

Weather detachment aids  
Korean flood victims

See page 3.

WX Det boasts proud support

See page 4.

OL-A WX Wizards  
bind winds of time

See pages 8 & 9.

# AWS OBSERVER



VOL. 36 NO. 11

HEADQUARTERS AIR WEATHER SERVICE

NOVEMBER 1989



## CINCMAC visit

With the Commander of Air Weather Service, Brig. Gen. John J. Kelly Jr., looking on, Maj. Malcolm Gosdin, director of Analysis and Concepts, briefs Gen. Hansford T. Johnson, CINCTRANSCOM and CINCMAC, on the use of the new Tempest Gridcase computer. The Gridcase will be used to run the EOTDA program to aid forecasters in determining target specific acquisition and lock on ranges for EO weapon systems. General Johnson spent nearly two hours with AWS being briefed on the command.

## CINCMAC highlights the positive

People, mission, facilities, equipment — that's the agenda of the new Commander in Chief of the Military Airlift Command.

Gen. Hansford T. Johnson discussed his command priorities recently on a visit to McGuire AFB, N.J., with his wife, Linda.

"People are first on my list of priorities," said General Johnson. "Our mission is a close second, but we can't possibly do our mission without quality people." The general defines quality as ranging from personal wellness to the total quality of life.

Regarding pilot retention, General Johnson was very direct. "Certainly we can help the situation by reducing turbulence, but my approach is to hold every commander and supervisor accountable for retention," said the general. "We have a lot to offer in the Air Force. My goal is to talk about the positive

aspects of Air Force life. We'll change what we can, but we have to remember that there is a lot of good that comes of an Air Force career.

General Johnson doesn't consider retention a strictly officer- or pilot-related program. "We need to focus on how many quality people we are

**"Almost every day you can see MAC in action somewhere in the world."**

— Gen. Hansford T. Johnson

keeping, both officer and enlisted," he said.

The general has some specific ideas about the women in his command, too. He feels that they should be given every opportunity to prepare for greater responsibility, without regard to their gender. He would like to see more of them in commander's roles.

"Twenty-first Air Force has a tremendous mission," the general said. "It's usually in the midst of most of the world's problems. We often take airlift for granted — taking people in and bringing them back out again. Almost every day you can see MAC in action somewhere in the world."

Air Force facilities rank high on the general's agenda. He is an advocate of self-help projects and especially the Building Excellent Surroundings Together Program. He emphasized the need for top-notch facilities and the best equipment available in order for MAC's people to accomplish its demanding mission.

A variety of challenges face General Johnson's tenure; not the least among them are dwindling defense budgets in the face of an ever-increasing mission. "Congress has been

Continued on page 12

## Air Weather Service spouses visit Scott weather facilities

Spouses of AWS members assigned to Scott AFB, Ill., got a chance to learn more about the jobs of their husbands and wives recently courtesy of an AWS Spouses Tour hosted by Mrs. Brenda Kelly. Photo at right shows some spouses in the tour group being briefed by Lt. Col. Joseph Butchko at Headquarters AWS. (U.S. Air Force photo)



By MSgt. Dave Black  
AWS Public Affairs

Thirty-four Air Weather Service (AWS) spouses took the opportunity to learn more about their husbands' and wives' jobs at Scott AFB, Ill., recently thanks to a special tour hosted by Mrs. Brenda Kelly, wife of the Air Weather Service commander.

Held from 9:30 a.m. until noon, Oct. 19, 1989, the tour began with refreshments and a short AWS briefing at

the base officer's club.

After the briefing, the group took a bus ride to Det. 9, 6th Weather Squadron, where Maj. Carol Belt, detachment commander, explained the detachment mission and a variety of meteorological equipment such as the satellite looper and the FPS-77 radar.

From the weather station, the AWS spouses took a short ride across base to the U.S. Air Force Environmental Technical Applica-  
Continued on page 5

## Command Line



Brig. Gen. John J. Kelly Jr.  
AWS Commander

# Wings — take a bow!

Since becoming your commander, I have visited as many Air Weather Service (AWS) units as time and the TDY budget would allow. There are two common characteristics I see at each unit: professional competence and enthusiasm. I appreciate the detailed planning and warm hospitality which are apparent; more important, I never fail to come away filled with pride and motivation as a result of seeing you in action and seeing our mission come alive.

Years of experience in AWS have afforded me the opportunity to see much and learn something about our mission, but changing requirements make our job dynamic, and, thus, I benefit from each trip in learning the specifics of what we do.

I wish there was a way for each of you to see the totality of the AWS team effort. The relatively young force we have in the field is doing a super job. They are competent, enthusiastic, innovative, and inquisitive about what lies beyond their current station.

Earlier this year, I realized that we have an excellent medium — the *AWS Observer* — for providing information to all our people about all our units.

Recognizing that each AWS wing has unique

mission and weather support requirements, we decided to feature a weather wing every other month in the *Observer*. What's included in the feature is the highlighted wing's call. We have suggested they consider describing mission, special, or unique customer support requirements, achievements, goals, unit locations, and personnel activities, both on and off duty. I hope these feature articles will be informative, particularly to our younger people; further, I hope these articles will contain many photographs of our people doing their jobs at our worldwide locations, bringing them the recognition they so richly deserve. The program kicks off in February 1990 and will feature the men and women of the 1st Weather Wing.

I believe in our people who make the mission come alive and contribute to it every hour and minute of every day. I hope these articles which feature our wings over the next year will help all understand the what, how, where, why, and when of our business.

I hope the photographs of you in action will bring unit pride and the perpetuation of our Air Weather Service as a family. Our thanks to 1st Weather Wing for starting us off.

Till next time.

## Chief's corner

During the past three weeks I've received calls from five individuals who separated from the Air Force during the last year, asking if I could help them get back in. Three of these people were first term observers and the other two were second term forecasters. In each instance, I was forced to tell them that there was little chance they could come back into the Air Force as weather people under current conditions.

The lead paragraph is not a scare tactic intended to make someone reenlist. It is a fact that needs to be considered when you are making this all-important decision. We want you to weigh all of the pertinent data when you are considering your future, not just how many Selective Reenlistment Bonus dollars you may or may not receive.

It's especially important for a first-termer to talk to his or her seniors, in addition to the Unit Career Advisor, when considering their options. They need to know their choices under the Careers Program because no matter what their AFSC, the odds are that once they reenlist they will spend the rest of their career in that specialty. They also need to know more about their career

## An informed decision is critical

field. A computer operator who spends his or her first enlistment in a computer center needs to understand that their next assignment could be in a base communications center; the administrative specialist must be aware that they could wind up in an overseas postal service center; and the weather specialist must know they will attend forecaster school and that future assignments can/will include Army support, weather centrals, and 24-hour operating locations.

It is also important for us to know your reasons for separating, because we are always looking for ways to improve Air Weather Service and the Air Force. We read/investigate all inputs, including the one that said, "I'll reenlist if you give me an exciting job with only daytime hours, all weekends and holidays off, and no extra duties."

The reenlistment decision is not an easy one to make. We owe it to our people, ourselves, and the Air Force to ensure that everyone makes their decision for the right reasons.



CMSgt. John L. Williams  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Brig. Gen. John J. Kelly Jr.  
AWS Commander  
AWS Editorial Staff  
MSgt. David L. Black  
Editor

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## AF extends officer release program

The officer voluntary early release program has been extended to meet fiscal year 1990 officer strength reductions.

"By reducing the number of officers coming into the service and continuing the voluntary early release program, we should be able to attain the fiscal 1990 Congressionally mandated officer strength reductions," said Chief of the Officer Separation Policy Branch Maj. Kathleen Pivarsky.

Fiscal 1990 reductions are currently set at 2,300 officers, but with final action on the fiscal 1990 Authorization Act still pending, this number could go higher, Major Pivarsky said.

The early release application period is open now and continues through July 31, 1990, with dates of separation from October through Sept. 29, 1990.

The program permits waiver of certain active-duty service commitments and allows officers to separate early from the Air Force, Major Pivarsky said.

A maximum of 24 months can be waived for officers who have a commitment due to commissioning through

the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Airman Education and Commissioning Program or Officer Training School.

Up to 18 months can be waived for officers who recently accepted an assignment in the continental United States, and for officers wishing to separate who recently accepted promotion to major through colonel.

However, requests for retirement in current grade by lieutenant colonels or colonels with less than three years' time-in-grade cannot be granted, Major Pivarsky said.

For example, a lieutenant colonel eligible for retirement could waive up to 18 months of commitment, but retirement would be in the grade of major since the time-in-grade requirement had not been served.

Up to 12 months can be waived from a service commitment for non-medical service officers who attended a full-time education program at a resident or civilian institution.

This also applies to officers who attended non-flying resident or technical training courses, including professional military educa-

tion courses or off-duty education. Education with industry program participants and officers previously selected for a selective continuation can also waive 12 months, Major Pivarsky said.

Excluded from the early release program are:

- Officers serving overseas tours of 30 months or less, along with those who have not completed 24 months of a 36-month overseas tour or 36 months of a 48-month overseas tour.

- Pilots and fighter weapons systems officers in the grade of lieutenant colonel and below.

- Medical service officers and officers possessing skills in communication-computer systems, civil engineers and certain scientific and developmental skills.

- Colonels who possess acquisition, contracting, comptroller and intelligence skills.

