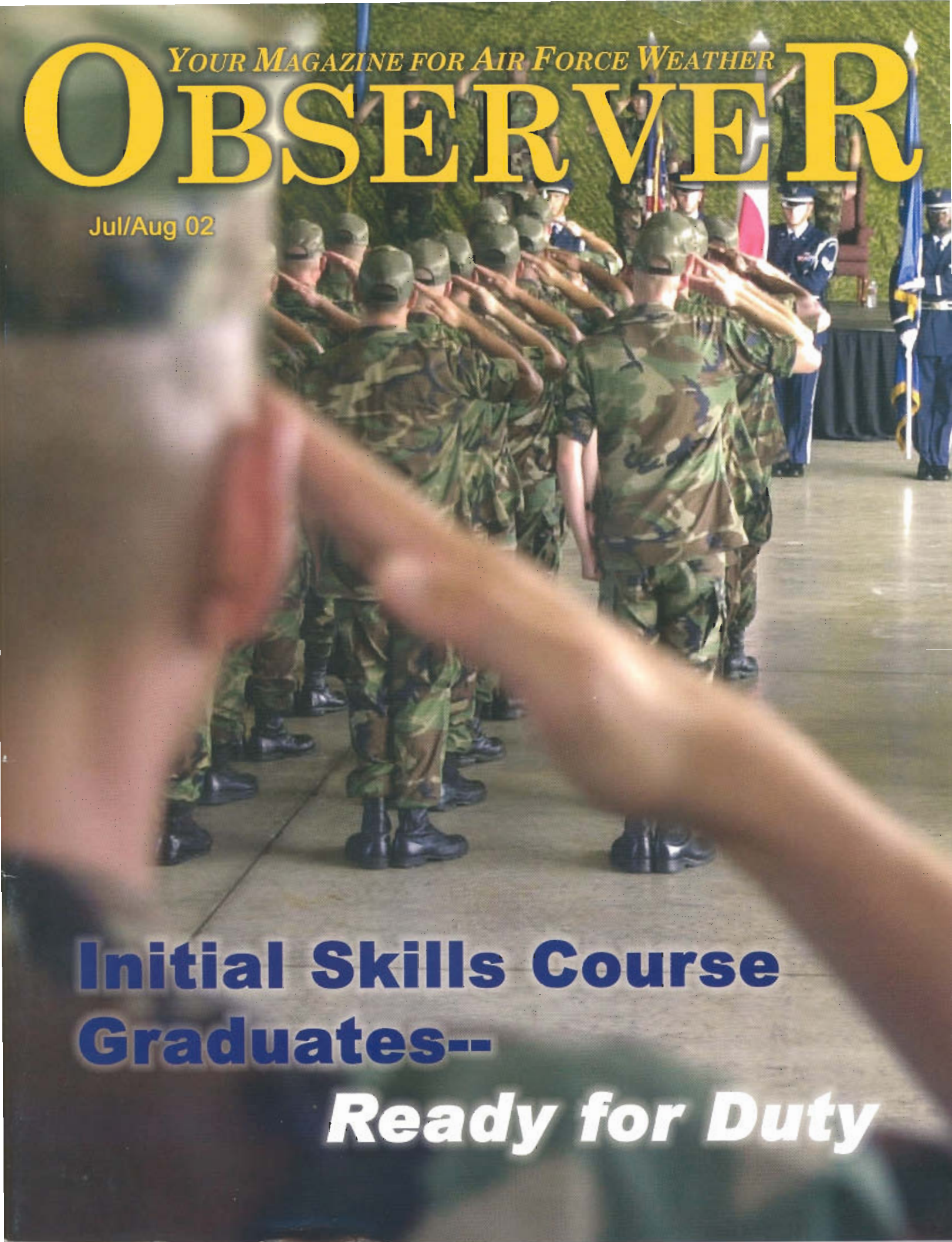
YOUR MAGAZINE FOR AIR FORCE WEATHER

OBSERVER

Jul/Aug 02



Initial Skills Course Graduates--

Ready for Duty

What's Inside:

On the back cover:

A seven member crew from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, the Hurricane Hunters, flew a new WC-130J from Keesler AFB, Miss., to Offutt AFB, Neb., in support of the Air Force Weather Agency at Offutt's Air Show Aug. 24-25. The crew worked both days educating open house visitors on the 53rd's mission.

OBSERVER

AIR FORCE DIRECTOR OF WEATHER
Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson

AIR FORCE WEATHER AGENCY COMMANDER
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Mission ends at Tinker

By Ray Dozier
Tinker AFB Public Affairs

Processing weather data not only is moving into the high-tech arena, it is also moving away from Tinker AFB, Okla.

Teletypes and modems are becoming a thing of the past for weather forecasters, according to Maj. John Rankin, commander, Det. 7, Air Force Weather Agency, Tinker AFB. Processing, collecting and distributing weather data is now performed on the Internet, which is one reason why the detachment closed June 27 and moved to AFWA Headquarters, Offutt AFB, Neb.

With the stand down, Tinker is ending a long history with weather communicarions. In 1962, the Air Force Communication Service converted the Weather Communications Center at Tinker from a manual to semi-automatic operation and commissioned the center to receive and transmit weather data from 143 strategically located stations. This made Tinker the central military weather data collection and relay point in the United States.

Needing more weather transmission services, the Department of Defense established the Automatic Weather Network in July 1965. Tinker, High Wycombe AS, England, and Fuchu AS, Japan, were the only automated digital weather centers providing weather data for the entire Air Force.

In November 1969, the workload was transferred to the newly activated Det. 7 at Carswell AFB, Texas, but the mission made its way back to Tinker in 1994.

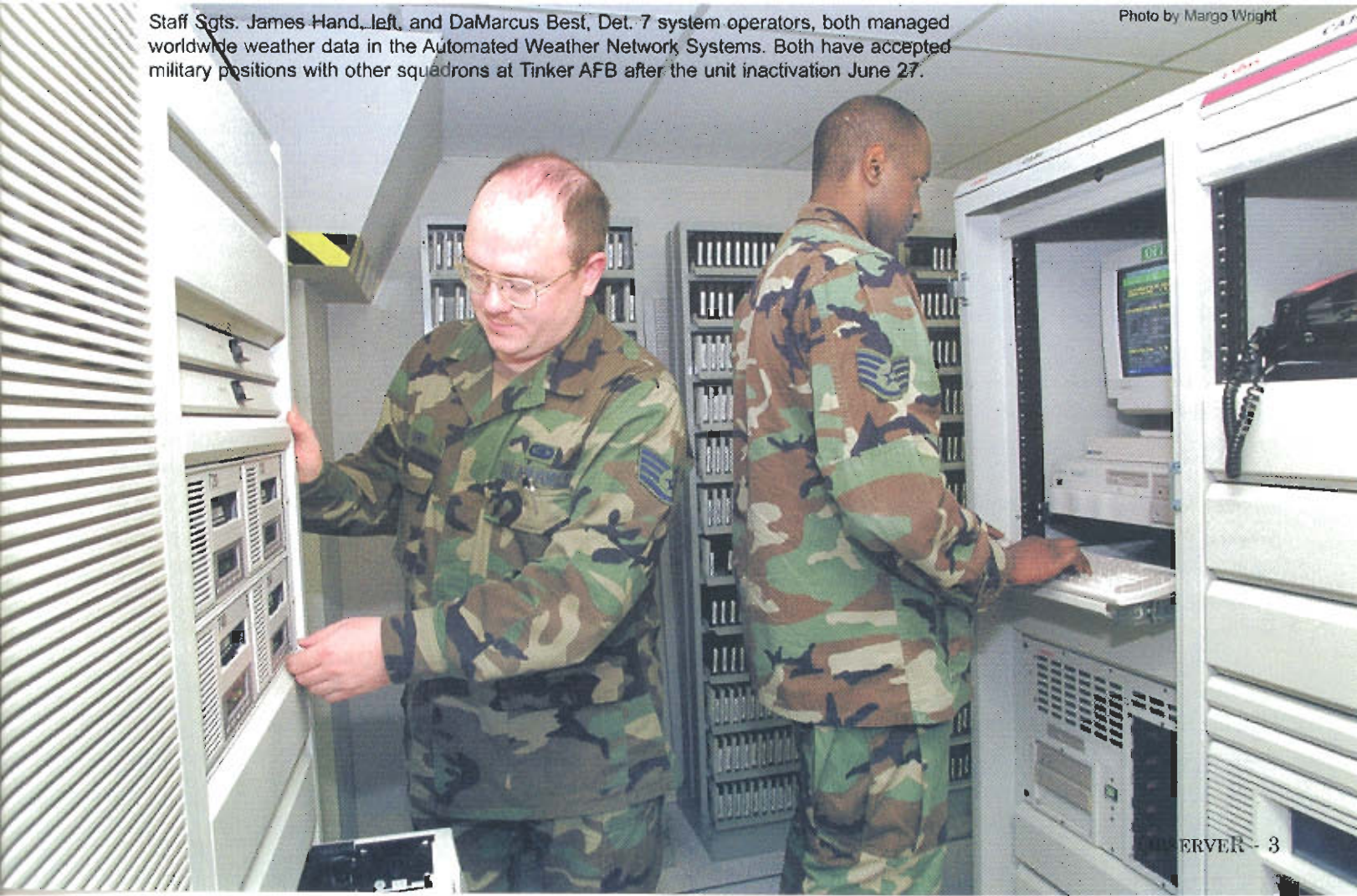
During its 33 years of service, Det. 7 has directed the collection, processing and distribution of weather data to combat and combat support organizations of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and other federal agencies.

