... that is, to ensure your personal growth and to make our collective contribution to the Air Force of greater value.

My first trip after assuming command was to visit AFMPC — to meet with our Palace Weather people and the chief's group, and discuss personnel policies and assignment procedures for our officer and enlisted force.

Shortly after returning from this trip, I was asked to make a decision on a number of key command and staff positions under consideration.

I shared some of the impressions that I gained during this process with the 7th Weather Wing commanders during their recent conference, and I'll pass on a few to you.

As I looked over the records of the officer nominees, I read the Forms 90 of each individual, containing the most recent expression of their career plans and their assignment preferences.

I was disappointed to find that in virtually every case, the Form 90 was three years old, with many as



Col. George E. Chapman  
AWS Commander

much as five years old.

I began to wonder what kind of commitment these people had toward their own career development. Were they interested or indifferent to their assignment action?

I've got a rule of thumb that I've recommended in the past, and you should give it some consideration. When you reach the two year point in your current assignment (unless

you are remote, where the turnover is more frequent) I suggest you prepare a new Form 90, because you'll probably be looked at in your second year for assignment in the third year, although some assignments will actually run longer.

If you follow this practice, you will ensure that a current Form 90 is in your record when we begin to look at you for a new challenge. No, you won't always get the job you ask for, but the initiative you reflect in expressing interest in your career will be acknowledged, and the challenges you wish to experience will be read and will be considered in making the decision. It's a good opportunity... take advantage of it.

Professional Military Education, PME, is another. Whether I'm sitting on a promotion board, considering OERs and APRs for indorsement, or making assignment decisions, PME is always a key factor.

It is another way for you to demonstrate the interest you have in learning more about your profession so you will be prepared when you're challenged with greater responsibility. It is equally important to officers and NCOs.

It is sometimes convenient to look to the press of current deadlines and rationalize that you'll have to wait till the next assignment or, as a supervisor, hold one of your people

back until a project is completed next year. A long-term investment in your career growth is sometimes paid for by a short-term sacrifice of your time.

By correspondence or in residence, for officers or NCOs, PME is essential. The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, "Bud" Andrews says PME must be viewed as "A stepping stone to success, not just another school." I agree.

As a matter of fact, one of the attendees at the 7thWW commanders' conference asked me if I was going to continue the detachment chief program. Absolutely! From personal experience as a squadron commander, I know it to be a very successful program, and it is giving our E-8s a stronger shot at making chief, and I'm all for that.

But before we move someone into that position, we're going to make sure that he or she has done everything that should be done to help him or herself, and PME is an essential part of that equation... for NCOs and officers.

Remember that to be effective, commitment requires involvement from both sides.

My commitment to you is real, I'll do my part. Maintaining a current Form 90 and continuing your professional growth through PME are two ways you can do your part.

# Enlisted line

## Success credited to training

The grape arbor fell down this week — an ordinarily unremarkable event around my house, where things fall apart with boring regularity.

But in attempting to raise the thing back to the vertical and expose the few unsmashed grapes to the sun, we came across one of the first "woolie-bear" caterpillars of the season. He/she/it was solid black and hairy as a mammoth.

If that means what folk-meteorologists say it means, we are in for some kind of winter, one reminiscent of the ice age. If the worst is true, you might well start rehearsing your "We're in sales, not production" pitch for your wing commanders before they start confusing the message with the messenger again.

I don't have to tell you that this weather business (observing or forecasting) is a tough one even on those too-rare CAVU days. For all but a few locations, the climate wheel has turned once again to the part marked "long Johns." That means that its time to step up to the firing line and answer all kinds of provocative questions, like "How much snow?", "When will it stop?", "Min temp at McGuire?" and so on.

For weather folks, if it ain't one thing, it's another. Seems we go right from tornadoes into hurricanes and

major arctic outbreaks without a whole lot of warm and dry CAVU in between. We don't often reflect on why we're able to go through protracted agonies like this — i.e., trying to keep up with and forecast Mother Nature's perversities — but if we take the time to evaluate it, we have to lay at least some of the credit to training (not a great lead-in, but we have to get into the message somehow).

Our technical skills start to shape up at Chanute. The instructors at Chanute U have a really tough job. In the short number of training days allotted to them, they're asked to turn out almost-ready-to-go observers and forecasters. This they do very well. Then the field takes over with endless OJT, passing on everything that has been learned through experience, a cruel but realistic teacher. OJT is vital — and I don't mean the bookkeeping, I mean the actual hands-on, "show'em how" training — not only for our enlisted people, but for our new lieutenants, as well.

In that regard, think about this for a minute: everything senior officers think and do about their enlisted force is heavily influenced by their association with the enlisted people they worked with on their way up. That means that you have a profound effect on the senior USAF and AWS

leadership of the future.

How wisely that leadership treats the enlisted issues of the future could depend on you, right now, today. You owe it to our new weather officers to pass on everything you've learned about this business, as well as to give them a first-hand idea of what enlisted people think, do, and need. If you tackle that in the right way, the effort will be repaid many times over, maybe sooner than you think (time flies).

Backing up to OJT again — It's good to remind ourselves now and then that a graduation certificate from either the observer or forecaster schools is nothing more than a license to learn, just like a newly-issued private pilot's license.

No one expects a brand-new pilot to start off in the left seat of a 747, and no one should expect a new observer or forecaster to sign in and flesh out the duty schedule immediately, either.

Our system requires lots of hands-on training before solo in the obs site or on the counter. That makes everyone an instructor — how good we are at that is the measure of how good AWS will be in the years ahead.