- Officers already pending separation because of quality factors, court-martial or promotion nonselection.

For more information on the officer early release program, contact your local Consolidated Base Personnel Office.

## Weather det. helps save 130 Koreans

By Sgt. Karen West

Det. 15, 30th Weather Squadron at Osan AB, South Korea, recently put its forecasting abilities to the test. At 6 p.m., July 25, 1989, the 38th Air Rescue Squadron (ARS) notified Det. 15 they would be dispatching a six-man crew in an HH-3 Jolly Green Giant Helicopter to Sachon, Korea, to rescue civilians trapped by flood waters.

For two days, heavy rainfall and floodwater had trapped Koreans on rooftops and trees in Sachon, Kwang Ju, and Naju.

Led by 1st Lt. Don Rinderknecht, TSgt. Bradford Clark, and TSgt. David Bessey, Det. 15 provided 38th ARS rescue crews critical weather information.

With ceilings hovering at aircrew minimums, strong winds, and low visibility reduced by heavy rains, Det. 15's weather

decisions were critical for safety of the crews and flood survivors.

The aircrews of the 38th ARS were the main heroes, but members of Det. 15 played an important role.

Capt. Steven W. Kelly, command pilot for the rescue mission, said, "We had

to consider wind direction, weather, and altitude."

By the time it was all over, 14 inches of rain had fallen in 24 hours and 130 people were saved. Once again, Det. 15 provided the margin of safety that ensured the success of the life-saving aircrews from 38th ARS.



A 38th Air Rescue Squadron helicopter flies in to several heavy rain-soaked villages in South Korea to extract flood victims. The missions, which saved 130 Koreans, were successful thanks to weather support from members of Det. 15, 30th Weather Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## hot off the wire...

**BRAVO!** — The AWS Observer took second place in the Military Airlift Command's funded newspaper category, second place for the "June" special edition and a first place in the graphic art category. Credit goes to all members of AWS for your support. Let's continue the good work. Keep those articles and leads coming in.

**You Raaang!** — The United Service Organization and American Telephone and Telegraph will unite between 15 and 20 overseas military people with their families in the United States, Dec. 21. Those people chosen to participate in the fifth annual USO/ATT holiday-link program will be selected from bases in and around Frankfurt, West Germany; Naples, Italy; and Tokyo. USO is inviting all military people who will be assigned to these overseas areas to visit their local USO offices and fill out an application for the program.

**CHAMPUS Update** — Inpatient mental health care can be authorized in advance as the result of a new contract awarded to a Washington, D.C., firm for CHAMPUS mental health care management. Health Management Strategies International Inc., will handle the management, required reviews and authorizations of outpatient mental health treatment and some inpatient psychiatric services starting Jan. 1. The advance authorization of inpatient mental health care reassures service families that their care will be cost-shared by CHAMPUS. The new contractor will process all requests for:

- Advance authorizations for most inpatient mental health care under CHAMPUS.
- All care at residential treatment centers.
- All requests to have the 60-day yearly limit on inpatient psychiatric care waived.
- Authorizations for extended outpatient mental health care. Services under the new contract do not apply to families involved in the CHAMPUS reform initiative demonstration project in California and Hawaii, or those involved in the CHAMPUS reform initiative demonstration in the Tidewater area of Virginia.

**HO HO HO!** — Volunteer Air Weather Service elves at Eielson AFB, Alaska, will again this year send letters from Santa Claus to children throughout the world. Members of all services are welcome to use the program. But letters must reach Eielson no later than Dec. 1, 1989. Anyone who would like a child to receive a letter from Santa post-marked "North Pole" should write the letter they want their child to receive from Santa Claus. Then, the letter plus a stamped envelope addressed to the youngster, both meeting current postage requirements, should be mailed to: Detachment 2, 11th Weather Squadron, Santa's Mailbag, Eielson AFB, AK 99702.

## AWS Update!

### Setting An Example — Brig. Gen. Kenneth E. Staten, commander, Munitions Systems Division, Eglin AFB, Fla., saluted Mr. Edward J. Keppel, Det. 10, 2nd Weather Squadron, recently for his outstanding support to the mission. "Mr. Keppel's role is not limited to daily weather forecasting. He is directly involved in many testing activities from initial planning through test execution and analysis," General Staten explained. Mr. Keppel assists test engineers in gathering meteorological planning data and selecting instrumentation for tests. He researches statistical weather data and analyzes weather forecasts to improve planning for weapon systems test firings. Thus, he plays a vital part in ensuring that testing is conducted safely and efficiently. The staff meteorologist also developed a Hazardous Material Dispersion computer program to predict the direction and distance a hazardous material would travel if accidentally discharged into the atmosphere. This prediction capability would allow the evacuation of areas before they become hazardous and, therefore, significantly enhance the safety of Eglin and the surrounding communities. "Mr. Keppel also played a major role in researching and procuring new weather instrumentation for our meteorological vans which deploy to the actual test sites and collect critical weather data during the tests," the general added.



Mr. Edward J. Keppel  
Det. 10, 2nd Weather Squadron

casting. He is directly involved in many testing activities from initial planning through test execution and analysis," General Staten explained. Mr. Keppel assists test engineers in gathering meteorological planning data and selecting instrumentation for tests. He researches statistical weather data and analyzes weather forecasts to improve planning for weapon systems test firings. Thus, he plays a vital part in ensuring that testing is conducted safely and efficiently. The staff meteorologist also developed a Hazardous Material Dispersion computer program to predict the direction and distance a hazardous material would travel if accidentally discharged into the atmosphere. This prediction capability would allow the evacuation of areas before they become hazardous and, therefore, significantly enhance the safety of Eglin and the surrounding communities. "Mr. Keppel also played a major role in researching and procuring new weather instrumentation for our meteorological vans which deploy to the actual test sites and collect critical weather data during the tests," the general added.

### In Charge — Col. Thomas K. Klein took

charge of the 1st Weather Wing, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, in a change of command officiated by the Commander of Air Weather Service, Brig. Gen. John J. Kelly Jr. Colonel Klein succeeded Col. Floyd F. Hauth, who assumed a position in the Office of Federal Coordinator for Meteorology. Prior to assuming command, Colonel Klein was the vice commander, 4th Weather



Col. Thomas K. Klein

Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo. Colonel Klein graduated from Delta State College, Cleveland, Miss., with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. He received his master's degree in meteorology from Texas A & M University. Before serving as vice commander for 4th Weather Wing, the colonel was assigned as the chief, Forecasting Services Division, Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb. He has completed Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the Air War College.

## TDY: Charge it to Diners Club

Paying for expenses by credit card while on official travel will soon be the standard method for most Air Force people.

The General Services Administration awarded a contract to Citicorp to issue its Diners Club card, at no cost to either the traveler or the Air Force. The card will be offered to all officers, enlisted people in the grades E-7 and above, and civilians GS-9 and above.

Base commanders can authorize the card for those lower-grade people who frequently go TDY.

The charge card program could begin as early as January with applications available locally.

The cards are intended to minimize the amount of cash advances paid by local accounting and finance offices, a key advantage of the program, said Michael Weber of the Financial Policy Division at Air Force Headquarters.

Savings are seen because accounting and finance offices will require less cash on hand. Also, since a lot of people opt to be paid travel funds by check, even fewer dollars will be required at the local level.

The Diners Club card can-

not be used for personal charges, only for government-related business, including hotels, meals and rental cars while traveling, Mr. Weber said.

All billing and collection actions will be between the card holder and Diners Club.

James Clarke, a systems accountant for the Air Force Systems Command, said initially there were some complaints about the Diners Club card because it wasn't accepted everywhere.

"Now, my guess would be that 99 percent of the motels and hotels accept it," Mr. Clarke said. "I haven't had one complaint about Diners Club in the last two years," he said. "This," he said, "is especially true of those people who go TDY to high-cost areas such as Los Angeles, or elsewhere where no government facilities are available."

Under the charge card program, card holders, as well as those eligible, no longer will receive full cash advances for government travel.

They will, however, be able to get an amount of \$26 or \$34 for miscellaneous expenses such as cab and mass transit fares and tips for

porters. This miscellaneous allowance is based on average costs in the city of travel.

When travelers return to their duty stations, they will fill out a travel voucher as in the past. The accounting and finance office will either pay cash or mail a check to the traveler. The card holder in turn will then pay Diners Club.

While no finance charge is levied by Diners Club, card holders are expected to pay the balance in full each month.

"Since Diners Club bills won't theoretically come for 30 to 45 days after the trip, you should have the check (from the TDY) to pay your Diners Club bill in full," Mr. Weber said.

Most Air Force travelers stay on Air Force bases during TDYs, but not all bases accept Diners Club. A system is being planned to get the Diners Club cards accepted at both billeting and in clubs throughout the Air Force.

In the near future, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center is expected to schedule training seminars to familiarize travel specialists with procedures for starting the program. (AFNS)

## WX detachment cites proud support

By 1st Lt. Patricia E. Moore  
Det. 1, 3rd Weather Squadron

"The busiest detachment in 3rd Weather Squadron." Det. 1, 3WS, at Shaw AFB, S.C., claims this motto as their own.

Whether it is the ever-changing weather, the demanding customers, or the strenuous mobility commitments, the unit strives to offer the best possible support to the Shaw AFB, community.