"We try to get as much data from as many sources, to provide the best 24/7 support to the warfighter ... the most accurate forecast possible," Rankin explained.

Weather observations include local conditions, surface winds, temperature and dew point. Rankin said approximately 5,000 military weather observation stations exist around the world today.

"Every one of their observations and forecasts come here, processes through us,

See **Det. 7**, Page 27



Staff Sgts. James Hand, left, and DaMarcus Best, Det. 7 system operators, both managed worldwide weather data in the Automated Weather Network Systems. Both have accepted military positions with other squadrons at Tinker AFB after the unit inactivation June 27.

Photo by Margo Wright

AFW Insights:

Assignments and Thor's Leaders Selection Process

By Col. Web Tileston
Deputy Director of Weather,
Air and Space Operations

In a previous article I addressed the assignments process in general and provided some advice on your role in managing your career. In this article, my purpose is to provide some insight into the factors that influence Air Force Weather field grade officer assignments in general, and squadron commander assignments in particular. This naturally includes a discussion of the Thor's Leader Squadron Commander selection process that produces the pool of candidates from which we select our SQ/CCs. This article is primarily aimed at our field grade officers who aspire to be commanders and eventually senior leaders in AFW, but it's good food for thought for company grade officers with a view toward the future.

One of the reasons for this article is to help you better understand why you did or didn't get the assignment you wanted. As frustrating as it can be for you, building a game plan for the key O-4 and O-5 positions and all the O-6 positions in AFW can be equally frustrating for me and other AFW senior leaders. I will explain many of the factors that influence the assignment process, but first a few words about Thor's Leaders.

Since Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson became the Director of Weather, we have been improving the Thor's Leaders process. Our goal has been to make it as meaningful as possible and to ensure it is the best possible tool to help us put the right people in the right jobs. This is the General's vision and his guidance to the field. He looks for adult leadership by all the weather senior officers in executing the vision. Our first move was to reduce the number of AFW's Thor's Leader positions.

During the 2001 board, General Johnson consulted with the board members – O-6, MAJCOM Directors of Weather and the Commander of the Air Force Weather Agency – and decided to make the 2001 board a "pure" SQ/CC board. The board would select candidates to fill SQ/CC positions that were opening in the summer of 2002. It would no longer be expanded to provide candidates for other key field grade positions across AFW such as squadron operations officer jobs. This resulted in a significantly lower number of people being selected than in previous years since the inception of Thor's Leaders in the early 1990s.

For the 2002 board, you can expect the selectees to be primarily lieutenant colonels and lieutenant colonel selects – the next step in the evolutionary process. I anticipate that there will still be a few majors selected based on their outstanding records. Armed with this background information on the Thor's process, you're now ready to enter the world of assignment game plans.

After the Thor's results are announced, the staff's job begins in earnest. We assess the candidates to determine the best fit and match them against the projected SQ/CC openings. We look at many factors, but a key driver is the unique requirements of each position. Does it require a PhD? A jump-qualified person? A more senior person? Emphasis on a space background? What do the individual candidates bring to the table?

There is an ongoing dialog throughout the year among the MAJCOM DOWs, the AFWA leadership, General Johnson and myself, in which we discuss people in AFW, their potential, and their qualifications for SQ/CC and other key positions. I take all this input and develop a straw-man game plan that I discuss either in a part or in full with all the key players. We will also solicit input, as necessary, from sitting SQ/CCs about requirements associated with their replacements. The MAJCOM DOWs and SQ/CCs play a key role in both the development and the selling of the game plan as it pertains to locations within their commands. The General is the final decision maker on the final plan. Following his approval, the job of executing it begins.

In a way, you'd think this wouldn't be so hard. But, once you become immersed in it, you realize it is a pretty complex puzzle to put together, and it is often the victim of outside influences over which we ultimately have no control. We can sometimes reengage or take the issue to higher and higher levels, but at some point, we need to decide if the battle is worth the cost, especially in view of long-term AFW goals that include more than just growing and grooming future senior leaders.

The first limiting factor in determining who becomes a SQ/CC is obviously how many SQ/CC positions are projected to open. Next, as already mentioned, is the fact that almost all AFW squadrons are commanded by lieutenant colonels. Next is the issue of seniority. This by no means dictates who becomes a commander and who

doesn't. But, having just so many squadrons to go around and having so many people in the queue with the potential to become commanders, we have to start with the most senior candidates for whom time might be running out on their opportunity to command.

Another element bearing on the selection process is our goal (and it is impossible to attain to the degree we would like) to move squadron operations officers up to command a different squadron than the one in which they served as DO. This achieves our goal of producing a cross-pollination of ideas, especially among the operational weather squadrons. Additionally we seek to swap out the DO and the CC during different years to maintain continuity. This is very important while we are in the "big Stan" phase of the Stan/Eval process during our completion of the reengineering transition. We're not always successful in either of these endeavors. DEROS rules enter into this, as do many other factors. We work with hiring authorities to get the best person in the right job – not for them, but for the Air Force and them, because SQ/CC is an important experience in the record of a senior AF weather officer.

As we look at the summer of 03, there will be a lot of intermediate service school graduates coming out. Since residence school slots are the result of a great record and surviving stiff competition, we seek to place graduates in responsible jobs such as squadron DO. Not all SQ/CCs will have SQ/DO experience. Timing and leadership capability, coupled with AF needs will drive our game plan.

As you can see from the above, we face a lot of challenges developing and then executing a good game plan. The number of times a different name is penciled in and then erased from a particular position (and then penciled back in) is really astonishing. It can change up to a dozen or more times over the course of a couple months or sometimes in as little as a couple weeks. We spend many hours on the telephone with prospective hiring authorities, MAJCOM DOWs, and especially AFPC.

In the same way I closed my earlier article, I want to reiterate that the bottom line is that the assignments business is a complex process with far more factors influencing it than is evident on the surface. There are many things going on behind the scenes that can upset parts of, or even an entire game plan. What seems like a done deal one minute is completely down the tubes the next. My purpose in this article was to give you a greater appreciation of the complexity involved and why assignments don't flow the way you'd expect. We'll continue to prepare as best we can for all contingencies; leverage the talents of our people; and put the right people in the right jobs.

The ultimate bottom line is this – just work your current job to the best of your ability – leadership will pick the best performers for that school push, then command push, and stratify the best performers with the best potential for the most demanding jobs – including the most demanding of all – command.

2002 Thor's Leaders List

The results of the 2002 Thor's Selection Board were released by Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, Air Force director of weather. The following AFW officers will form the pool of candidates for future squadron commanders:

Lt. Col. Brian Bjornson, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. John Coulter, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
Lt. Col. Fred Fahlbusch, 28th OWS, Shay AFB, S.C.
Lt. Col. Mike Farrar, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Tom Guinn, AFCCC, AFWA, Asheville, N.C.
Lt. Col. Timothy Hutchison, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Chan Keith, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Lt. Col. Eric McKinley, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Lt. Col. Vicki Michetti, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Mark Miller, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany
Lt. Col. John Shattuck, 607th WS, Yongsan, Korea
Lt. Col. Bill Spendley, JSOC, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Maj. Pete Clement, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Maj. Rick Davila, USAFE/DOW, Ramstein AB, Germany
Maj. Jay DesJardins, Det. 11, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany
Maj. Keith Duffy, USAFE/DOW, Ramstein AB, Germany
Maj. Bob Falvey, OL-B, Camp Springs, Md.
Maj. Scott Heckman, 20th OWS, Yokota AB, Japan
Maj. John Knowles, AMC/DOW, Scott AFB, Ill.
Maj. Pat Ludford, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Maj. John Shepley, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.