So far, the system seems to work. By all measures of quality, our observing and forecasting have never slipped in spite of problems unique to our AFSC,



CMSgt. George M. Horn  
AWS Senior Enlisted Advisor

specifically our chronically short manning. As of Aug. 31, combined master and technical sergeant manning was at 76 percent. Things are looking up here, if for no other reason than much-improved second-term and career retention. For the second calendar quarter '82, our second-term rate was 76 percent, career 97 percent.

Despite manning shortfalls, career ladder changes, a "unique" AFSC, and Mother Nature Herself, you've never hung up an "out-to-lunch" sign. You've hung in there. Believe it.

After all the usual "weather weenie" kidding is over, you comprise one of the most highly respected enlisted groups in today's Air Force.

# Mildenhall unit sees heavy air traffic

By 1st Lt. Robert C. Thorp

You name it and it has probably flown through RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

And personnel at the base weather station, Detachment 15, 28th Weather Squadron, have probably briefed the crews.

Staffed with 20 people the unit provides 24-hour weather support to several major flying units. In addition to the locally assigned aircraft, the "Gateway to the U.K." sees heavy transient traffic from around the world. This can range from a C-12 to a C-5, to a SR-71 to an E-3A, and each has a different weather requirement.

The broad sampling of U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force inventories, combined with many NATO aircraft from other countries that visit Mildenhall, make for an interesting job for the weather people.

"I've seen about everything fly in here," said SrA. Robert A. Russ, one of seven observers at the detachment. "I keep expecting to see the Space Shuttle out on the ramp one of these days."

Two wing weather officers at the detachment provide tailored weather support to the 306th Strategic Wing and Det. 4, 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. "These two guys maintain a 24-

hour weather support capability to meet any contingency our aircraft fly off to," says Lt. Col. Bruce D. Altenhof, Det. 15 commander.

While Det. 15 mainly concerns itself with high altitude and continental weather support, it also becomes a regional briefing station for the entire United Kingdom at nights and on weekends and holidays when all of the other USAF weather facilities are closed.

"One minute you're briefing a DC-8 flying back to the States and the next you're briefing an F-111 on low level mission over Scotland," says SSgt. Michele I. Nash, a forecaster at Det. 15.

An especially active time for the UK's busiest base weather station comes with the annual Mildenhall Air Fete, when thousands of people attend the two-day air show to mingle with aircraft from all over Europe.

The Air Fete "requires a broad understanding of aircraft weather limitations on the part of the forecasters," notes SMSgt. Joseph R. Lara, station chief, "and a great talent at tapdancing — for about two weeks prior, the forecast for the weekend of the show seems to be the only thing on people's minds!"

But A1C Paul A. Lamon, an observer



1st Lts. Robert C. Thorp (left), and Alan H. Haberecht, wing weather officers with the detachment, brief pilot Maj. Denny L.

Thisius on a local training flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. John Dasher)

says, "Everyday is like an air show here at Mildenhall." With the base's Naval Air Facility and the rotational C-130 Bravo Squadron flying frequent trips around Europe, and the U.S. European Command's Silk Purse

Control Group providing airborne command post capability above Europe, the people of Det. 15 seem to have seen and supported it all.

Lieutenant Thorp is a wing weather officer with Det. 15, 28th WS.

## Binational teams work side by side

Imagine being stationed at the tourist and wine center of Traben-Trarbach in the picturesque Mosel River Valley of Germany. Your assignment would be to learn

operations and exchange ideas with the German meteorologists at the headquarters of the German Military Geophysical Office. Your goal would be to design a working environment for

a future American weather unit.

In August 1980 two Air Weather Service officers, Lt. Col. James M. Plummer and Maj. John E. Rubenacker, formed OL-A of the 2nd

Weather Wing at Traben-Trarbach and worked with the GMGO to set up a combined binational forecasting office in the new five-story underground German military weather center.

Activation of the 2nd WW unit was the first step of an important effort to improve weather support to NATO's Central Region. Plans for further expansion to an 18-person, 24-hour per day forecast unit in Traben-Trarbach are scheduled for mid-1983. At that time, the German and American teams will be working side-by-side, sharing data and equipment, in what is one of the most modern, computerized, weather forecasting facilities in the world.

GMGO will continue to provide forecasts for German forces, while the 2nd WW unit will directly support the U.S. Army forces in Europe. Twice per day the teams will get together and jointly prepare a unified planning forecast to be used by all of the NATO command and control elements in the Central Region.

"It has been an interesting and challenging assignment," says Maj. Rubenacker. "There are 350 Germans working here at the GMGO and, so far, only two Americans. Although English is the NATO meteorology language, some knowledge of German has been extremely helpful for both of us in working out the unique administrative details associated with a binational organization. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to represent the United States and Air Weather Service to the German people here."



Maj. John E. Rubenacker and Herr Hans-Deiter Knoth process NOAA-6 imagery at the German Military Geophysical Office Forecast Center. (U.S. Air Force photo)

# Korean units

# Forecasting requires close coordination

By 1st Lt. Harold Massey

The seven elements of Detachment 15, 30th Weather Squadron, Osan AB, Korea, comprise the Osan base weather station, a weather support unit, the Korean Forecast Unit, a satellite imagery dissemination system, and operating locations at Koon-Ni Range, Suwon and Taegu. This wide range of support makes Det. 15 one of the largest detachments in the Pacific.

Formed this spring, OL-B at Suwon is manned by forecasters who brief flights supporting the A-10 mission in Korea. And OL-C at Taegu provides forecast support to the F-4 mission as well as Military Airlift Command transit aircraft. OL-A at Koon-Ni Range provides observing support at one of the major aircraft gunnery ranges in Korea.