Weather patterns in South Carolina are anything but boring. Severe thunderstorms and freezing precipitation have occurred within 24 hours of each other. These challenges are handled by 20 talented and dedicated observers and forecasters.

Everyone in the unit realizes the importance of the mission during periods of bad weather. Pride and teamwork are obvious as the unit pulls together.

In addition to the challenging weather, the detachment has an abundance of customers to satisfy. The 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, 507th Tactical Air Control Wing, 169th Tactical Fighter Group, 2nd Aircraft Delivery Group and numerous stateside and overseas transient crews require service. The detachment supports more than 30,000 sorties and 35 major exercises annually.

Mobility commitments also keep the unit hopping. Operational readiness exercises enable everyone to stay proficient in theater weather patterns, topography, weather codes, and the tactical environment. Real world deployments to Southwest Asia also help the unit build a solid foundation for mobility training.

Det. 1 is a dedicated unit with a true sense of mission — "To observe and forecast the sky for those who fly and fight."



With TSgt. Patricia L. Jones holding the flag, Capt. Gary C. Grigorian, commander, reenlists Sgt. Phillip P. Frueh during an operational readiness exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Kirtland WX team helps Strategic Defense Initiative Organization

The STAFFMETs of OL-B, 2nd Weather Squadron at Kirtland AFB, N.M., are actively participating in the acquisition of cloud-cover data using a Whole-Sky Imager (WSI). Their location is one of seven sites where WSIs, developed at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, are recording cloud cover for the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO).

The Air Force aspects of the project are being managed by the Atmospheric Sciences Division, Geophysics Laboratory (GL) at Hanscom AFB, Mass.

The WSI camera and filter assemblies record digital imagery on vide-

ocassettes from which cloud information can be extracted. The system's computer algorithms compare the ratio of blue light to red light (which differs for cloud and clear sky) to determine a cloud/no cloud decision for each pixel of the field of view. The systems currently generate a whole-sky image each minute during daylight hours.

The WSI data will be used to verify GL cloud-free line-of-sight (CFLOS) occurrence of simultaneous cloud cover at any combination of the seven sites.

Such information will be useful in assessing Ground-Based Laser Anti-Satellite and Ballistic Missile Defense sites. Additionally, the WSI data will be used in com-

parison with simultaneous satellite cloud data in order to determine cloud-free conditions from satellite.

The installation and maintenance of the imagers is contracted to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography located at La Jolla, Calif. Other imagers are deployed at China Lake NWC, Calif.; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; Malabar, Fla.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (two imagers); and Columbia, Mo.

The latter WSI will obtain cloud-coverage statistics to compare with those used in the Lund-Shanklin CFLOS methodology.

OL-B's responsibilities include a daily op-

erational check, weekly mailing of data tape to Scripps, periodically changing a solar-occluder arm as the sun's declination changes, and ensuring proper maintenance of the instrument.

The Geophysics Labo-

ratory is developing the capability to extend the imaging into the nighttime. The WSI would then be able to provide continuous cloud data sets, which are needed for temporal correlation studies.



First Lt. Josh Nall, OL-B, 2nd Weather Squadron at Kirtland AFB, N.M., checks the operational status of their Whole Sky Imager. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Veterans Day Message from the CINCMAC

One day every year, a grateful nation pauses to say "thank you" to an ever-increasing number of its citizens ... those who have proudly worn a uniform and tirelessly worked to ensure that freedom and democracy continue to be the cornerstones of progressive societies around the globe.



Gen. Hansford T. Johnson  
CINTRANSCOM and CINCMAC

That day is November 11, and it's called Veterans Day.

You, the men and women of the Military Airlift Command, past and present, have made significant sacrifices and contributions for more than four decades. From Berlin to Grenada, Homecoming to Hugo, in times of conflict, peace and natural disaster, MAC personnel have answered the call to help those in need.

You are in the unique position of knowing that, by performing your everyday tasks of flying and supporting airlift missions on every corner of the world, you can, and do, make a difference in the lives of people everywhere.

As we honor our nation's veterans and salute those in uniform today, let me express my pride in being a part of one of the free world's most effective deterrents to aggression and one of its greatest humanitarian forces, the Military Airlift Command. I salute you and the thousands who have served before you. (MAC News Service)

## AWS Spouses...

Continued from page 1

tions Center where they were given a tour of the facility and briefed on the USAFETAC mission.

The tour wrapped up with a visit to Headquarters AWS where the atten-

dees were able to see a variety of historical and weather equipment displays and were able to visit with each directorate. After the tour, spouses took the opportunity to dine with their husbands and wives

for lunch.

"We had a good showing considering the bad weather," Mrs. Kelly said. "The group was very interested. They asked a lot of questions and we all had a good time."

## Veterans Day Message From the Secretary of Defense

**O**n Veterans Day Americans remember and honor those who fought in war to secure peace.

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the "war to end all wars" came to a close. We Americans felt so strongly about the milestone that we created a national day of remembrance—Armistice Day. Three years later we buried an unknown American soldier from that war in Arlington National Cemetery. "Known only to God," he became the eternal symbol of Americans' willingness to fight and die for democracy, freedom, and their beloved country.

Unfortunately, war did not die in 1918. Unknown soldiers from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam have joined their comrade at Arlington Cemetery. Armistice Day has become Veterans Day on which we honor the courage of Americans who fought in all wars. Though our hopes are tempered by the need for vigilance which today's Armed Forces so ably provide, the dream of that first Armistice Day remains. There can be no greater tribute to our fallen sons and daughters.

I join the men and women of the Department of Defense in saluting our living veterans and those who made the supreme sacrifice for peace and freedom.

*Dick Cheney*  
Dick Cheney  
Secretary of Defense

# SKYWATCH: AWS Upper Air Team — They're ready!



A1C Dean Thompson, left, and A1C Dan Carter load equipment prior to an Upper Air Team deployment.

By George Ronger  
U.S. Coast Guard (ret)

Seldom publicized yet in great demand worldwide, the Hurlburt 6th Weather Squadron Upper Air Team members quietly and effectively provide critical weather information.

"We are a unique out-

fit and the only weather group in the Air Force that drives fork lifts, and 10-ton tractors and trailers," explained SSgt. Steven Pickard, an Upper Air Team chief. "We release balloons which carry an instrument package to record temperature, relative humidity, pressure, upper

level winds, and other data.

"We support NASA, Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, National Severe Storms Laboratory and everyone who needs us.

"Before releasing the balloon, we do a ground check of the instruments

to make sure they are working properly. When ready, we call Air Traffic Control for clearance. Upon release, temperatures and relative humidity are taken every two seconds. All processed data is sent back in a common weather code legible to any meteorologist in the world.

"This extensive availability was made possible after World War II, when scientists got together through the United Nations and decided to share weather data. Thus, any weather man in the world who has a terminal can request information.

"When the balloon reaches a height of about 120,000 feet it bursts and the instrument package comes down in a parachute. Every once in awhile someone finds one and brings it in to us," he added.

What does Sergeant Pickard like best about his assignment?

"The flexibility and the opportunity to travel. I've been to about every place I want to go, but the most exciting aspect of my assignment

was being made a crew chief. After which, I was sent around the world to help install the new Rawinsonde system for the Air Weather Service and was in charge of the Azores installation. That was a pleasant place too," he said.

What is the busiest time of the year for Upper Air Teams?

"Usually spring and summer because we go on projects that support severe weather studies.

**"We support NASA, Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, National Severe Storms Laboratory and everyone else who needs us."**

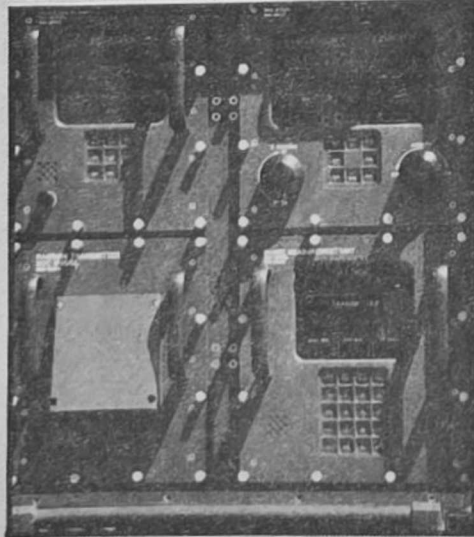
During hurricane season, when one is projected to arrive along the gulf coast within 72 hours, we release weather balloons every six hours to support the National Hurricane Center. Someday I would like to get into space environmental services that support our space program and shuttles."

The one-of-a-kind Upper Air Teams from Hurlburt often are sent on temporary duty. Tasked by the DOD federal coordinator for meteorology, they have been to the Arctic Circle, Azores, Egypt, Panama, Philippines, Spain, and throughout the United States, to name a few areas.

The staff sergeant added, "Others launch balloons but, unlike us, they stay put. In case of war or environmental disaster we can deploy Upper Air Teams within four hours. This means trained meteorologists, an AFCC maintenance man and enough equipment on two 463L pal-

## TALK TO ME, BABY!

After balloon release, Upper Air Team technicians zero in and lock on to the Radiosonde with the GMD-5. The weather technicians use the GMD-5 to profile the atmosphere from surface level to balloon burst, which usually occurs around 120,000 feet.