Chief's Mentoring:

Making the most of CWTs

By Chief Master Sgt. Penny Braverman
AFW Chief Enlisted Manager

Okay, now you are an NCOIC or an OIC of a Combat Weather Team, so now what is your job and what are you suppose to do to make your unit the best in Air Force Weather? There is training provided to prepare you for the job – Craftsman's Weather Course, Officer's Initial Skills Course, PME courses, etc. These courses provide the basics of military duties, weather operations, and how to manage a unit – But how do you become the best?

First, we need to define a CWT and their responsibilities to all their customers internally and externally. A CWT supports their customers by providing a tailored forecast for each mission or unit event. Tailored means they start with AFWA and hub products and go to a microscale level to produce the highest resolution, Mission Execution Forecast possible. Most of the MEFs are valid for only a few hours, but they may be valid for a day or more depending on the customer's requirements and mission.

The CWT does not analyze products from scratch as they did in the Base Weather Station era. Now, CWTs review the hub's analysis and discussions for their area of responsibility or region of interest; complete Local Area Work Charts for the target area or mission route as needed to fine tune the products further; and if needed, discuss discrepancies with the hub weather specialists. We are not competing with the strat center or hubs to redo their products. The CWT's manning can't support completing a full re-analysis of weather data. Accepting and using the products of others is now standard operating procedure for all CWTs. As the manager, it is your job not to stifle the change in philosophy, but encourage acceptance of a new way of supporting your customers and nurture the process into a positive experience and continue to develop the teamwork approach.

A key role and responsibility of the CWT is their "eyes forward" mission to the hub and start centers. The observations taken by the CWT are a critical component of the database used by hubs in writing their TAFs and for numerical predication modeling. They help the hub weather specialist really visualize what is happening and improve the quality of the forecasts, advisories, and warnings. The quarterback usually takes the observation and is the central point for all local MEF coordination of data. When the weather is bad, an additional weather specialist or officer usually comes in to help with the surge of work – answering telephone calls, ensuring other weather personnel are aware of changes, talking with the hubs, etc.

Day-to-day, CWT weather specialists and officers are in the squadrons briefing, debriefing, and providing weather support for planning and executing missions. They are learning about these missions so they can feedback through the system to make AFW support even better. Sometimes a shift is eight hours and sometimes it's fourteen. Either way, the weather person is accepted as a key and critical member of the customer's unit. Some customers prefer to come to the weather station for mass briefings and debriefs and some request a weather specialist or officer deliver their briefings in the planning rooms and discuss the mission with the crew. But the key is, you are tailoring the weather to the mission and getting feedback to improve your process, as well the hub's and stat center's processes.

Don't forget the other base customers you have to support. Security police, civil engineers, maintenance, and communications have requirements for environmental situational awareness information and you should be their choice for weather data. Talk to other flight/squadron commanders or NCOICs at the wing stand-ups or Top-3 meeting. You may find your team can help them a lot with little effort.

Part of your job is educating all your customers – both flyers and non-flyers. We have to sell our product to the customers or they will go elsewhere for the data. I have seen base agencies buy weather equipment to get winds or temperatures because they never thought to ask the CWT for the data – Shame on us for not advertising our skills!

We still have transit crews asking local CWTs to provide a face-to-face briefing instead of a hub generated briefing – this is fine, but education is the key. We need to provide the information and explain the new process and how they can get more tailored support if their local CWT provides the data.

Again, we are the sales people for the weather processes. Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, Air Force director of weather, periodically briefs the operational group commanders at orientations at the Pentagon. The General and his staff members also discuss the weather processes with

See **CWTs**, Page 21

AETC Weather Operations:

What's new? What's Unique?

By Lt. Col. Mike Hoofard
Chief, Weather Operations Branch, HQ AETC

So what could be new or unique about AETC weather support? Glad you asked! I would like to focus on the new "faces" coming to the Command, and look at some of the non-traditional AETC weather support missions.

The first of two new weapon systems joining the AETC flying training inventory is the T-6A Texan II. This propeller driven, single engine, two-seat trainer is becoming a familiar site over the skies of Texas and Georgia (yes, the 479th FTG has invaded Moody AFB, Ga.) The T-6A replaces the Air Force's venerable T-37 and the Navy T-34C as the front-line Joint Undergraduate Pilot Training aircraft. Already in place at Randolph and Moody, fielding will continue at Columbus, Laughlin, Vance, and Sheppard. The T-6A's decreased sensitivity to icing and crosswind is good news for pilots and forecasters alike.

The other new weapon system coming on line is the F-22 Raptor – the new air dominance fighter succeeding the F-15 Eagle. It is designed to penetrate enemy air space and achieve a first-look, first-kill capability against multiple targets. If you want a first look at the Raptor, come to Tyndall AFB and the 325th OSS/OSW combat weather team. The F-22 training missions take off in 2003 as Tyndall stands up of two new flying training squadrons.

AETC also tackles weather missions that don't fit the stereotype AETC flying or technical training mold.

Air Defense:

The 325th combat weather team also supports the Tyndall based 1st Air Force CONUS NORAD and Southeast Air Defense Sector mission – aerospace surveillance, sovereignty, and defense for the continental United States. They provide mission planning and execution weather for active air scrambles against potential enemy airborne intrusions and have played a key role supporting Operation NOBLE EAGLE and the homeland defense effort.

Hurricane Hunters:

The first planned flight into a tropical cyclone occurred in 1944 in the original AT-6 Texan. The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss., otherwise known as the Hurricane Hunters, now performs this mission, providing aerial surveillance of tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. They fly WC-130H aircraft specially equipped with meteorological sensing and processing equipment. Who supports this unique Air Force Reserve mission – the 81st OSF combat weather team.

AFIT Graduate Studies:

Air Force Weather officers run the AFIT graduate meteorology program at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Each has a doctorate in atmospheric or space environment science, serves as a professor, and manages student research projects. Recent leading edge studies on lightning show that almost 30% of all cloud-to-ground lightning strikes travel further than 5 nautical miles from the flash origin point. Want to impact technology and our Air Force's ability to fight and win? Consider making AFIT a part of your career – as a student, professor, or both.

Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training:

While flying training is one of the "bread and butter" missions for AETC, the training environment at Sheppard AFB, Texas, is certainly unique. Sheppard and the 80th FTW are home to the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program. The 80th OSS/OSW combat weather team provides support to a multinational staff and student population.

AEF Deployments:

No, there's nothing unique about deployments in today's environment. But we just couldn't pass up the opportunity to tip our hat to the many weather warriors throughout AETC and Air Force Weather that continue to deploy in selfless service to our great Air Force and Nation—thanks!

AFWA under new command

Photo by Senior Airman Jeremy Smith

Col. Chuck Benson, the Air Force Weather Agency commander, accepts command from Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, director of Air Force Weather.

By Paige Rowland
AFWA Public Affairs

Col. Charles L. Benson, Jr., assumed command of the Air Force Weather Agency from Col. Robert H. Allen in a change-of-command ceremony held Aug. 5 at the Offutt Club, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, director of weather, deputy chief of staff for Air and Space Operations, Washington, D.C., presided over the ceremony.

General Johnson praised Benson's accomplishments during his military career and expressed his support. "The challenges are many and the opportunities abound. However, the AFWA team will be successful, we are fortunate to have an industrial strength officer assume command," Johnson said.

Benson comes to the reigns with a great deal of knowledge about the Agency. He spent the past fifteen months as AFWA's vice commander. During this time, he had a significant role in the accomplishments of the agency including the successful closing of AFWA's Det. 7, Tinker AFB, Okla. and the transition of Air Force Weather's space weather mission from Schreiver AFB, Colo. to HQ AFWA at Offutt AFB.

"We will continue AFWA's success by staying modern, being efficient, being relevant, and with teamwork."

Col. Chuck Benson

In his remarks, Benson said "We will continue AFWA's success by staying modern, being efficient, being relevant, and with teamwork."

Benson entered active duty in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Texas A&M University. He later earned his Master's degree in Meteorology from St. Louis University, and then a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

Benson has had a diverse military career holding various

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The changing faces of AFW command

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Col. Richard Clayton, chief, Weather Division, HQ USAFE; and senior meteorology and oceanography officer, USEUCOM

USAFE Director of Weather

"Air Force Weather forms a dynamic team far better than any I've seen in my 27 years of service. It's a privilege to serve our great nation with the best military weather personnel in the world... We've worked hard within USAFE to integrate weather into Air Force, Army, and SOF operations so our combat teams 'anticipate and exploit' the weather for battle. This is a mission AFW must not and will not fail!"