Osan's base weather station is responsible for a wide range of services including hourly observations,

forecasts and weather briefings for aircrews, out of station briefings and special support to Osan flying units.

The Korean Forecast Unit and weather support unit concentrate on weather for the entire Korean peninsula. These elements have a vastly different mission from that of the base weather station.

Coordination is one of the most important tasks of the KFU, which is a small weather central supporting all weather units throughout Korea. It issues weather advisories, point warnings, and area forecasts for the entire country and adjacent coastal waters. It also furnishes forecasts for air-to-ground gunnery ranges, low level training and aerial refueling routes.

Korea, about the size of Indiana, is a land of extremes because of its geographical locations and topography. It is bordered on three

sides by water, is mountainous and is flanked on the west by the world's largest land mass and on the east by the largest body of water. The winters are typically cold and dry and the summers are hot and humid with occasional, very heavy precipitation. To further complicate the coordination process, six of the eight forecasting units of 30th WS are located within an area the size of Delaware.

Concentrating on the "big picture", the KFU provides general guidance to 30th WS units through twice-daily conference calls and forecast bulletins.

The KFU forecaster directs the conference call and begins with the discussion of the weather in the region and the 24-hour outlook. Each unit then provides comments and the forecast is "fine-tuned" until all agree on the general outlook. Since the conference call was begun last November, it has produced good results. Terminal forecast verification scores have

improved throughout 30th WS and the quality of weather support to customers is better.

The detachment's weather support unit supports the air defense mission in Korea and command and control elements of the Strategic Air Command and Military Airlift Command during contingencies.

The satellite dissemination unit provides visual and infrared imagery to all other weather units in Korea via laserfax. It also tracks and "fixes" typhoons in the western Pacific area by using satellite imagery.

Although Korea's fickle weather and rapid personnel changeover makes the weather job tough, the coordination and joint efforts of members of Det. 15, 30th WS, enables the units to present a consistent set of forecasts to their customers.

Lieutenant Massey is the public affairs representative for the detachment.



# Det. 3, 15th WS supports southern based units

By TSgt. Johnny W. Kicklighter

Charleston AFB, S.C., the home of Detachment 3, 15th Weather Squadron, nestles between the Ashley and Cooper Rivers some twelve miles down Charleston Harbor from the Atlantic Ocean.

The city of Charleston, originally Charles Towne, is one of the oldest cities in the United States with an eventful history dating back to 1670. With its history of involvement in all of this nation's major wars, it is only natural that the Charleston area has representatives from each branch of the Armed Forces as well as the Coast Guard and a famous military school, The Citadel.

Det. 3, 15th WS provides direct support to a number of units. The majority of the detachment's support goes to the 437th Military Airlift Wing which in 1944 took part in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. Not only does the 437th MAW perform continuous strategic airlift flying C-141B Starlifter aircraft to points east in both hemispheres, but is also pioneering work in Special Operations Low Level where C-141s are flown at very low levels, 300 feet, day and night.

The wing also flies two Combat Airdrop Missions daily and 20 to 30 Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training missions a month, some of which take place in Europe and the Far East.

An active Air Force Reserve

associate unit, the 315th MAW maintains proficiency in flying the C-141B along with their active duty counterparts. The 315th actually flies 25 percent of airlift missions originating at Charleston.

Det. 3 also provides normal base weather station support plus staff support to the 165th Tactical Airlift Group (ANG) Savannah, Georgia which employs C-130 aircraft.

With a nine-member work force, the detachment is one of the few weather stations with no observers assigned.

Since the airfield is jointly used by the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service has the responsibility of taking surface observations and issuing the 24-hour Terminal Aerodrome Forecast.

Det. 3 is also unique because personnel issue a specially tailored TAF used solely in support of the Det. 1, 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron which has two F-106s on alert for the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

In addition to supporting the local flying units and maintaining a continuous metwatch, the detachment also supports deployments and exercises by sending personnel to Cairo, Egypt for BRIGHT STAR; Goose Bay, Labrador for REFORGER; SHADOW HAWK and to many stateside locations.

Sergeant Kicklighter is the public affairs representative for the detachment.

## The 'Convincer'

Lt. Col. Clark S. Pinder, Headquarters 5th Weather Wing, Langley AFB, Va., buckles up in the "Convincer" as part of the wing's "Make It Click—101 Most Critical Days" campaign. The model, a bucket

seat, complete with a seat belt and mounted on rollers, demonstrates the forces generated by a low speed automobile crash. (U.S. Air Force photos by 1st Lt. Wayne S. French)

# AWS Salutes. . .

Information for the Salutes column should be sent by public affairs representatives to HQ AWS/PA, Scott AFB, Ill., 62225. Submissions should list information by category and include the rank, full name, unit and unit location.

Items received by the 15th of the month will be printed in the following month's AWS OBSERVER.

Abbreviations are AWS - Air Weather Service; HQ - Headquarters; AIN - Army Installation; AAF - Army Airfield; AFS - Air Force Station; CCAF - Community College of the Air Force; WW - Weather Wing; WS - Weather Squadron; AFGWC - Air Force Global Weather Central; USAFETAC - U.S. Environmental Technical Applications Center; WRS - Weather Reconnaissance Squadron; BTZ - Below the Zone; OL - Operating Location; and OLC - Oak Leaf Cluster.