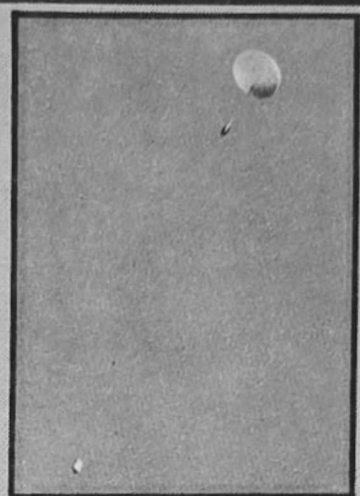


The GMD-5 control console. (U.S. Air Force photos)



# UP, UP AND AWAY

6th Weather Squadron, Upper Air Team members, Sgt. Randy Elie, left, A1C Dean Carter and SSgt. Steven Pickard prepare to launch a Rawinsonde balloon. Photos right show the successful liftoff. (U.S. Air Force photos by SSgt. Will Anderson)



lets or in our trucks to permit 30 days of continuous operation."

The Upper Air Chief was asked about their recent deployment to Alaska. "We just returned from Barter Island, an Air Force site north of the Arctic Circle on the north coast of Alaska. There were six of us. Besides myself, there were Sgt. Randy Elie, A1C Dean Carter, A1C Gary Sweet, Amn. Clifton Rogers and maintenance man, TSgt. Fife, of the 2068th Communications Squadron. During our 43 days there, we provided around-the-clock weather support to flying activities and helped with radar tests.

"Our support was critical in evaluating the effectiveness of the North Warning Radar System, making certain there were no holes in the coverage. We conducted soundings (bal-

loon releases) before and during flights to ascertain the weather, wind and temperatures so the scientists and engineers could evaluate the effect of the atmosphere on the radar data. We also gave surface weather information to any aircraft contacting us directly."

"I was surprised. The weather wasn't as bad as we expected. It averaged about 34 degrees, might drop to 16 at night, and one day it was up to 60. The sun was up when we arrived. Although we were wearing parkas when we off-loaded, we were shocked by the blast of cold air that hit us. We wore parkas for about two weeks before we became accustomed to the weather. After that, we often worked in short sleeves. Our supplies were brought in by aircraft, but they are normally delivered by barge after the sea ice breaks

up. That was just starting when we left. We had the entire end of one building to ourselves, the food was fantastic and there was one small store, open for 15 minutes, three times a week, where we could buy such things as toothpaste.

"When we returned to Hurlburt it was so hot by comparison, it was like walking into a furnace.

Sergeant Elie, Airman Sweet and Airman Rogers, all members of the Barter Island Group, were asked for their impressions of Alaska. They made the following composite remarks:

"Our biological clocks never really knew what time it was, as the sun never set. It was different and interesting. We saw polar bears at quite close range. It was a nice place for a day — 43 consecutive days of daylight.

"There was an Eskimo

settlement nearby and people were very friendly. We were surprised that they dressed nearly the same as the rest of us and drove all-terrain vehicles. Satellite TV is available and most homes, wood with tin roofs, had large screen televisions. In one home there was a huge pile of antlers beneath the TV and another whole roof was covered with antlers.

***The information Upper Air Teams gather helps clear our planes for flight. After all, isn't that what it's all about — supporting those who fly and fight.***

They loved American music of about 10 years ago and were intrigued at seeing people with blue eyes. We asked one person if he had ever been south and he said,

"Oh sure, I got way down to Fairbanks once."

Is obtaining weather support data always serious business?

"We try to conduct it that way. One day, however, when releasing a balloon, one of the men got tangled in the rope connecting the instrument package. As the balloon tried to get airborne, he went hopping down the runway on one leg for quite a distance before he could separate himself. We all were laughing so hard it was almost impossible to help him."

Upper Air Team members do take their job serious. Team members know they are conducting and providing an extremely valuable service. The information Upper Air Teams gather helps clear our planes for flight. After all, isn't that what it's all about — supporting those who fly and fight."



This Federal Building serves as a home for all U.S. weather records. It's within these walls where the Wizards of OL-A, USAFETAC, archive worldwide weather. Note inset photo of Gargoyle among the other carvings of this ominous citadel. Photo at left shows close-up of one of the Griffins that guard the doors.



*Editor's note: Among the oldest and least understood of Air Weather Service traditions is the monthly shipping of AWS Form 10s (once known as WBAN(S)) to OL-A, USAFETAC, Asheville, N.C. This is their story.*

**"WHITHER WBANS TEND"** — So Thomas Wolfe, Asheville, N.C.'s, most noted litteratuer might have described OL-A, USAFETAC, and the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) had they — and WBANS — existed in his day.

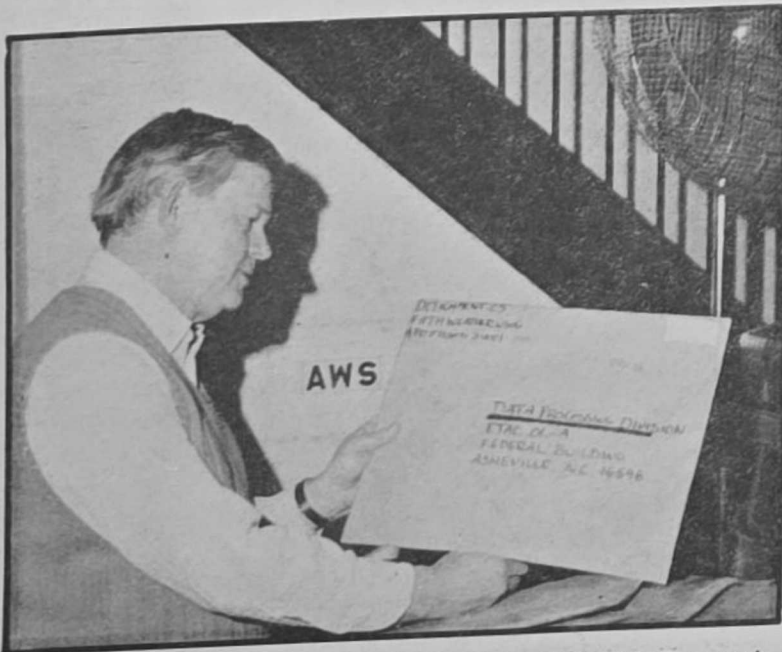
The Federal Building which houses these entities occupies an entire city block on a hill in downtown Asheville, and needs to be seen to be believed.

Imagine an edifice that is a hybrid of minor Medici Palace and a medium security prison. The building built 60 years ago by a patent medicine Croesus, is festooned with battlements and skylights, griffins and gargoyles, catwalks and catacombs.

It serves as an appropriate citadel for the archives of all U.S. weather records — the climatological data gleaned each month from the National Weather Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and Air Force Form 10s, rawinsonde, radar, solar/SESS, and a vast array of other



South Arcade of the Federal Building with computer operations at lower right.



John Walsh, head of technical services, records METAR records.



## OL-A Weather Wizards Bind The Winds Of Time

longline weather reports and analyses.

To describe OL-A's mission in a few words is impossible. It is the linchpin

*From these databases analysts can reach back through the ages and provide ... a depiction of the atmosphere at any given point in space and time within 24-48 hours from the surface up to 200km.*

in what is perhaps the most grandiose scheme ever undertaken in climatology — the collection and processing into databases on a near real-time basis of all meteorological data

available on the earth's surface, the atmosphere above it, and the space above that.

The Weather Wizards of OL-A transfer worldwide data at 256K bits/sec over a full duplex satellite link (GEON) connecting AFGWC, OL-A and USAFETAC. Part of OL-A's mission is to transform the raw data sent from AFGWC into database formats while enhancing their quality and useability by applying corrective algorithms. From these databases analysts can provide, for example, a depiction of the atmosphere at any given point in space and time (i.e., a point analysis) within 24-48 hours from the surface up to 200km.

The Weather Wizards of

OL-A are comprised of 18 programmers, 15 meteorologists, 20 met techs, plus 30 administrative and computer personnel. Each observational record is a vital cornerstone in the ambition edifice. AWS

*If any jobs needing the Form 10s are in progress, the forms are extracted at this time and copied. Such jobs are often involved in litigation — suits against the government, courts-martial, DOD contractor disputes, etc.*

Form 10s from more than 200 units both end and

Continued on page 9



Photo top left shows packed shelves containing WBAN 33s among others. Photo top right are AWS surface records resting in their niche of the archives.



## When It Rains, It Pours

Gloria Anderson (left) keys in WBAN 10 data. Below: Incoming mail on a slow Tuesday, but on the first Monday of the month, (right) floodgates open to the mailroom inundate the building.



Continued from page 8  
begin their journey at OL-A.

After units send their AWS Form 10s to OL-A by the 5th working day of the following month, the records are disgorged from a postal van into the NCDC mail room, from which the AWS Form 10s are separated out and turned over to OL-A's technical services section (CAS) for opening and accounting. If any jobs needing the Form 10s are in progress, the forms are extracted at this time and copied. Such jobs are often involved in litigation — suits against the government, courts-martial, DOD contractor dis-

putes, etc. The records may have to be certified by the Department of Commerce for introduction in courts.

After their review by CAS, the records are passed to the Data Transcription Subunit (CAST). There they are sequenced, recorded and certain data are key entered into the main frame computer.