AMC Director of Weather

"AMC is focusing hard on two things. First, we need to educate airlift commanders that we need to execute wartime operations according to our doctrine. Every AMC mission can't be handled by reachback to a hub. Sometimes we must deploy CWTs to fine tune MEFs for dynamic, intratheater, tactical airlift missions. At other times and places, especially austere FOLs, we might even need to take weather observations. Secondly, we are planning for the advent of AMC's Mobility 2000 initiative. In the next few years, the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott AFB will take over the lion's share of planning, executing, and managing AMC world-wide airlift and tanker operations. The command is moving from unit-centric to command-centric mission execution."

Col. Carl Daubach, chief, Weather Division Directorate of Operations, HQ AMC

Col. Joel Martin, chief, Air and & Space Weather Division Directorate of Air & Space Operations, PACAF

PACAF Director of Weather

"Air Force Weather is at the forefront of DoD and Air Force transformation. Our people are being challenged to accomplish the transformation to a new weather culture and a new operating style. Operators have taken notice of our closer integration with field ops and new presence in the theater command and control picture. We've built some strong bonds with the operators. The strong linkage at the tactical and operational levels will be essential to the future success of our AFW people."

ACC Director of Weather

"I've learned through my 23+ years of service that Air Force Weather has absolutely superb people. The Air Staff, MAJCOM staffs, and Air Force Weather Agency ensure the weather personnel supporting Air Force and Army operations are organized, trained, and equipped to their job. With that taken care of, the personnel do the rest...they make it happen and do what it takes to get the mission done."

Col. Mark Welshinger, chief, Weather Division, Directorate of Aerospace Operations, HQ ACC

Lt. Col. Michael Bedard, director of weather, HQ AFSPC

AFSPC Director of Weather

"As we drive across country this summer, moving to another new AFW assignment, we see constant reminders of why we serve: Old Glory flying proudly, and other families enjoying their freedoms of this great country. Stay vigilant, and always do the right thing. Remember, 100% effort is "beyond the wall."

AETC Director of Weather

"Our people are phenomenal. One constant, through reorganizations, drawdowns, reengineering and transformation, is their selfless can and will do attitude. Dealing with constant change, ever-increasing ops tempo and new, ill-defined threats, they carry on as professionals. I love coming to work, not just for the important job we do, but the sheer joy and pride of working with such great people."

Lt. Col. Chuck Davenport, chief, Weather Operations Branch, HQ AETC

Lt. Col. Michael Davenport, director, Operations Weather Division, HQ AFSOC

AFSOC Director of Weather

"AFSOC weather warriors: Your on-going efforts are significantly contributing to the success of Special Ops and theater-level commanders in OEF. The unique capabilities that you possess cannot be duplicated. I am humbled by your accomplishments, and proud of your courage, ingenuity, and professionalism. We will conquer challenges in organization, training and equipment, and will put you downrange fully 'good to go'. Keep doing the right thing, and be proud of what you do."

AFMC Director of Weather

"Much like the rest of Air Force Weather over the last few years, the only thing that remains constant in AFMC is change. Within the last year or so, we've successfully completed AFW reengineering at all of our bases and are now in the process of getting the remaining snarls straighten out. Next on our agenda is to tackle reengineering of the Staff Meteorologist function. Once completed, the Staffmets will be better position to effectively support the AFMC acquisition mission."

Lt. Col. David Goe, assistant chief, Operations Support Division Weather Functional Manager, HQ AFMC

Command, continued from Page 8

positions of leadership both in the weather community and out.

"Command is not a duty title, it is a responsibility. I am ready to go to work," said Benson.

As the commander of AFWA, Benson leads more than 900 agency members at 13 locations around the world providing centralized weather products and services, including climatological and space weather support, to Air Force, US Army, special operations national intelligence community and other DOD activities.

Under Benson's direction, AFWA will continue to provide decision assistance to combat, reconnaissance, command and control, presidential support, treaty verification and airlift missions for every military operation, contingency mission, and humanitarian relief effort conducted by the United States.

Final words from outgoing AFWA commander

By Col. Bob Allen
Former AFWA Commander

The marathon is done. When I came in the Air Force we were recovering from Vietnam; the F-15 was just entering the inventory; weather observations were totally manual and we used basic mercurial barometers; forecasts were sent longline by punching a ticker tape; and Russia was the Evil Empire.

At home I have a piece of the Berlin Wall and a piece of the barbed wire from the DMZ in Korea. Both are stark testaments of the dark side of mankind - and a reminder that freedom is never free. And so much change in the last ten years. Major Air Force reorganizations, technology which now grows at an exponential rate - so many opportunities, yet at one point many doubted the need for a military. Peace dividends were breaking out all over. Perhaps the conflict in mankind, which has been recorded since biblical days, has miraculously ceased.

In January 2001, a well-known columnist wrote:

"Today you may have noticed, there are predictions of eternal peace. And against those making those predictions, some people must stand and say that great nations are always living in the war years or the inter-war years. Now, I know the American people generally tend to say, 'Well, so far, so good...so far, so good. We're getting along just fine. Don't really need much of a military anymore, don't need weapons systems ... so far, so good.'"

Trouble is, in the life of nations, it's not good enough. "So far, so good" is not a prudent way to conduct your life as a nation. We are a nation that has to be constantly reminded of what George Orwell said, "We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

We are not a nation that likes to hear that. We are a pacific nation conditioned by broad oceans between us and danger, and two peaceful neighbors. All the more reason why we have to be reminded that the world remains a "dangerous place."

This was written nine months before September 11th - the world is a dangerous place, and there are those who are adamant in their desires to do us harm.

I notice with pride that the Lieutenants I knew 10 years ago are now Majors; the young airmen are senior NCOs - all masters of their trade. The next generation has stepped up.

I've not yet decided where I will go or what my next job will be. Whatever it is, I do so with the confidence that my job here is over and the torch has passed.

Col. Robert Allen, former Air Force Weather Agency commander, delivers his retirement speech Aug. 5 at the Offutt Club, Offutt AFB, Neb. Allen led AFWA from November 2000 to August 2002.