## Medals

**Defense Meritorious Service Medal:** Lt. Col. Charles M. Norman, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

**Meritorious Service Medal:** Lt. Col. Michael P. McGaughy, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Lt. Col. Patrick J. Larkin (2nd OLC), HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; SMSgt. William Newberry, Det. 8, 26th WS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.; Maj. Robert G. Borchers, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; Lt. Col. Richard C. Savage (1st OLC), CMSgt. Peter Morris, MSgt. John D. Trammell, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Maj. Charles P. Guard, Det. 5, 1st WW, Clark AB, Philippines.

**Joint Service Commendation Medal:** SMSgt. Andrew V. Wilder, 1st Lt. James E. Warnke, HQ 1st WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.

**Air Force Commendation Medal:** 2nd Lt. William D. Hall, A1C Samuel Gomez, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.; TSgt. Charles Potter, Det. 8, 5th WS, Fort Riley, Kan.; Capt. Danny R. Pophin, HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; SSgt. Patrick Rugg, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. Capt. Merrilee A. Powell, HQ 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Capt. Kirk E. Lehneis, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; Capt. Richard G. Peer (3rd OLC), Det. 3, 2nd WW, Athens, Greece; Capt. Michael R. Formosa, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; TSgt. Clayton R. Chartier, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom; Capt. David G. Whitford (1st OLC), Det. 4, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**Air Force Achievement Medal:** 1st Lt. Ronald R. Bisson, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.; Sgt. Richard L. Wagster, Det. 14, 26th WS, Blytheville AFB, Ark.; SSgt. Amos Walker, Jr., Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; SrA. Richard A. Winkle Jr., Det. 3, 2nd WW, Athens, Greece; SSgt. Douglas J. Sewell, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**Army Commendation Medal:** 1st Lt. Duane L. Mohn, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom; SSgt. James R. Gowan, Det. 36, 28th WS, RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom, A1C Donald O. Calhoun, Det. 17, 28th WS, RAF Upper Heyford, United Kingdom.

## Promotions

**To lieutenant colonel:** Gary C. Heise, Michael P. McGaughy, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Joseph C. Johnston, Det. 22, 26th WS, Carswell AFB, Texas.

**To major:** Richard R. Boyd, Nicholas T. Mustric, Det. 26, 26th WS, Grissom AFB, Ind.; Paul Anderson, Det. 15, 24th WS, Vance AFB, Okla.; Robert G. Borchers, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; Ronald E. Godden, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

**To captain:** Craig H. Egeland, Det. 2, 11th WS, Eielson AFB, Alaska; Victor Surin, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Alan H. Haberecht, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom; Glenn A. Reigelman, Joseph P. Hadyka, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.; Joseph C. Borja (regular appointment), Det. 4, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**To first lieutenant:** Regina Y. Kane, Wayne S. French, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Ronald G. Meris, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; Katherine Brehme, Det. 2, 9th WS, Castle AFB, Calif.



Graduates from weather specialist class 820408 are (front row, left to right), PFC Donald Holman, SrA., Suzanne L. Ham, Sgt. Doretta D. Johnson, AA Joanne Toomey, SrA. Michelle Tyler, Sgt. Christine Smith,

GySgt. Lenny Jones (instructor); (back row) SSgt. Mike Brand (instructor), AR Joe Szewczyk, AB Rachel A. Foberz, A1Cs Terrance V. Croskey, Plutarco Cross, AB Peter C. Harper, Amn. Susan Crevier, AN Jyh Wang.

**To master sergeant:** David E. Thompson, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.; James H. Smith, Det. 6, 26th WS, Pease AFB, N.H.; Jack R. O. Hart, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.; Gary R. Emmons, Det. 26, 26th WS, Grissom AFB, Ind.; Michael J. Visnaw, Det. 28, 26th WS, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; Larry Hildebrand, HQ 3rd WW, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**To technical sergeant:** Rosanne Eodchick, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Robert Cari, Det. 6, 26th WS, Pease AFB, N.H.; Arnold R. Hansen, Stephen L. Rosemier, Det. 8, 26th WS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.; Andrew P. Quigley, Det. 14, 26th WS, Blytheville AFB, Ark.; Sandra K. Anderson, Bruce E. Bronsema, Michael W. Woolverton, Det. 19, 26th WS, Whiteman AFB, Mo.; James M. Crumley, Det. 22, 26th WS, Carswell AFB, Texas; Paul D. Church, Det. 26, 26th WS, Grissom AFB, Ind.; Earl P. Wisling, Det. 28, 26th WS, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; Keith A. Preece, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.

**To staff sergeant:** Carol L. Schmitt, Gorden H. Fesenger, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.; John M. Robb, Det. 18, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom; Thomas Moore, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; Wayne E. Howe, Det. 6, 26th WS, Pease AFB, N.H.; Donald R. Fink, Det. 4, 26th WS, Loring AFB, Maine; Brian D. Kenney, OL-A, Det. 14, 26th WS, Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio; Lawrence M. Smith, OL-A, Det. 19, 26th WS, Richards Gebaur AFB, Mo.; Larry E. Hampton, HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; Ruth E. Cochran, Det. 20, 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; Kara L. Allen, Det. 24, 26th WS, K.I. Sawyer AFB, Mich.; Harold F. Trull, Lawrence I. Wiggins, Det. 28, 26th WS, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; Michael L. Moneypenny, HQ 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

**To sergeant:** Thomas Catrett, Det. 9, 24th WS, Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Curtis A. Vock, Det. 6, 26th WS, Pease AFB, N.H.; Taffy M. Ford, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Vernon Leppy, Det. 21, 5th WS, Hunter AFB, Ga.; Barry C. Ward, OL-A, Det. 21, 5th WS, Fort Stewart, Ga.