One set of data is Summary of Day, which is not readily accessible from the AWN; its editing and digitizing require about 70 hours a month. Another is a collection of about 140 AWS stations which each month are made serially complete in the surface

DATSAV database by identifying, keying and

***Whenever you receive a new Surface Observation Climatic Summary, Crosswind Summary or WSCC, there will be your old observations, reconstituted, restructured and summarized, ready to help you out of a tight place on the forecast counter, or to simplify a research project, or to answer a stubborn question.***

merging missing observations and elements.

Stations for which climatic products such as SOCS (formerly RUSSWOs) and WSCCs are currently in production will have the latest month's missing observations merged to the work file.

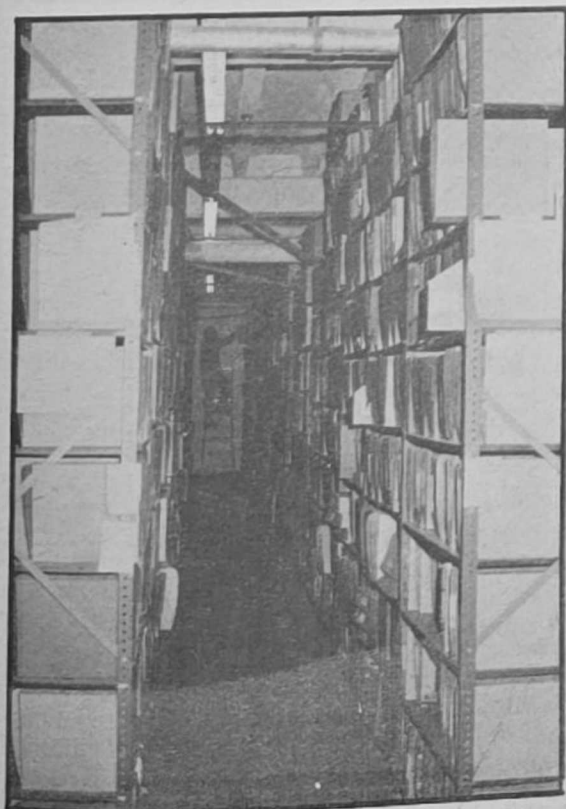
CAST will usually take two to three months to perform their administrations upon the Form 10s.

When OL-A is finished with their processing of the AWS records, they are turned over to NCDC. The archival agency then files the AWS records and they belong to NCDC forever, although OL-A continues to keep full access to them.

Form 10s come to their final resting place in the dungeons of OL-As Citadel in Asheville, even as Thomas Wolfe himself did 50 years before. But they are

not buried away beyond recall or exhumation.

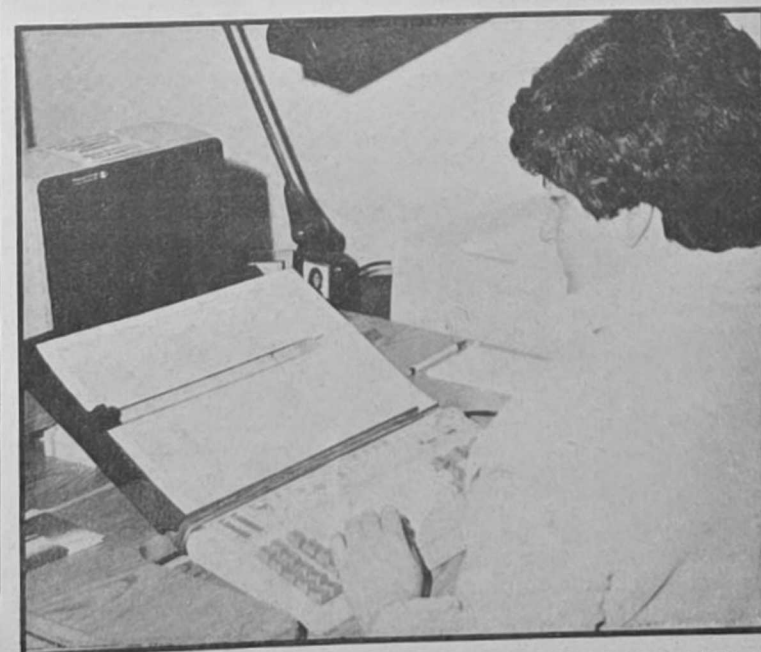
Whenever you receive a new Surface Observation Climatic Summary, Crosswind Summary or WSCC, there will be your old observations, reconstituted, restructured and summarized, ready to help you out of a tight place on the forecast counter, or to simplify a research project, or to answer a stubborn question. Or if you need the ceiling and visibility at Bovingdon, Dec. 18, 1944, or the RH at McClellan at 1500L on odd-number Julys, or the 30-year incidence of freezing rain at Hanscom, your old AWS records live on in the catacombs and shelves of Asheville, immortal in their fashion, and OL-A, USAFETAC is there to use them for you.



The aisles of weather records go for miles and miles.



By the 5th work day of each month, reams of WBAN data inundate OL-A, USAFETAC, Asheville, N.C.



Judy Palne keys in more WBAN 10 data. (U.S. Air Force photos)

# AWS Salutes

## Medals

### Defense Meritorious Service Medal:

GARBETT, MSgt. Stephen, USAFETAC

### Meritorious Service Medal:

AGUIRRE, SMSgt. Robert J., Det. 7, 9WS  
ANDERSON, Capt. Walt, USAFETAC (30LC)  
BENTON, SMSgt. Frank O., Det. 29, 17WS  
FORMOSA, Maj. Michael R., Det. 5, 15WS  
GOMBARCIK, MSgt. George G., AFGWC  
GREG, Capt. Bill I., Det. 1, 9WS  
HANSON, MSgt. Hans C., Det. 15, 28WS  
HIATT, TSgt. David D., Det. 15, 30WS  
KENNEDY, Maj. Reginald R.W., Det. 6, 5WS  
LAUDUCCI, MSgt. John R., AFGWC  
LOVE, Maj. James H. Jr., AFGWC (20LC)  
MILLER, MSgt. Duane R., Det. 8, 26WS  
PENDLETON, MSgt. Richard, Det. 20, 26WS  
SJOBERG, Maj. William F., Det. 19, 15WS  
STATLER, MSgt. George R. Jr., Det. 11, 31WS  
STORY, Maj. Douglas A., AFGWC (10LC)  
TAYLOR, MSgt. William H., Det. 2, 9WS  
WELLS, MSgt. Leonard, Det. 16, 31WS

### Air Medal:

BARROS, SSgt. Michael C., Det. 10, 30WS

### Air Force Commendation Medal:

AUTEN, Lt. James L., Det. 11, 31WS  
BETSCH, SSgt. Robin E., Det. 4, 20WS  
BRADLEY, TSgt. Sandra D., Det. 8, 4WW  
BREIT, Capt. Scott, 11WS  
BRIGGS, SSgt. Robert J., Det. 4, 20WS (10LC)  
CARR, TSgt. Michael E., Det. 25, 31WS  
DAVIS, 1st Lt. Jerry, Det. 20, 30WS  
DAVIDSON, Sgt. John D.  
ESQUIBEL, TSgt. David R., Det. 2, 17WS  
FAUCETTE, 1st Lt. Mark L., 11WS  
GATES, TSgt. William Jr., Det. 15, 26WS  
HARRIS, SSgt. Glenn, Det. 16, 25WS  
HARRIS, Sr. Terri, Det. 16, 25WS  
HERBERLING, SSgt. Brenda, Det. 5, 15WS  
LEE, TSgt. Jacob R., Det. 8, 26WS (10LC)  
MARTIN, MSgt. Gregory, Det. 23, 3WS  
PERSIAN, SSgt. Michael R., AFGWC  
SANDERSON, Sr. Susan, Det. 16, 25WS  
SECHREST, SSgt. Craig L., Det. 8, 4WW  
SMITH, TSgt. Larry W., Det. 18, 30WS  
SMITH, TSgt. Suzanne, Det. 10, 30WS  
STECK, TSgt. Kevin J., Det. 4, 26WS  
TONES, TSgt. Jack, Det. 15, 30WS (10LC)  
WILLIS, SSgt. Gary F., Det. 1, 3WS  
WONDERS, TSgt. Robert J., AFGWC (10LC)  
WHITE, Capt. Larry J., 9WS  
ZUCCARELLO, Capt. Louis V., Det. 15, 28WS

### Army Commendation Medal:

KUREK, SSgt. Daniel, Det. 20, 30WS  
ORTNER, TSgt. Barry J., Det. 6, 26WS  
SODARO, Sgt. Douglas, Det. 20, 30WS