Photo by Senior Airman Jeremy Smith

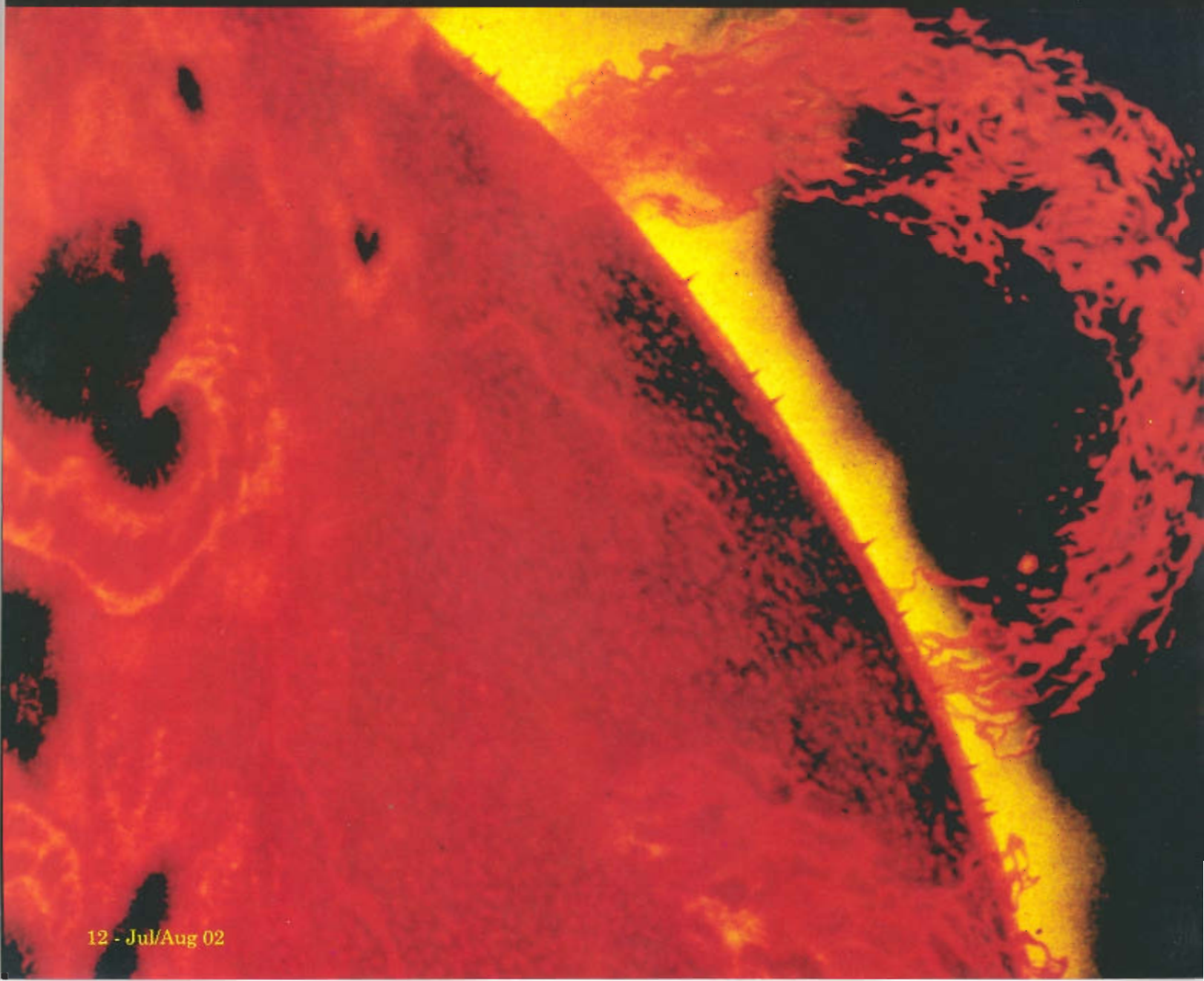
Space Weather Returns to AFWA

By Jerry White
AFW History Office
and
Tech. Sgt. Don Chambers
55th Space Weather Squadron

Almost from the start of the space age, scientists were aware that solar flares and other solar activity influenced Earth's weather. They were interested in determining both how the sun's anomalies were triggered and if they could be predicted. By 1961, with weather and communication satellites being launched and the start of the manned Mercury space program, this information became vital for both pilot safety and operational readiness.

Initially, Air Research and Development Command, and later the Air Force's Office of Aerospace Research, pioneered studies at their solar observatory at Sacramento Peak, N.M., and established a solar forecasting service with some success.

As knowledge about solar activity increased, North American Air Defense Command, along with other DoD and civilian government agencies interested in space-related activities, including NASA and the National Weather Service, started asking what the potential impact of solar "weather" was on their missions. That same year, Air Weather Service reviewed the general state of the program and tried to determine future requirements. With OAR having proved an operational program was possible, AWS moved



toward developing the solar forecasting mission.

AWS placed officers with appropriate training at Sacramento Peak and issued the Air Force's first solar forecast to four customers in October 1962. By January 1964, there were 26 addressees. Aug. 31, 1964, the 4th Weather Wing at Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo., activated the Solar Forecast Facility and assumed the solar forecasting mission. The SFF started 24 hour-a-day operations in March 1965 and activated the Solar Observing and Forecasting Network with sites at Sagamore Hill, Mass.; Sacramento Peak, N.M.; Maui, Hawaii; and Manila, Philippines, in September 1965. The 4th WW also stood up the Solar Forecast Center that provided notification and forecasting services to customers while the SFF provided management and oversight of the entire system.

April 1, 1966, the Solar Forecast Facility became Det. 7, 4th WW, and the Solar Forecast Center became OL-10, co-located with NORAD, which was moving into the then new Cheyenne Mountain facility. The next month, a dedicated solar/geographical Teletype network became operational, linking Det. 7 with the SOFNET sites and greatly enhancing timeliness of solar weather information.

In April 1970, Det. 7 and OL-10 were deactivated with their personnel and mission consolidated and designated as Det. 1, 4th WW. With the drawdown of NORAD, the 4th WW stood down in June 1972. The newly activated 12th WS assumed operational responsibilities for the remaining units and solar forecasting was done as part of their Aerospace Environmental Support Unit. While the 12th retained operational responsibility for the SOFNET sites around the world, the space-forecasting mission transitioned to the Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb. This transition started in January 1973 and was completed Dec. 15, 1973.

Oct. 1, 1983, the 4th WW was reactivated to support Air Force Space Command and NORAD. Ground was broken for the Air Force Space Forecast Center building June 15, 1988, at what was then Falcon AFB, now Schriever AFB, Colo. The $2.15 million, 10,000-square foot facility was completed in 1989. The 4th WW established a new Det. 7 in June 1989 to operate the AFSFC.

As part of the Air Force-wide reorganization, the 4th WW was again inactivated Oct. 1, 1991. The AFSFC was then realigned directly under HQ AWS and given control of the Air Force's six solar observatories located at Holloman AFB, N.M.; Learmonth, Australia; Palehua, Hawaii; Ramey, Puerto Rico; Sagamore Hill, Mass.; and San Vito, Italy. As the space-forecasting mission transitioned from AFGWC, AFSFC became fully operational in October 1992.

Oct. 1, 1994, AFSFC was redesignated the 50th Weather Squadron, 50th Operations Group, assigned to AFSPC. On 17 March 1997, the 50th WS was inactivated and the 55th Space Weather Squadron was activated in its place. Oct. 1, 1999, the 55th SWXS was reassigned to the Air Force Weather Agency. July 16, 2002, the 55th was inactivated and the space weather mission returned to Offutt AFB, along with control of the Air Force's six solar observatories.

From the earliest days at Sacramento Peak Observatory, Air Force solar forecasting and space weather efforts have not only been an Air Force mission but an integral part of America's space program. AWS personnel and products have been part of every manned space mission from Mercury to the Apollo moon missions and the International Space Station. The return of the solar observing mission to Offutt ensures the Air Force's space weather forecasts will continue to shine bright.

55th Space Weather Squadron Inactivates

The 55th Space Weather Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colo., ended more than a decade of space weather forecasting July 16 with the encasement of their flag and the unit's inactivation.

The 55th SWXS's roots go back more than 50 years to the 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Long Range Weather. Over those decades, the squadron moved from Oklahoma in the 1940s to California from 1947 to 1993. The 55th then moved to Colorado and was redesignated the 55th SWXS and assigned to the Air Force Weather Agency in 1999.

When the unit realigned under AFWA, they assumed responsibility for six solar observatories located around the world supplying the Air Force with all the solar observation used to forecast solar flares and storms. With the 55ths inactivation, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb., assumed administrative control of all the solar observatories and produces all Air Force space weather forecasts.

Weather training continues after Keesler "basic course"

By Airman 1st Class Renee Rich
USAFE OWS Weather Technician

As a new airman in the Air Force, you can imagine the anticipation of six months of technical school training ahead before even thinking about reaching your first duty station. Tech school comes and goes, and finally it's arrival day at the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron, Sembach AB, Germany.

All you can think about is when the first Terminal Aerodrome Forecast is going to be issued, only to find out that there is another five months of training before this can happen. Obviously you'll have some additional training to do your job, but five months before you can even go to the operations floor and forecast? After reading this, hopefully you will have a better understanding of why so much preparation is necessary to become a weather technician in Air Force Weather. After completing the Initial Skills Course, my peers and I fully understand the reasons.

There are ten blocks in the Initial Skills Course. Topics covered many tasks, such as learning the systems used to help forecast, interpreting satellite images, and encoding TAFs and Observations. This doesn't seem like much, you say? Well this was just the start of my journey to become a weather technician.

We can start with satellite analysis. We did learned about this in tech school, but not to the extent taught in this course. It seemed the further we got in the course, the more intense the material got. It's amazing how you can learn to distinguish between snow and fog just by examining different cloud types. The trained eye can interpret a gray smear on a satellite image as some complex feature that can make a huge difference in a forecast. After the satellite block, we started learning about the various weather systems. We had learned the basic TAF format in tech school, but the systems used in Germany are quite different from the U.S.

The excellent instructors we had, mostly retired military, guided us through the entire ISC program. They covered many subjects throughout the course and addressed anything to help us comprehend weather operations before we got to the ops floor. About halfway through the course,

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Airman 1st Class Renee Rich, USAFE OWS forecaster, takes observations from a TMQ-53 Tactical Meteorological Observing System.

Photo courtesy of USAFE OWS

A Day in the Life: The "School House"

By Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conklin
Weather Course Superintendent, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Day Break – 3:59 a.m. and all is quiet at the 335th Training Squadron Military Training Flight. Initial Skills Course trainees are resting; getting the last ounce of sleep before another long day at Keesler AFB, Miss. Soon, they will rise one by one to alarm clocks screaming the dawn of a new day. They will be back in class. Some just beginning their journey, some enjoying the last few days of the Weather Apprentice Course, ready to graduate this coming Friday. *BZZZZZZZZ,* that dreaded alarm sounds.