**To senior airman:** Dennis P. Barron, Det. 15, 24th WS, Vance AFB, Okla.; Tony B. Southerland (BTZ), HQ 6th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; John K. Vares, Deanne A. Early, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam, AFB, Hawaii; Volel Emile, Richard A. Merritt, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; Marc D. Adams (BTZ), Det. 3, 28th WS, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom; Randal M. Alden, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom, Bryan R. Hamilton, Det. 18, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom; Robert G. Otterson, Charles O. Collins Jr., Det. 5, 1st WW, Clark AB, Philippines; Paul W. Pervis, George H. Davall, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; Kevin L. Scaife, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.

Eric E. Douglass, Alfred F. Schutz, Det. 12, 5th WS, Fort Devens, Mass.; Chet Maynard, Det. 8, 5th WS, Fort Riley, Jan.; Michelle Haley, Det. 6, 9th WS, Peterson AFB, Colo.

**To airman first class:** Fred Nitchie, Billy D. Pruett, HQ 6th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Vance A. Kuhn, Det. 15, 24th WS, Vance AFB, Okla.; James C. Palmer, Det. 4, 11th WS, Fort Richardson, Alaska; Carol A. Larkins, Det. 36, 28th WS, RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom; Ray E. Schonert, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom; Stephen C. Pukmel, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; Kevin Grannan, Det. 9, 12th WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Timothy C. Bentley, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Belvoir, Va.; Zora Madewell, Det. 1, 9th WS, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**To airman:** Gary F. Willis, Det. 5, 5th WS, Fort Knox, Ky.; Michael G. Manning, Det. 11, 5th WS, Fort Sill, Okla.

## Unit honors

**Junior Officer of the Quarter:** 1st Lt. Cris Cuoco, Det. 1, 12th WS, Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colo., for 12th WS; 1st Lt. Ronald G. Meris, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea, for Kunsan AB; 1st Lt. Richard C. Borja, Det. 4, 1st WW, for 1st WW; 1st Lt. Frederick Svez, Det. 11, 9th WS, Beale AFB, Calif., for the 100th Combat Support Group; 2nd Lt. Ronnie E. King, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; 1st Lt. William Roeder, Det. 11, 9th WS, Beale AFB, Calif.

**Senior NCO of the Quarter:** SMSgt. Thomas Canwell, Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany, for 7th WS; SMSgt. Lee Bryant, Det. 14, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany; MSgt. Douglas A. Palecek, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**NCO of the Quarter:** TSgt. George Strunk, HQ 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany, for 7th WS; SSgt. Mary Jo Bertrand, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, for 11th WS; SSgt. Susan A. Saunders, Det. 1, 15th WS, Andrews AFB, Md. for 15th WS; TSgts. Shirley A. Janes, Rosanne Eodchick, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; SSgt. William H. Powers, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C., for 5th WW; SSgt. Tim Masias, Det. 1, 12th WS, Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colo. for 12th WS; SSgt. Jerry P. Monroe, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; SSgt. Raymond Daniel, Det. 2, 24th WS, Columbus AFB, Miss.; SSgt. Jake Smith, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas; SSgt. Harold Newman, Det. 22, 24th WS, Keesler AFB, Miss.; SSgt. Randolph A. Morgan, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif., for 2nd WS; TSgt. Lee H. Batsel, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas; SSgt. David V. Jenkins, OL-E, 7th WS, Goepingen,

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# AWS Salutes. . .

(continued from page 6)

Germany; TSgt. Johnny J. Jones, Det. 23, 17th WS, Kirtland AFB, N.M.; SSgt. William R. Rhodes, Det. 6, 1st WW, Palehua Observatory, Hawaii, for 1st WW; TSgt. Ralph Hartman, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; TSgt. Jerry Heath, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas; Sgt. James Buchanan, Det. 1, 24th WS, Randolph AFB, Texas; TSgt. Richard A. Deneka, Det. 5, 9th WS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont., for 9th WS.

**Airman of the Quarter:** SrA. Brian Fuis, Det. 22, 26th WS, Carswell AFB, Texas; SrA. Edna S. Ramsay, Det. 14, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany, for 7th WS; A1C Roy A. Bishop, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas; Sgt. William E. Andrus, Det. 10, 2nd WS, Eglin AFB, Fla., for 2nd WS; A1C Alan Dorman, Det. 2, 24th WS, Columbus AFB, Miss.; A1C Lori Carman, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas; Sgt. Thomas P. Moore, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; SrA Chester V. Clogston, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; A1C David J. Gorman, Det. 8, 5th WS, Fort Riley, Kan., for 5th WS; SrA. Nancy Chambers, Det. 1, 15th WS, Andrews AFB, Md., for 15th WS; SrA. Scott A. Carlson, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska, for 11th WS, SrA. Leslie Sexton, Det. 1, 24th WS, Randolph AFB, Texas. SrA. Kevin M. Ognan, Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany, for 7th WS; A1C Ricky A. Hiltbrand, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; A1C Stanley Grell, Det. 1, 9th WS, Offutt AFB, Neb., for 9th WS.

**Forecaster of the Quarter:** Sgt. Scott R. Kingsley, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C., for 3rd WS.

**Observer of the Quarter:** A1C Jeffrey L. Kaufman, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach S.C., for 3rd WS.