### Air Force Achievement Medal:

BOWEN, Sgt. Lawrence C., Det. 15, 30WS  
BROWN, Capt. Karen S., Det. 10, 30WS  
DERR, A1C David, OL-H, Det. 19, 30WS  
DICKERSON, Sgt. Mary Jo, Det. 4, 26WS  
EDJOWSKI, TSgt. John W., Det. 17, 28WS  
GARDNER, SSgt. Robin R., OL-B, Det. 18, 30WS  
GREEN, TSgt. Alred, 30WS (10LC)  
HAIRSTON, A1C Thomas T., Det. 9, 3WS  
HARFIELD, SSgt. Melissa E., Det. 19, 15WS  
HENNIX, Sgt. William H., Det. 18, 30WS  
HOSKINS, Sgt. James R., OL-A, Det. 15, 30WS  
JOHNSON, SSgt. Ira L., OL-E, Det. 20, 30WS  
KNUPP, Sr. Dorothy O., AFGWC  
MACKIN, SSgt. Gary S., Det. 17, 28WS  
MICHAEL, Sgt. John R., Det. 18, 30WS  
MOORE, Sr. David J., Det. 18, 30WS  
PETERSON, SSgt. Charles D., Det. 19, 30WS (10LC)  
SANDERS, Sgt. Stuart A., Det. 7, 24WS  
SMITH, SSgt. Danny H., Det. 10, 30WS  
SPELTZ, 1st Lt. David J., Det. 3, 11WS  
STREET, SSgt. Michael F., Det. 11, 31WS  
SWARNER, SSgt. Mary E., Det. 10, 30WS  
TURNER, Sr. Thomas C., Det. 10, 30WS  
VERGORA, SSgt. Rafael J., Det. 19, 30WS  
WELLMAN, A1C Todd P., Det. 15, 30WS  
WIDENER, A1C Michael K., AFGWC  
WILLIAMS, Sgt. Jimmy W., Det. 20, 30WS  
WILLIAMS, 1st Lt. Matthew R., Det. 15, 30WS

### Joint Service Achievement Medal:

JOHNSON, A1C Mark S., Det. 12, 26WS  
LACOURSE, SSgt. Donna L., JTF-B  
TOMLINSON, A1C David L., Det. 14, 25WS

### Army Achievement Medal:

ASHMAN, Sr. Eric J., 21 AF WSU, 15WS  
NEUMANN, TSgt. Michael L., OL-A, 30WS  
PEREZ, Sgt. Raymond M., Det. 19, 30WS

### Air Force Good Conduct Medal:

ALBRIGHT, Sr. Joseph G., Det. 4, 28WS  
AMBRISCO, SSgt. Shawn P., Det. 6, 26WS  
ANDERSON, SSgt. Rita, Det. 1, 11WS  
CATRON, Sgt. George A., Det. 20, 30WS (10LC)  
CECIL, TSgt. William L., Det. 17, 26WS (40LC)  
FREDERICKS, SSgt. Tomas I., Det. 58, 5WS  
FRIEVALT, SSgt. Jeffrey G., Det. 12, 24WS (20LC)  
HARRIS, Sgt. Edward C., Det. 2, 24WS  
HILDABRAND, SSgt. Mark Z., Det. 7, 24WS  
HOFF, TSgt. Terence, Det. 1, 31WS (30LC)  
JACOBS, SSgt. Michael L., Det. 14, 5WS  
MOLL, TSgt. Michael J., Det. 8, 17WS  
MOORE, Sr. David J., Det. 18, 30WS  
MOORE, Sr. Samuel L., OL-A, Det. 20, 30WS  
NAKAMURA, Sr. Nonko, Det. 3, 11WS  
NEWMAN, SSgt. Gail S., Det. 3, 3WS  
OLSEN, Sr. Rebecca L., Det. 9, 3WS  
REEVES, TSgt. Danny, Det. 13, 25WS  
SECRIST, A1C Jean A., OL-A, Det. 6, 4WW  
SIZEMORE, Sgt. Lester L., Det. 12, 24WS (20LC)  
SOLBERG, TSgt. Raymond T., Det. 20, 24WS (20LC)  
TRIPLETT, MSgt. Neal, Det. 9, 5WS  
TURNER, Sr. Thomas C., Det. 10, 30WS  
WILSON, A1C Stephen B., Det. 18, 30WS  
WOODVINE, A1C Jay C., Det. 4, 11WS  
YOUNGREN, TSgt. Gary C., Det. 20, 24WS (40LC)

## Promotions

### To Lieutenant Colonel:

ADANG, Thomas, 26WS

### To Major:

GILBERT, Steven R., 30WS  
MCATEE, Michael A., AFGWC  
SYCURE, Stephen J., AFGWC

### To Captain:

FORTSON, Christopher, 131WF, MAANG  
MORRISON, Jeffery, USAFETAC  
PURCELL, Patrick N., Det. 10, 30WS

### To First Lieutenant:

CALLAHAN, William J., 21 AF WSU, 15WS  
CLEMENT, Peter, USAFETAC  
CONANT, Robert W., 26WS  
CONNER, Mark D., Det. 3, 9WS  
FLEISHAUER, Robert P., Det. 9, 6WS  
GLASS, Marvin J. Jr., AFGWC  
HALL, Stephen R., AFGWC  
HINSON, Franklin J., Det. 3, 3WS  
HOFFMAN, Terry L., Det. 18, 25WS  
HOLMES, Kenneth C., AFGWC  
KAMPMEYER, Phyllis, Det. 20, 26WS  
LACY, Elizabeth, 26WS  
LAMBERT, Bruce, Det. 6, 26WS  
LAYESKI, Eugene D., AFGWC  
LOMBARDI, Douglas P., Det. 10, 5WS  
MONINSKI, Anthony D., Det. 11, 9WS  
MORLEY, Fawn R., Det. 1, 9WS  
NICOLS, James, USAFETAC  
PAAL, David M., AFGWC  
VANASSE, Harold A., 21 AF WSU, 15WS  
WILLIAMS, Paul E., AFGWC

### To Master Sergeant:

BEATON, John E. Jr., Det. 4, 26WS  
CARRICK, Gail D., AFGWC  
GAINER, Calvin, Det. 22, 26WS  
KLINE, William L., AFGWC

PELLETIER, Joseph L., AFGWC  
RIBERDY, Edgar C., Det. 15, 26WS  
SCHWABER, Robert W., 131WF, MAANG  
SPOON, Roy E., AFGWC  
STEWART, Oliver Jr., AFGWC

### To Technical Sergeant:

ALTMAN, Lewis, Det. 16, 31WS  
COGGINS, Ed, 3WS  
CUNNINGHAM, Jeffrey P., Det. 18, 30WS  
DAVIS, Charlee L., Det. 8, 17WS  
GLOVER, Gail D., AFGWC  
KUREK, Daniel R., Det. 20, 30WS  
MORRIS, Douglas W., Det. 3, 7WS  
MORRISON, OL-B, Det. 20, 30WS  
PELLETIER, Marc M., Det. 8, 26WS

### To Staff Sergeant:

BARROS, Michael C., Det. 10, 30WS  
GIBSON, John, Det. 16, 31WS  
HOWELL, Kimberly, Det. 12, 31WS  
HYNES, Joe, Det. 16, 31WS  
JACKSON, Durita, Det. 1, 31WS  
JOYNER, Sherry A., Det. 40, 2WW  
LAMMERS, Klaus, Det. 13, 5WS  
MARQUEZ, Terri, Det. 14, 31WS  
RAMSDELL, Dennis B., AFGWC  
REYNOLDS, Frederick E. III, Det. 4, 4WW  
ROGERS, Jody D., Det. 9, 3WS  
SETCOSKI, Peter J., AFGWC  
STANLEY, Bill, Det. 1, 11WS

### Appointed to Sergeant:

ADCOCK, Nathan L., OL-A, Det. 18, 30WS  
DALE, Kenneth M., OL-A, Det. 18, 30WS  
DRAKE, Diane B., AFGWC  
HARRIS, Edward C., Det. 2, 24WS  
KRUG, Laura L., AFGWC  
PATTERSON, Jeffrey W., Det. 14, 5WS  
SCHAFFERS, Alexis, HQ 5WS  
SOLAND, Mitchell W., Det. 4, 11WS  
SOLOMON, Benjamin G., AFGWC  
SORIA, Reynald L., Det. 1, 24WS  
VAUGHN, Robin, Det. 1, 11WS  
WILLIAMS, Angela J., AFGWC  
WILLIAMS, Brian, AFGWC  
WILLIAMS, Jimmy W., Det. 20, 30WS  
WOOD, Andrew D., AFGWC

### To Senior Airman:

ALBRIGHT, Joseph G., Det. 4, 28WS  
BLACK, Russell S., Det. 8, 5WS  
BOLANDER, Brian K., Det. 1, 9WS  
CLAY, Alicia K., 131WF, WAANG  
DAVIS, Deborah J., AFGWC  
DEABREU, Rawle F., Det. 3, 7WS  
DEVALDIVIELSO, Yolanda E., Det. 1, 9WS (BTZ)  
DOCKERY, Marcie, Det. 4, 26WS  
FANT, Connie, Det. 14, 31WS  
FASHING, James, Det. 14, 31WS  
FUGATE, Carey R., AFGWC  
GREENBERG, Robert D., 9WS  
GREER, Gary W., Det. 11, 9WS  
GRILL, Carrie, Det. 12, 31WS  
HERBER, James R., AFGWC  
HILL, William R., AFGWC  
KYLE, John P., Det. 8, 31WS  
LEDDON, Cindy L., AFGWC  
LUGO, Javier J., AFGWC  
REIER, Teresa R., AFGWC  
RODRIGUEZ, Randolph, Det. 5, 5WS (BTZ)  
SEYMORE, Tabatha, Det. 2, 31WS (BTZ)  
VANDYKE, Randall, USAFETAC  
WELLMAN, Todd P., Det. 15, 30WS  
WHITE, Scott, USAFETAC