First Formation – 5:10 a.m., after enjoying a breakfast that Airman 1st Class Joshua Stowers says is not as good as it was in "Basic," all the airmen of the 335th, including students in other career fields, fall in for the first formation. The Military Training Leader ensures all students are accounted for and delivers the daily brief. Today is Monday, the "short-sheet" brief will be repeated for the new arrivals and for those readying for departure. Short sheets are the MPFs method of delivering predetermined out-processing appointments to the students, appointments that do not interfere with the academic day.

Wednesday is open ranks day and a safety reminder regarding the proximity of a highly traveled railroad; the possibility of a train derailment, and what to do if one occurs. Other briefings during the week include linen exchange reminders, room inspection reminders, more short-sheet reminders, and a weekly safety brief. All airmen participate in first formation, regardless of their phase.

And speaking of phases, for those of you who may not remember, all airmen participate in the phase program. The purpose of the phase program is to transition the airmen from the rigors of Basic Military Training, to a somewhat ordinary military day, while ensuring the student maintains his/her academics. As the student's phase increments from 1 through 4, the student is given more and more privileges.

Off to School We Go – At 5:30 a.m., and just after a resounding revile, the students of the 81st Training Group, march off to school. As a Group they depart the Triangle area, the home of every non-prior service student at Keesler. They march; across the base, with pride in their cadence, and pride in themselves. At points along the route, each squadron breaks off in a unique direction, heading for their training centers, their "schoolhouse," their instructors and their careers. Having the greatest distance to march, the 335th, the lead squadron, is the last to arrive at their destination, patiently falling out and with determination, heading for their respective classrooms. There is something to be said for a little patience and determination. The greatest among us are not necessarily the first to arrive, but those determined to finish.

The Bell – In the old days, a bell would ring to note the start of the school day. At today's weather training flight, school begins at 6:00 a.m. – sharp. No bell. No need for a bell. Students like Airmen 1st Class Robert Frost and Tiffany Cource know what is expected. "Be in your seats at 0600 ready to learn," they are briefed on day one. Although, the "ready to learn" part can be a little misleading.

On this Monday, most students will take an appraisal. A short test to ensure what was taught the day, or week, before still resides in their brains the morning after. Frost, Coutee and Stowers have passed all the appraisals we have to offer. They, in their last week in the course, report to Lab, and take on their responsibility of the day as Mission Control Forecasters. Today, the weather is terrible at McConnell AFB, Kan. and that's exactly the station they'll support. If the weather is bad a Patrick AFB, Fla., tomorrow, then Patrick will be the supported location for tomorrow.

Their morning is spent monitoring observations, determining the trends for the last 24 hours, and completing an occasional modified 175-1 in support of a mock air refueling mission and a drop zone. They will also create a chart depicting flight level winds, turbulence and icing along the route. The chart is used in the flight briefing delivered to a pilot (an instructor) later in the morning. Finally, they prepare a surface analysis and forecast surface chart.

While others in the course receive lecture on everything from clouds to satellite images and fronts to vorticity, these airmen have proven themselves ready to put to use the tremendous amount of information provided over the last 19 weeks.

"I find the course challenging," said Stowers, "Now that I'm nearing graduation, and when I look at the stack of notes and students texts, I'm shocked to see how much information I've learned over the last few months. I didn't think I could learn so much in such a short time."

Origins of Air Force Weather Training

By Jerry White
AFW History Office

The U.S. government has maintained a weather service and trained meteorologists for more than 100 years. The Military, one of the major customers for accurate weather data, developed their own weather programs to meet military mission requirements and ensure the safety of service members worldwide. The roots of Air Force Weather started long before there was even an Air Force.

In 1870, Congress directed the Secretary of War to set up a weather observation and reporting service. In turn, he gave this task to the U.S. Army Signal Corps, who created a school to train observer-sergeants and their assistants at Fort Whipple (now Fort Myers), Va. The students were instructed in military tactics, signaling, telegraphy, telegraphic line construction, electricity, meteorology, and practical work in meteorological observations. They received additional training after reporting to their first duty station. This school operated from 1870 through 1886. Congress transferred the Signal Corps weather functions to the United States Bureau of Weather, Department of Agriculture, July 1, 1891.

The Great War in Europe, World War I, exposed the Army's need for a trained weather service again. Technology had created new weapons of war including aviation, modern artillery, and chemical warfare. Accurate weather reporting and forecasting was essential to properly using and defending against these new weapons. The Army responded by activating the Signal Corps Meteorological Service in August 1917.

In building a meteorological program almost from scratch, the Army selected an *initial* cadre of 150 men. These were primarily Weather Bureau personnel commissioned or enlisted into the military. The others in this first group had scientific, engineering or mathematics experience, but no one had Army background. With no Army school available, these first trainees gained mission specific experience through field training in small groups for eight to ten weeks, initially at various Weather Bureau stations and later at Army posts.

In April 1918, the Signal Corps established a weather school at Camp McArthur, near Waco, Texas. A month later, the school was moved to Texas A&M at College Station, Texas. While the students at this school were all enlisted men, most had degrees or practical experience in scientific or technical fields. Before the school closed near the end of 1918, more than 500 weathermen were trained with 300 going overseas, 200 more were assigned to various stateside forts and posts, and 25 were transferred to the Navy. The three-month course was taught by Weather Bureau staff with lectures and practical fieldwork.

When Army weathermen first arrived in WWI France after their initial training, they received additional training at a school near Langres, France. There, in a three-week course, they were trained with the French and British meteorological and signaling equipment they would use in the field and familiarized with local weather conditions. This school ran from March 24 through Aug. 4, 1918. Once the American Expeditionary Force weather stations were operational, replacement weather observers and forecasters received their initial deployment training after arriving at their assigned AEF weather stations.

After World War I, many skilled enlisted weather observers and forecasters didn't want to stay in the Army. To train new enlisted forecasters, the Signal Corps established a formal school in 1920 at Camp Vail, N.J., later designated Fort Monmouth. The training was demanding; graduates needed a score of 75 percent or higher to graduate – only 17 of 43 students from the first class passed this four-month course.

Army aviation slowly expanded in the 1920's requiring more of the Army's limited weather resources. Meteorol-

Cal-Tech meteorology aviation cadets observing and tracking a pilot balloon with a theodolite.

ogy itself was becoming more advanced and universities started to establish graduate programs. In 1929, Capt. Randolph "Pinkie" Williams reported to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a graduate meteorology student. He graduated a year later, becoming the first Air Corps officer to earn a master's degree in meteorology. His experience started the practice of sending two to four pilots each year to MIT and California's Institute of Technology for graduate-level work in meteorology. This program continued through the beginning of World War II.

The Weather Service transferred from the Signal Corps to the Air Corps July 1, 1937, and enlisted forecaster training moved from Ft. Monmouth to Patterson Field, Ohio. There, two 5-month forecaster courses were taught each year. As the expanding Air Corps needed more weather support, a 12-week observer course was started in September 1939 at Scott Field, Ill. This school was short-lived with the last class graduating in June 1940.

The Air Corps then designated Chanute Field, Ill., as the enlisted weather training center April 11, 1940. The first observer class reported in August and the first 22-week forecaster class started that September.

Officer training was also stepped up in 1940. In October, 180 meteorology students were inducted as aviation cadets and enrolled in a nine-month courses at five of the nation's leading universities: Cal Tech, MIT, New York University, the University of Chicago, and the University of California at Los Angeles. This first class was commissioned and on duty by June 1941. Once World War II started, classes were expanded with a goal of training 10,000 weather officers. By early 1944, this goal was scaled back and the meteorological aviation cadet pipeline was turned off with the last class graduating in June 1944. Overall, almost 6,000 weather aviation cadets were commissioned during the war.

The Army Air Forces opened the Weather Training Center at Grand Rapids, Mich., and classes began in January 1943. The enlisted forecasters school moved from Chanute Field to Grand Rapids in April 1943 to make more room at Chanute. The training goals were significantly reduced in mid-1943 and the Grand Rapids Weather Training Center closed Oct. 10, 1943, returning enlisted training to Chanute. In nine months at Grand Rapids, 2,477 cadets and enlisted observers graduated.

Following graduation and commissioning, most new weather officers were sent to operational bases and units around the world. However, some did return to the training schools as instructors. More than 840 attended the Weather Staff Officer class at the School of Applied Tactics in Orlando, Fla. This course was part of a short, practical Air Corps version of the Command and General Staff course for key staff of units going overseas.

Photos courtesy of AFW History Office

Cal-Tech meteorology aviation cadets working on radiosondes, devices carried aloft by pilot balloons to transmit temperature and wind information.