## Education

**Army War College:** Lt. Col. Leander Page III, 131st Weather Flight, Westfield, Mass.

**Air War College:** Lt. Col. Henry M. Baddley, Jr., 1st WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Maj. William D. Klein, HQ 9th WS, March AFB, Calif. Maj. Richard Vogt, Det. 15, 9th WS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

**Air Command and Staff College:** Capt. Cory Chadwick, 1st WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Maj. Stephen C. Walden, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**Squadron Officer School:** 1st Lt. Paul Place, Det. 41, 12th WS, Fort Lee, Va.; Capt. John E. Brady, Det. 17, 1st WW, Yokota AB, Japan.

**Senior NCO Academy graduates:** MSgt. Robert L. Albert, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C.; SMSgt. Danny W. Milner, Det. 5, 3rd WS, England AFB, La., graduated with honors; SMSgt. Rodney W. Gaudreau, Det. 13, 5th WS, Fort Eustis, Va., graduated with honors.

**NCO Academy graduates:** TSgt. Gary A. Ouder Kirk, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom; TSgt. John Harper, HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; TSgt. Jerry Heath, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas; TSgt. Alan C. Weismann, Det. 7, 3rd WS, Langley AFB, Va., graduated with honors; TSgt. John S. Billingsley, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C.

**NCO Leadership School graduates:** Sgt. James Methnen, HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; Sgt. Mark Granelle, Det. 4, 26th WS, Loring AFB, Maine; SSgt. Paul Gibson, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.; SSgt. Anthony P. Northington, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Belvoir, Va.; SSgt. John D. Berrish II, Det. 6, 5th WS, Fort Lewis, Wash.; SSgt. George R. Statler, Jr., Det. 6, 3rd WS, Homestead AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Patsy L. Zebert, Det. 14, 25th WS, Holloman AFB, N.M., graduated with honors; SSgt. Lucy E. Ratford, Det. 18, 25th WS, Mountain Home, Idaho, graduated with honors; SSgt. Kenneth K. Boyd, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz., graduated with honors; SSgt. Clarence R. Seale, Det. 5, 3rd WS, England AFB, La., graduated with honors; SSgt. Robert A. Payne, Det. 7, 3rd WS, Langley AFB, Va.; SSgt. Donald J. Zafke, Det. 36, 28th WS, RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom; Sgt. Edward D. Anderson, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; SSgt. Jimmy W. Long, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg,

N.C., graduated with honors; SSgt. Gerald D. Rugg, OL-C, 7th WS, Bad Toelz, Germany, graduated with honors; SSgt. Charlene Ligon, Det. 1, 31st WS, Bitburg AB, Germany; SSgt. Stanley Krenz, Det. 5, 9th WS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; SSgt. Hans Hanson, Det. 11, 9th WS, Beale AFB, Calif., graduated with honors.

**Phase II, PME graduates:** Sgt. Gary H. Tryon, Det. 14, 17th WS, Norton AFB, Calif.; Sgts. Scott T. Klaiber, Thomas A. Biggs, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; SrA. Robert Strong, Det. 15, 9th WS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

**Phase I, PME graduates:** SrA. Paul W. Pervis, George H. Davall, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; SrA. Dawn Roberson, Sgt. Merle Delande, Det. 1, 31st WS, Bitburg AB, Germany; A1C Douglas K. Maclean, Fulda AAF, Germany; SrAs. Alice L. Daudelin, Frances Evans, Karl E. Holden, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom, Robert A. Russ, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall United Kingdom.

**CCAF degree recipients:** MSgt. Donald H. Thompson, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.; MSgt. Thomas S. Brock, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.; TSgt. Jerry Heath, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas; SSgt. Frank Curtis, Det. 15, 24th WS, Vance AFB, Okla.; SSgts. Ian N. Wildman, Carolyn M. Berube, Det. 27, 12th WS, Hancock Field, N.Y.; SSgt. Craig Heiselmeyer, Det. 58, 5th WS, Fort Carson, Colo.; TSgt. Tony Frasca, Det. 9, 12th WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; SSgt. Lawrence C. Harper, Det. 2, 3rd WS, Seymour Johnson AFB, S.C.; SSgt. James Godwin, Det. 22, 24th WS, Keesler AFB, Miss.; MSgt. David Birchfield, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom; SSgt. Robert J. Dalphe III, Det. 1, 31st WS, Bitburg AB, Germany.

**Degree recipients:** Capt. Cecilia A. Askue, Det. 4, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, a master's degree from the University of Southern California; Capt. Peter R. Conant, Det. 11, 2nd WS, Patrick AFB, Fla., a master's degree from the U.S. Navy Post Graduate School; SSgt. Roger D. Burgett, Det. 11, 2nd WS, Patrick AFB, Fla., an associate's degree from Brevard Community College; MSgt. Thomas S. Brock, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill., a bachelor's degree from Park College; TSgts. Freeman Bridges, David Bennett, SSgts. Patrick Tuller, Ronald Pagitt, Technical Training Center, Chanute AFB, Ill., bachelor's degrees from Eastern Illinois University; SSgt. Jean Brand, Technical Training Center, Chanute AFB, Ill.; a bachelor's degree from North

Carolina Wesleyan University; 1st Lt. Robert M. Tiefenbach, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C.; a master's degree from Barry College; Capt. Cory R. Chadwick, 1st WS, MacDill AFB, Fla., a master's degree; SSgt. Lodwik Chobat, Det. 7, 24th WS, Mather AFB, Calif., a bachelor's degree from California State University; SSgt. Randolph A. Morgan, Det. 21, 2nd WW, Edwards AFB, Calif., a master's degree from Golden Gate University.