### To Airman First Class:

ANDERSON, Carl W., Det. 2, 5WS  
ARCHER, Melissa M., Det. 17, 26WS  
BETHEA, Regina A., AFGWC  
DWIGGINS, David W., AFGWC  
HENDERSON, Kimberlee V., Det. 20, 24WS  
LATTIMORE, Kathy D., Det. 9, 24WS  
MATHIS, Wesley D., Det. 29, 17WS  
MCCOY, Michael G., Det. 31, 5WS  
NEAL, Douglas, Det. 1, 31WS  
ORLICH, Jennifer A., 131WF, MAANG  
RUFF, Dana J., Det. 4, 28WS  
SLISIK, James E., Det. 1, 15WS

WATTERS, Ruby, Det. 16, 31WS  
ZIEGLER, Michelle L., Det. 4, 28WS  
ZODY, Patricia M., Det. 22, 24WS

### To Airman:

COOPER, James, Det. 16, 31WS  
GIBSON, Malverse III, Det. 7, 3WS  
LEE, David L., Det. 16, 9WS  
MCNEIL, David P., Det. 14, 25WS  
NAUERLE, Michael J., Det. 2, 24WS  
PETTITT, Matthew L., Det. 15, 26WS  
RICHARD, Lisa D., Det. 20, 24WS  
ROMERO, David M., 6WS

## Unit honors

### Civilian of the Year:

3WW-NELSON, William E., Det. 1, 9WS (April-June)

### Company Grade Officer of the Quarter:

1WW-BROLL, 1st Lt. Peter J., Det. 2, 20WS  
2WW-HOLZER, Capt. Jude, Det. 9, 7WS  
28WS-MINER, Capt. Barbara D., Det. 15, 28WS  
31WS-LOCKHART, Capt. Mary, Det. 11, 31WS

### Senior NCO of the Quarter:

1WW-LARSEN, MSgt. Richard A., 30WS  
2WW-SWARTZ, MSgt. Bruce, Det. 20, 31WS  
7WS-PAUL, SMSgt. Tom, Det. 7, 7WS  
28WS-HEINEN, MSgt. Penny M., Det. 15, 31WS  
31WS-SWARTZ, MSgt. Bruce, Det. 20, 31WS  
HQ2WW-BRADLEY, MSgt. Melvin, Det. 13

### NCO of the Quarter:

1WW-GREEN, TSgt. Alfred, 30WS  
2WW-WHITE, TSgt. Deanna, Det. 26, 28WS  
4WW-MITCHELL, SSgt. Robert A., Det. 3, 4WW  
7WS-FREY, SSgt. Hardy, Det. 10, 7WS  
28WS-WHITE, TSgt. Deanna, Det. 26, 28WS  
31WS-RUSSETT, SSgt. Dan, Det. 16, 31WS  
HQ2WW-SCHALK, Sgt. Bradley, Det. 40

### Airman of the Quarter:

1WW-WYKLE, A1C Teddy J., Det. 4, 20WS  
2WW-MCDONALD, Sr. Brian, Det. 1, 31WS  
7WS-MCELROY, Sr. Stephen, Det. 11, 7WS  
28WS-CONRAD, Sr. Daniel S., Det. 15, 31WS  
31WS-MCDONALD, Sr. Brian, Det. 1, 31WS  
HQ2WW-WHITEHEAD, A1C Jane, Det. 40

### Civilian of the Quarter:

NELSON, William E., Det. 1, 9WS

### AWS Observer Certificates:

GUNNING, TSgt. Rodney E., Det. 3, 4WW  
STROUP, TSgt. Calvin T., Det. 3, 4WW  
MITCHELL, SSgt. Robert A., Det. 3, 4WW  
SCHMEISER, SSgt. William M., Det. 3, 4WW

### AWS Forecaster Certificates:

GUNNING, TSgt. Rodney E., Det. 3, 4WW  
STROUP, TSgt. Calvin T., Det. 3, 4WW  
MITCHELL, SSgt. Robert A., Det. 3, 4WW  
SCHMEISER, SSgt. William M., Det. 3, 4WW

## Education

### Squadron Officer's School:

MUCIA, Capt. David M., AFGWC  
SCOTT, Capt. Bruce Y. III, Det. 23, 3WS

### NCO Academy:

CORBITT, TSgt. Patrick E., AFGWC  
DUFURNE, TSgt. Robert F., Det. 14, 31WS  
HILL, TSgt. Jerry A., Det. 17, 24WS

HOOKS, TSgt. Willie B. Jr., Det. 58, 5WS  
JACKSON, TSgt. Larry D., Det. 20, 24WS  
MILLER, TSgt. Dwight B., AFGWC  
PEREZ, SSgt. Angela V., AFGWC  
RAAB, TSgt. Joe E., Det. 7, 9WS  
STRICKLAND, MSgt. Sanford, AFGWC  
SPALLER, TSgt. John C., Det. 11, 1WW  
WALSH, TSgt. Paul E., OL-B, Det. 18, 30WS

### NCO Leadership School:

ANDERSON, Sgt. Brian W., Det. 11, 5WS  
BOCCHICCIA, SSgt. Michael P., Det. 7, 24WS  
CAMPBELL, SSgt. Carl H., Det. 7, 3WS  
CEPEK, Sgt. Jason J., Det. 17, 20WS  
DAHL, SSgt. Thomas D., Det. 3, 9WS  
DORE, SSgt. Michael C., Det. 20, 26WS  
FOSTER, SSgt. Stephen P., Det. 11, 24WS  
GARLINGTON, SSgt. William C., Det. 15, 24WS  
HUMPHREY, SSgt. Stephen P., Det. 11, 24WS  
HUNOLT, Sr. Richard L., AFGWC  
KELLY, SSgt. James III, Det. 22, 26WS  
KNUPP, Sr. Dorothy O., AFGWC  
LIND, SSgt. Harry F., Det. 6, 26WS  
MELTON, Sr. Mary P., AFGWC  
NIENABER, Sgt. Mary G., Det. 11, 1WW  
PATTON, Sgt. Gerald M., Det. 17, 24WS  
ROBERTS, Sgt. Ray L., Det. 10, 30WS (Levitow)  
SPEARS, SSgt. Richard, Det. 5, 3WS  
TAYLOR, A1C Troy, USAFETAC

### NCO Preparatory Course:

ASHMAN, Sr. Eric J., 21 AF, WSUK, 15WS  
BLACK, A1C Russell S., Det. 8, 5WS (Levitow)  
GIBSON, Sgt. John, Det. 16, 31WS  
GLADWELL, Sr. Shelly, Det. 15, 30WS  
KYLE, Sr. John P., Det. 8, 31WS  
MARTIN, A1C Mark W., Det. 14, 26WS  
PETERSON, A1C Mark C., Det. 11, 31WS  
QUALLS, Sr. David W., Det. 4, 20WS (Levitow)  
STARRETT, Sr. Mike, Det. 3, 5WS (Levitow)

### Meteorological Satellite Course:

SWAN, SSgt. Randy J., Det. 7, 17WS

### Master's Degree to:

MEDRED, Capt. Robert, AFGWC  
MULLINS, Capt. Mark C., Det. 1, 7WW  
TAYLOR, Capt. Pamela M., AFGWC  
THORP, Capt. Robert C., OL-C, 31WS

### Bachelor's Degree to:

COLEY, TSgt. Walter L. Jr., AFGWC  
VACHINO, MSgt. Edgar E., Det. 10, 15WS

### Associate Degree from CCAF to:

EBBERT, SSgt. Daniel T., OL-C, 31WS  
KORICH, SSgt. Richard W., Det. 17, 26WS  
MACILVANE-KNOWLES, Sgt. Louise, Det. 1, 31WS  
WETTERBERG, SSgt. Carl R., Det. 14, 25WS

## Reenlistments

BENSON, MSgt. Robert M., Det. 10, 25WS  
BROWN, Sgt. Michael C., Det. 11, 17WS  
KAMINAGA, SMSgt. Jerry K., AFGWC  
LESLIE, SSgt. John, Det. 26, 26WS  
MOORE, SSgt. Angela L., Det. 11, 25WS  
ORTNER, TSgt. Barry J., Det. 6, 26WS  
RIBERDY, TSgt. Edgar, Det. 15, 26WS  
RUGG, MSgt. Patrick K., OL-A, 9WS  
SWEENEY, MSgt. James R., Det. 12, 26WS  
THIERY, Sgt. David, Det. 26, 26WS

## Retirements

AGUIRE, SMSgt. Robert J., Det. 7, 9WS  
HARDAMON, MSgt. Garland R., Det. 4, 5WS  
IGNATOWSKI, MSgt. Tomas A., HQ 5WW  
LYLE, Capt. Robert K., 15WS  
MACDONALD, MSgt. Stanley R., AFGWC  
PENDLETON, MSgt. Richard, Det. 20, 26WS  
TOSCHIK, MSgt. Joseph C., Det. 7, 9WS  
WALDEN, Lt. Col. Stephen, HQ 5WW

## On the light side: By SSgt. Daniel Geis



"On The Light Side" has been provided as a courtesy by one of our fellow weather members, SSgt. Daniel J. Geis, Det. 11, 17th Weather Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash. The Observer will continue to run these cartoons on a space available basis.