Other specialized follow-on training included four classes of 40-50 weather officers who attended an eight-week tropical weather course taught by University of Chicago faculty at the University of Puerto Rico. In England, the 21st Weather Squadron set up an advanced course to teach theater-specific skills including forecasting techniques, communications codes and mobile unit equipment operation to newly-arrived weather officers and enlisted weathermen. Some enlisted weatherman also trained in various specialized weather equipment maintenance skills before going on to operational assignments.

Enlisted weather training remained at Chanute AFB after World War II and mirrored the many changes in technology and operational practice including use of satellites and computers. Beginning in 1976, the enlisted observer and forecaster dual-career ladders were merged, initially through cross-training observers into forecasting or reaching back-to-back observer and forecaster courses. This process wasn't fully completed until introduction of an integrated curriculum known as the "single-schoolhouse" in 1999. While this was in progress, a new "state-of-the-art" facility was opened at Chanute AFB in 1989. When Chanute AFB closed in 1993 as part of the post-Cold War drawdown, weather training moved to Keesler AFB, Miss., where it remains today.

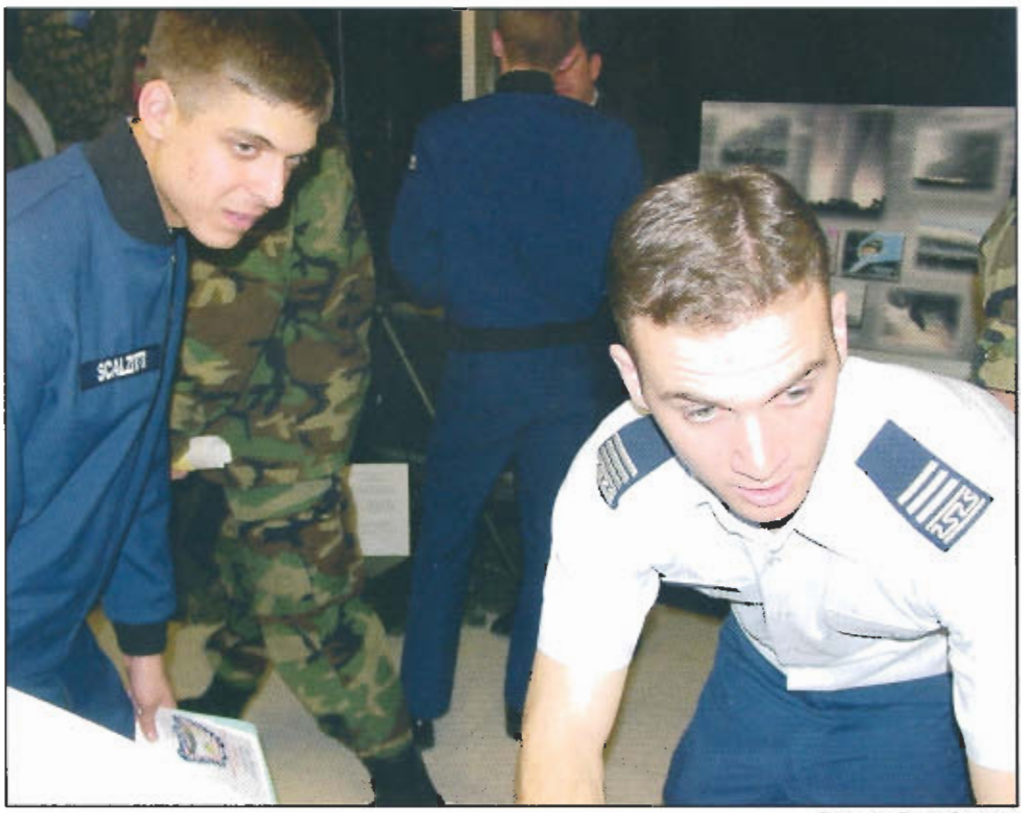

Photo by Paige Rowland

USAF Academy Met Program Soars

Cadet 1st Class Paul Homan, now a second lieutenent at the 25th Operational Weather Squadron, Davis-Monthan, Ariz., shows an interested academy student weather products during the fall majors night in February 2002. The meteorology program at the Air Force Academy is increasing in popularity and the cadets, like Homan, are generating much of the interest. For more information about the Meteorology program at the Air Force Academy, log onto their website at http://www.usafa.af.mil/dfeg/metmajor.htm

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we had a German instructor, Herr Strauss, who taught us just about everything we could possibly learn about Europe and its climatology.

The information Herr Strauss gave us about the all the different weather regimes in Europe was absolutely mind-boggling. There are so many weather variables here, and in some situations, we realized what we previously learned about a feature in tech school was completely different in Europe. At the same latitude in the U.S., weather technicians would usually call for much colder temperatures, but due to the warmer water flow from the Gulf Stream, Europe's temperatures are dramatically different. The climatology course had to be one of the more challenging blocks to go through, simply because it was completely new information from what we were accustomed to.

The weeks seemed to fly by faster than the class could believe. We were in a simulated lab just two weeks before graduation. The simulator consisted of a swing shift in which we psuedo worked the regional forecasting desk we were assigned to on the floor. We now switched to having military instructors; whereas, before they were civilian. In this block we put out five-day forecasts for our bases, TAFs, metwatched, and wrote additional meteorological bulletins necessary on the operations floor. It was finally coming together; everything we had been taught and had drilled into our mind was finally being put to good use. All the tools we learned and how they related to each other joined together like a puzzle. When graduation day arrived, it finally seemed real. It was like a ton of responsibility just dropped on us from one week to another. In training, it was real, but since we weren't directly dealing with live aircrews, the stress level wasn't as high. Only our imaginations could tell us what to really expect on the forecasting floor.

Before the first day of work, it was all sort of a blur. No one really understood the absolute importance of our job, supporting the Air Force mission, until we experienced it for ourselves. As an ISC graduate, we were expected to, of course, know how to do our job. However, it is sobering to think how a simple mistake could cause the Air Force to lose lives and millions of dollars in an aircraft mishap. It didn't take long for confidence levels to rise after the first TAF was verified, and you soaked in the impact that just one forecast can have on the entire mission.

There are not many people in the Air Force who influence a general's decision as to whether or not he flies. This responsibility is stressful, but rewarding. It seems like all the training we receive from the basic meteorology at Keesler AFB, Miss., to the forecasting techniques in Germany, are just what we needed to prepare us for our new careers.

OBSERVER retains identity

By Master Sgt. Miles Brown
AFWA Public Affairs

Your OBSERVER magazine will not be renamed. Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson's decision to keep the name "OBSERVER" was based on heritage and a connection with the identity, not from a lack of great submissions. There was an overwhelming response to retain the name, however, the staff really appreciates all those members who took the time to contribute names and justifications. We can tell from the responses that a great deal of thought went into each and every suggestion. The General reviewed all suggestions, and these are just a few of the reasons from the field for not renaming the OBSERVER:

"The name 'OBSERVER' has served our career field well for decades, and is part of our heritage that should not be discarded. There are many examples of the Air Force rejecting symbols of our heritage for the sake of doing something new, only to realize the mistake and reverse course at a later date. While Air Force Weather should be free to update the content of the magazine to keep pace with the changes in our career field, we strongly recommend they retain the 'OBSERVER' name to embrace our heritage rather than discard it."

"The name 'OBSERVER' radiates with weather heritage, and old and young troops here alike strongly wish to keep the name. It also cleverly describes the magazine as an 'observation' of our career field and what is going on in Air Force Weather."

"There may be those that want to change the way we look at the Air Force to keep up with the changing technology. But through my career, I have heard that one of the reasons that there isn't as much esprit de corps as other services is that we have little history compared to them. Though we have undergone a substantial change in the way we do business, we still observer weather conditions and this magazine is very much a part of our history. I say leave the name 'OBSERVER' alone and keep our heritage alive."

More than 70 percent of the responses received were in favor of retaining the current name. We appreciate everyone's participation in this effort and sincerely hope you all continue to enjoy the OBSERVER magazine as much as we do.

AFSPC Insite:

Who is concerned with space weather

By Lt. Col. Randy Thomas
Director of Weather, HQ AFSPC

This is a question I have heard many times, not only from operators but from weather folks as well. In Air Force Weather, we have the charter to provide the weather across the entire spectrum, from the "mud to the sun". Your customers may not even know they need space weather information. And you may not know enough about space weather to really dig out their requirements. If this is the case, you are well behind the power curve. Knowing space weather is part of our job.

How are your customers affected by space weather? Do they use radios, either HF or SATCOM to communicate? Do they use GPS to navigate? Do they use radar systems? Do they operate spacecraft? If you answered yes to any of these questions, they will be affected by space weather. Some more than others but all have the potential for problems.