**Weather Technician Course:** Sgt. Richard W. Compton, Det. 31, 5th WS, Fort Polk, La.; SSgt. Ernest G. Jones, Det. 16, 25th WS, Nellis AFB, Nev.; Sgt. Richard T. Kocinski, Det. 3, 15th WS Charleston AFB, S.C.; SSgt. Roger D. Ritchie, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Sgt. Jeffrey Torgerson, OL-C, Det. 6, 2nd WW, Stuttgart, Germany; SSgts. Jean M. Brand, Lauretta E. Brooks, Technical Training Center, Chanute AFB, Ill.; SSgt. Robert J. Currin, Det. 75, 3rd WS, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; TSgt. Rickey D. Cyrus, Det. 20, 17th WS, Little Rock AFB, Ark.; Sgt. Vincent J. Delaney, 207th Weather Flight, Shelbyville, Ind.; Sgt. Robert F. Dufrane, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Sgts. David L. Haines, Ronald F. Sinnard, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SSgt. Donald L. Burrill, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill. Sgt. Ann M. Baker, SSgt. Kenneth J. Harris, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SSgt. Terry L. Hugill, Det. 5, 5th WS, Fort Knox, Ky.; SSgt. Deborah A. Manning, Det. 10, 5th WS, Fort Benning, Ga.; SSgt. Michael J. Moll, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SSgt. Raymond L. Peirce, Det. 26, 16th WS, Grissom AFB, Ind.; SSgt. William F. Prouse, Det. 14, 17th WS, Norton AFB, Calif.; SSgt. Helmut D. Young, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.

**Weather Specialist Course:** Amn. Shelli Peck, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AB, Panama, graduated with honors; Sgt. Donald Hatten, Det. 11, 9th WS, Beale AFB, Calif., graduated with honors; SSgt. Philip Thompson, Det. 16, 9th WS, Dyess AFB, Texas.

## Retirements

MSgt. John H. Loncosky, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas.

Lt. Col. Richard C. Savage, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Lt. Daniel R. Gornell, Det. 2, 2nd WS, Hanscom AFB, Mass.

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Sgt. Frank Chernowetz

## Long-time weather buff finishes course in 3 weeks

When Sgt. Frank Chernowetz completed the weather specialist course, instructors at the Chanute Technical Training Center took notice.

The sergeant, a cross-trainee from the teletype repair field, completed the scheduled 11-week course in only three weeks.

His interest in weather started when he was 12 years old. He began to gather information on weather and subscribed to various weather related magazines. At age 14, he constructed a home barometer and wind vane, and began taking his own weather observations.

Through the years he continued to expand by ordering available catalog equipment and gradually established a home weather station with temperature, dewpoint, wind and pressure readouts.

When Sergeant Chernowetz enlisted in The Air Force four years ago, there were no openings in the observing field.

Now, after completing the observer's course, he is currently assigned to OL-C, Det. 6, HQ AWS at Andrews AFB, Md. He hopes to learn weather station operations and return to forecaster school as soon as possible.

## Weather Obs

**Powerlifter** — Brenda Sheldon, a forecaster with TUSLOG Det. 2, 31st WS, has captured the firstplace title in the 105 pound women's division of the U.S. Military World Powerlifting Championships. The 4-foot-11 inch staff sergeant won the event with lifts of 175 pounds in the squat, 95 pounds at the bench, and 200 pounds in the deadlift. Prior to the world competition at Aviano AB, Italy, she had wins at the Mediterranean Sports Conference Championships and the USAFE Championships, setting new records at both events.

**26th Weather Squadron** — The 26th Weather Squadron historian is searching for any photos, newspaper articles, copies of old orders, etc., to make a display on the squadron history. Anyone who has items to donate should send them to MSgt. TX F.D. Vogler, 26th WS Historian, Barksdale AFB, La., 71110. Include information about the photo and identification of people shown, if possible. Photos will be returned if requested.

**Palehua** — Commenting on the rodents which invaded Detachment 6, 1st Weather Wing, Palehua Solar Observatory, Hawaii, one sergeant said "I'll bet you we've done away with a hundred of them little suckers in the past month." Another voiced his "almost perfect" solution, "Found a new mousetrap which kills 'em dead — a teletype machine. The only problem is that it just works once, then the machine has to go in for repair." The site had been overrun with field mice, an unusual situation caused by the dry summer weather and the burning of nearby cane fields.

**Annual Banquet** — The Northern California Air Force Weather Association will hold its annual banquet Oct. 9 at McClellan AFB, Calif. Guest speaker for the event will be Col. George E. Chapman, Air Weather Service commander. All active duty, retirees, civilians, etc., are invited to attend. Contact Milt Sipple, 2589 Dumbarton Ave., San Jose, Calif., 95124 or telephone 408-267-2555.

**1st Weather Wing** — Cited for his empathy and concern for the welfare of the enlisted ranks, Col. Norman F. Rauscher, 1st Weather Wing commander, was honored in ceremonies at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Recognized by noncommissioned officers of Air Weather Service and the Military Airlift Command, he was made an honorary chief master sergeant, and received an honorary membership in the MAC Top Four Association at Hickam, the second membership to be awarded in the association's ten year history.

**Reunion** — The World War II 18th Weather Squadron will hold a reunion Oct. 14-16 in Omaha, Neb. Contact Arthur W. Gulliver, 5119 So. 81st St., Omaha, Neb., 68127.

**Command Changes** — In addition to Col. George E. Chapman assuming Air Weather Service command, other wing and squadron command changes which have occurred since July 1 include: Col. Dale C. Barnum, as commander, Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Col. James W. Hall, as commander, 3rd Weather Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Col. Tommy D. Guest, as commander, 2nd Weather Wing, Kapaun AS, Germany; Col. John A. Lasley, Jr., as vice commander 5th Weather Wing, Langley AFB, Va.; Col. George R. Hammond, as vice commander, 2nd WW; and Col. John T. Taylor, as commander, 7th Weather Squadron, Heidelberg, Germany.