## Submissions to Salutes

OLs, detachments and squadrons submitting inputs to this Salutes column must do so through their chain of command for information and consolidation purposes. Wing public affairs representatives will consolidate these inputs by alphabet and in the format presented in this column. Wing/PA's then forward their consolidated Salute submissions by the 10th of each month to HQ AWS/PA. For more information, contact MSgt. Dave Black at HQ AWS/PA, at AUTOVON 576-2065.

# Spotlight on Performers



Sgt. Christopher L. Buchanan and Mr. Jerry D. Bates

*Editor's note: AWS/PA has received a number of laudatory letters on our AWS members, but unfortunately most without accompanying photos. If you or members of your unit have been recognized in a laudatory finding by the MAC/IG since the beginning of the year, have your base photo lab take an on-the-job photo. Send the photo, with individuals identified on the back along with the words 'Spotlight on Performers,' to HQ AWS/PA, Attn: MSgt. Dave Black, Scott AFB, Ill. 62225-5008. Let's give our members the recognition they deserve.*

**Who:** Sgt. Christopher L. Buchanan and Mr. Jerry D. Bates

**What:** These two individuals were identified as outstanding performers in a Headquarters, Military Airlift Command Inspector General laudatory finding during a recent inspection.

**Where:** Det. 40, 2WW, RAF Croughton, United Kingdom

**How and Why:** The outstanding team effort made by Mr. Jerry D. Bates, Chief, Data Requirements and Sgt. Christopher L. Buchanan, assistant NCOIC, Data Requirements, significantly improved the detachment's support to other units. In order to ensure that customers' data packages remained accurate and up-to-date, Mr. Bates and Sergeant Buchanan semiannually conducted reviews of all their supported units. They did this in spite of the fact that this was only an annual requirement. Annually, they compared customers' requirements against the Message Distribution Library (MDL) and bulletin contents listing. This tedious and time-consuming task that they took upon themselves ensured data requirements always met their customers' needs. Furthermore, Mr. Bates and Sergeant Buchanan made vast improvements in their monthly MDL update procedures. This helped take the work load off the Croughton AFCC software manager. Their superior initiative reduced the MDL workload update process by 70 percent and all updates were flawless for the last six months.

**Who:** SSgt. Michael S. Erskine

**What:** Identified in a laudatory finding and a noteworthy management action by the Headquarters Military Airlift Command Inspector General during an inspection early this year.

**Where:** Det. 12, 25th Weather Squadron, George AFB, Calif.

**How and Why:** As the OJT manager, Sergeant Erskine developed an outstanding and very comprehensive training checklist. It included how and where each item was to be conducted, an estimate of time required to complete that item, when the trainee was to be evaluated on the item, and a daily timeline to ensure training was on track and accomplished in a timely fashion. Sergeant Erskine's checklist significantly enhanced unit training effectiveness.



SSgt. Michael S. Erskine

**Who:** Lt. Col. Judson E. Stailey and Capt. Philip A. Zuzolo

**What:** Identified in a laudatory finding as an outstanding performer by the Headquarters Military Airlift Command Inspector General during a recent Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

**Where:** 25th Weather Squadron, Bergstrom AFB, Texas

**How and Why:** As the Squadron Chief of Operations, Lt. Col. Judson E. Stailey implemented a superb assistance visit program. His visits concentrated on assistance. When possible, weak or deficient areas were fixed during the visit. The operations staff thoroughly reviewed the visited unit's solutions to identified action items. In several instances, the action was returned to the unit with suggestions for further improvements before closing out the action. Colonel Stailey used a wide range of indicators to prioritize the assistance visit schedule and tailor the visits. Visits focused on improving fundamental programs and for stronger units focused on fine tuning key programs.

As the technical consultant, Capt. Philip A. Zuzolo, provided outstanding support to the squadron's subordinate units. He focused TCVs on unit specific forecast problems, conducted numerous one-on-one training sessions, and showed forecasters how to get the most from their forecast discussions. He developed case files of unit forecast problems, provided solutions, and kept the units apprised of the latest technical literature. His efforts became the basis for several unit rules of thumb and forecast study endeavors. His aggressive electro-optic (E-O) training program and comprehensive tracking of support requirements ensured forecasters were well prepared to meet current and future E-O needs.



Lt. Col. Judson E. Stailey and Capt. Philip A. Zuzolo

## Pope Athlete of the Year

At a recent ceremony at Headquarters, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Fort Bragg, N.C., Lt. Col. Jim Lydon presented Maj. Gen. Gary Luck, commander of the JSOC, several trophies the unit had garnered.

General Luck then turned to the audience and announced that Colonel Lydon had been named Pope AFB Athlete of the Year.

"It's hard to believe that someone could be named Athlete of the Year after breaking a leg (in a parachute mishap) and having a heart attack. But that tells you about Jim's drive and energy, the general said.

Colonel Lydon has served as director of Environmental Services at JSOC since 1984, when he also re-energized the command's intramural sports program. Among JSOC's recent accomplishments are first place finishes in volleyball, fast pitch softball, golf and bowling.

Coach Lydon also runs the basketball, racquetball, flag football, volleyball and slow pitch teams, manages the command's fitness center and jogs 20 miles a week. All this despite a demanding schedule which keeps him TDY over 60 days a year.

After JSOC walked away with the base-wide multiple event Sports Fest championship, Colonel Lydon down played his role. "The important thing to notice is, these are all team events, not individual sports. The people assigned to JSOC work very well together on the playing field and the battlefield. That team work makes my job as coach very easy." But from the commanding general on down, personnel at JSOC know the impact coach Lydon has made on the command, on the staff and off the field.

## General Johnson...

Continued from page 1

very precise with how much money we can spend," said the general. "We'll decide what size force we can have and go from there."

Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds have already seen substantial cuts by the Congressional axe. General Johnson feels that non-appropriated fund activities will have to work smarter to become self-sufficient. "They'll have to be run more like a regular business," he said.

General Johnson's positive attitude is apparent in his tone of voice. He said he was very pleased to come to MAC because "my heart has always been in airlift."



Offutt AFB, Neb., 1989 Intramural Softball Champs

Air Force Global Weather Central's softball team was named No. 1 recently when AFGWC captured the Offutt AFB Intramural Softball Championship. From left to right bottom row are: A1C Bryan Criscillo, A1C Lance Mosness, Sgt. Lloyd Slusser III, TSgt. Doug Rozich, 2nd Lt. Dave Reifschneider, SSgt. Rod Rabbeneck and SSgt. Mike Via (team coach). Top row, left to right are: A1C Paul A. Rytter, 1st Lt. Bruce Thomas, TSgt. Gary Keith, Col. Adrian Ritchie Jr., AFGWC commander, SSgt. Kevin Lawrence, SSgt. Scott Hilmes and son Ryan, front row, 1st Lt. Dan Purdy and SrA. Richard Hunolt.

## Mail early for Christmas

The key to successful holiday mailing is to mail early and correctly. Persons sending cards and packages overseas from the continental United States should mail them on or before the dates shown in the "1989 Christmas Mailing Dates Chart."

Similarly, to make sure that overseas mail reaches the continental United States on time, mailed items should arrive at United States gateway points — New York, Miami, San Francisco and Seattle — by the dates indicated in the chart titled "Dead-

lines for Holiday Mail from Overseas."

Parcels will arrive at their intended destinations in good shape if you follow a few simple guidelines:

- Make sure contents are well-cushioned and there is no empty space in the box. Use crumpled newspaper around the sides, top and bottom of the item.
- Don't overwrap. Just use your carton. Brown paper can rip, and twine can become entangled in mail-processing equipment.
- Seal properly. There are

three recommended kinds of tape — pressure sensitive, nylon-reinforced kraft paper, and glass-reinforced pressure sensitive. Don't use cellophane or masking tape.

- Use smudge-proof ink.
- Position addresses correctly. Put the recipient's address in the lower right portion of the package, your return address in the upper left corner. It's a good idea to put a slip with the address and return address inside the parcel.
- Use ZIP codes.
- Timing is everything. Mail early in the month and early in the day.

Xmas mailing dates 1989					
Destination	Air parcels & priority	Air letter & cards	*PAL	**SAM	Surface Mail
Africa	Nov. 20	Dec. 1	Nov. 10	Oct. 27	Oct. 27
Alaska	Dec. 8	Dec. 8	Dec. 1	Nov. 24	Nov. 1
Hawaii	Dec. 8	Dec. 8			Oct. 15
Australia	Nov. 20	Nov. 24	Nov. 24	Nov. 6	Nov. 22
Caribbean	Dec. 8	Dec. 8	Nov. 24	Nov. 20	Nov. 6
Europe	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Nov. 24	Nov. 13	Oct. 13
Far East	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Nov. 24	Nov. 13	Oct. 15
Greenland	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Nov. 24	Nov. 13	Oct. 27
Middle East	Nov. 20	Nov. 24	Nov. 10	Nov. 3	Oct. 27
Southeast Asia	Nov. 20	Nov. 20	Nov. 10	Nov. 3	Nov. 15
Central & South America	Dec. 4	Dec. 4	Nov. 24	Nov. 13	Nov. 3

\*Parcel Airlift    \*\*Surface Air mail

Deadlines for Holiday Mail from Overseas				
Destination	Priority	Letters	Parcels	
			Airlift Space Available (PAL)	(SAM)
Gateway Points	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 8	Dec. 1

HQ AWS/PA  
SCOTT AFB, IL 62225-500

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