**Editor's Note**—The "Obs" column will be featured monthly.

## Typhoon Chasers

# Super storm season approaches

By 1st Lt. Gregory T. Marx

Although the typhoon season in the Western Pacific normally culminates in October and November, the Typhoon Chasers at Andersen AFB, Guam, have already had an active year.

From March through July personnel from Detachment 4, Headquarters Air Weather Service, and the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Air Rescue and Recovery Service, have flown more than 110 missions into six tropical storms, six typhoons, and their first super typhoon.

Although March is considered a dry season month in the western north pacific, it was an unusually productive one for storm systems in the tropics.

On March 16, Mamie became the first tropical storm of the year. Three days later, Nelson formed, gaining the distinction of being the first typhoon. Both Mamie and Nelson hit the southern Philippines and caused extensive damage.

Typhoon Odessa appeared on March 29, making the month a near record breaker for so many tropical cyclones so early in the year.

Average activity occurred through the following months until July 22, when a tropical depression developed 450 nautical miles northeast of Ponape Island.

Just seven days later this seemingly insignificant system developed into the most intense typhoon so far this year.

On the morning of July 29, a WC-130 "Swan Bird" recorded a central pressure of 901 mb inside the eye. Several hours later, forecasters from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Guam, officially classified Bess as a super typhoon. Typhoons are not categorized as "super" unless it has been determined that its surface winds are 130 knots or greater.

Storm flying activities for the year normally end around the beginning of December. However, the Typhoon Chasers aren't making any plans for Christmas vacation. A season which began so unusually early is almost certain to have an abnormally late finish.

Lieutenant Marx is the public affairs representative for Det. 4, HQ AWS.

## Chanute 'U' asks for assistance

For 24 years, personnel at the Weather Training Branch at Chanute AFB, Ill. have made a Christmastime contribution to the Victory Hall Orphanage in Normal, Ill.

Through fund-raising activities like bake sales, dunking booths, and straight out-of-the-pocket donations, they have contributed annually to the organization, a home for orphans, and physically disabled, abused or disadvantaged children.

Last year's \$3,000 donation was used for individual Christmas gifts for the children, and helped purchase new camping and playground equipment for the home.

This year, the branch's targeted goal is \$5,000, to aid in replacing new equipment in the home. However, donations so far this year have been lower than average, and place the success of this year's drive in jeopardy.

In order to help reach this year's goal, people at the training branch are asking for help from the other members of Air Weather Service.

If you would like to donate to the orphanage, please send a check or money order made out to the Victory Hall Fund: 3350 TCHTG/TTMV/Stop 62, Chanute AFB, Ill. 61868.

# AWS Salutes...

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## Civilian honors

Elizabeth A. Lawson, Det. 2, 2nd WS, Hanscom AFB, Mass., a special achievement award.

Fred Baldwin, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas., an American Patriot Certificate.

## Births

Capt. Susan S. Robbins, Det. 2, 2nd WS, Hanscom AFB, Mass., a son, Eric Michael.

Capt. Robert H. and Debbie Allen, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill., a daughter, Ashley Elizabeth.

1st Lt. Tod and Diane Kunschke, Det. 1, 12th WS, Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colo., a daughter, Jennifer Ann.

Sgt. Stephen Schmidt, Det. 1, 17th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla., a son, Ryan Patrick.

1st Lt. Bridget Luckert, Det. 23, 26th WS, McConnell AFB, Kan., a son.

SSgt. Jack Tones, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas, a son.

SSgt. Cornelius Martin, Det. 12, 24th WS, Sheppard AFB, Texas, a daughter.

TSgt. Michael and Delaine Jimenez, Det. 11, 2nd WS, Patrick AFB, Fla., twins, a son Matthew Michael, and daughter, Marissa Kay.

SSgt. Gregory and Michin Cha Shook, Det. 11, 2nd WS, Patrick AFB, Fla., a son.

SSgt. Terry L. and Lee Thrasher, Det. 6, 17th WS, Hill AFB, Utah, a daughter, Jessica Michelle.

TSgt. Thomas J. and Barbara Stansbury, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom, a daughter, Jennifer.

SSgt. Wanda J. and Paul Cavanaugh, Det. 17, 28th WS, RAF Upper Heyford, United Kingdom, a son, Sean Patrick.

SSgt. James L. Johnson, Det. 18, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom, a daughter, Deborah.

Sgt. Emmanuel and Caroline Isla, Det. 2, 9th WS, Castle AFB, Calif., a son, Vincent Emmanuel.

TSgt. Skip Evans, Det. 9, 12th WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla., a son, Jarrod Michael.

MSgt. Don Farrington, HQ 5th WS, Fort McPherson, Ga., a daughter, Carrie Anne.

Sgt. Michael E. Rudis, OL-B, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., a son, Blake.

SSgt. Vincent T. Aquino, Jr., Det. 5, 5th WS, Fort Knox, Ky., a son, Michael.

1st Lt. George F. Howard, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, a daughter, Catherine Anne.

A1C Timothy J. and Sgt. Theresa L. Lovell, Det. 2, 11th WS, Eielson AFB, Alaska, a son, Joshua John.

Sgt. Michael E. King, Det. 19, 26th WS, Whiteman AFB, Mo., a daughter.

TSgt. Tony Hall, Det. 19, 26th WS, Whiteman AFB, Mo., a son.

MSgt. TX Vogler, HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La., a daughter.