The schoolhouse has incorporated space weather into the new Initial Skills Course and the follow on CWT course. But what about the people already in the field who have not had any space weather training? You can bury your head in the sand and ignore the issue, or you can dig into the space weather training modules on your own and find out what you can do for your customer. Educating yourself is the first step in educating your customer.

See **AFSPC**, next page

STEP promotion at AFWA

By Paige Rowland
AFWA Public Affairs

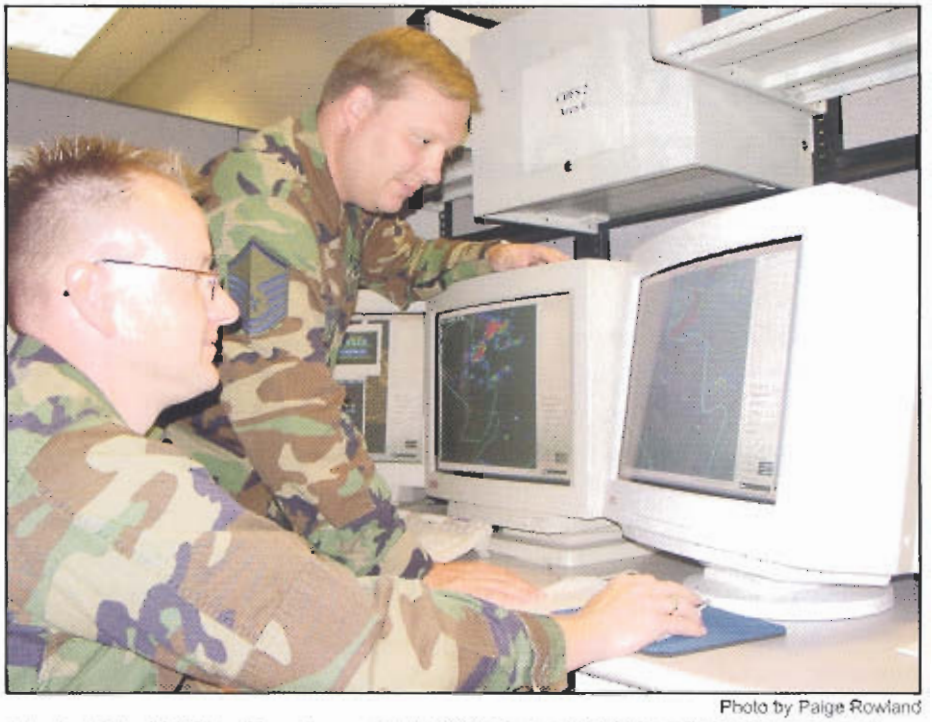


Photo by Paige Rowland

Master Sgt. Jeff Struebing shows 1st Lt. Rob Evans the Cloud Depiction and Forecast System II.

An Air Force Weather Agency technical sergeant was "blown away" when presented with master sergeant's stripes by the AFWA commander 3 July.

Master Sgt. Jeff Struebing, operations non-commissioned officer of the National Intelligence Community Weather Branch, had no idea what was coming when Col. Bob Allen called him to the center floor to present the stripes during a weekly operations brief. Struebing was given a 'Stripes for Exceptional Performers', or STEP, promotion.

"I was definitely surprised when the commander pulled out the stripes," said Struebing, who has 19 years in the Air Force and has been assigned to AFWA for the past two and a half years.

Struebing provides analysts quality control guidance for the Cloud Depiction and Forecasting System II, a new $52 million system that came on line last month. AFWA is the Department of Defense's premiere provider of cloud analyses and forecasts and the only agency in the world with this new capability. The National Intelligence Community is the primary user of CDFS II products.

"Jeff is instrumental in the success of CDFS II and getting it on line," said Capt. Edward Goetz, operations officer. "It's definitely a pleasure that an individual of Jeff's caliber got recognized for all his hard work and dedication to the mission," added Goetz.

Struebing's assignments include RAF Mildenhall, U.K, Osan Air Base, Korea and the now closed Griffiss Air Force Base, N. Y. He has also spent some time with the Army as an observer at Fort Bragg, N.C. The Air Force provides weather support in the form of personnel and products to Army operations around the world.

Struebing hopes to be the kind of senior NCO that his mentor and station chief was at Mildenhall, Senior Master Sgt. Pat Lee. "He always put his people first," said Struebing. "He really cared about us," he added.

Struebing is glad to be part of AFWA, and hopes he'll stay for a while longer. "I'm proud of the fact I'm part of the Air Force and doing a job in the war against terrorism, and I'm definitely contributing to that effort through the intelligence community," said Struebing.

AFSPC, continued from previous page

Once you can show them the benefits of knowing what the space environment can do to their mission, they will come to expect space weather information on a regular basis. In fact, most of the senior leadership throughout the Air Force knows how the space environment can cause problems while fighting a war, e.g., Afghanistan – do you? Remember, AFW is all about serving your customer. Only doing half of your job brings your commitment to that service into question. After all, would you like to fly with a pilot that only knew how to take off and not land? I don't think so! Do yourself a favor; learn as much about space weather as you can. If you do, you will become a valued asset. If you don't, you will quickly become a liability to your customer and liabilities don't stay around very long.

Weather Explorers visit NEIC

Above: P.J. Butler watches a "man made tornado" chamber at the National Earthquake Information Center, Boulder, Colo.

Right: P.J. Butler (left) and Alec Kudrna (right), both members of Weather Explorer Post 999, investigate the static landscape display at NEIC.

By Frank Jackson
AFWA Explorer Post 999 Chairman

Weather Explorer Post 999, the only post of its' type in the United States, traveled to Boulder, Colo., to visit several weather related centers. During their trip, they stopped at the National Earthquake Information Center, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, the National Center for Atmospheric Research Mesa lab, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Weather Explorer is a unique opportunity for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 to learn more about all facets of weather – forecasting, observing, broadcasting, satellite meteorology, space weather, and astronomy. The Post is charted through the Boy Scouts of America national Exploring program and is sponsored by the Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt AFB, Neb. They have also received support from The Weather Channel, TRW Inc., and the Raytheon Company. For more information on Exploring, visit www.exploring.org or call your local Boy Scout office.

Photos courtesy of Eplorer Post 999

CWTs, continued from Page 6

wing and group commanders during unit visits. We've put articles in flying magazines and are working to get better information into Air Force instructions. So we provided top cover and some basics but we need you to educate anyone and everyone.

As a career field, we began reengineering by focusing our resources and policies to stand up the hubs. The transition period for the hubs is complete, and the attention has now shifted to the CWTs. Now we need to refine CWT operations and their interactions with hubs.

Some of the burning questions are: What tools do we need to do the job better? Are the hub products helpful or do we need to change them to make them even better? How do we operate a CWT? As you settle into the CWT unit and start making those leadership decisions, I ask you to think of the results your decisions have on both your unit and the entire AFW community. Think through the solutions from start to finish and explore potential side effects or unintended consequences before you proceed. When an idea works, crossfeed that idea to your MAJCOM so other CWTs can benefit. With your help, Air Force Weather can become stronger and provide the best products to all our customers.

Weather Guard and Reservists Activate

By Maj. Margo Bjorkman
Chief, Weather Reserve Policy

Since the terrorist attacks on Sep. 11, the Air Force has mobilized thousands of Reservists and Guardsmen to active duty status. The weather career field is no exception. Since President Bush declared the war on terrorism, 71 weather Air National Guardsmen and 19 weather Individual Mobilization Augmentee Reservists have been called to active duty to support Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM. Most of these Reservists and Guardsmen were activated for one year. Many other IMAs and Guardsmen, who were not mobilized, voluntarily came on active duty to do what they were trained for their entire military careers – defend America and fight for freedom.

Weather IMAs train with active duty units monthly or bimonthly and perform a 2-week active duty tour every year. Guardsmen train together once a month in ANG weather flights and perform a 2-week annual tour. Their fundamental purpose is to train and prepare for the time when they may be called to active duty. Those Reservists that you see once or twice a month are suddenly now full-time members of many active duty units. Guardsmen that train as a unit to provide Air Force and Army weather support, are now being utilized in our Operational Weather Squadrons as well as in Operational Support Squadrons, Air Support Operation Squadrons, Army Support Weather Squadrons, Guard Wings and classified locations.

The OWSs received the most significant boost from the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up. The 28th OWS at Shaw AFB, S.C., has an additional Eight Guardsmen and two IMAs on active duty. The OWS squadrons at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., Scott AFB, Ill., Barksdale AFB, La., and Hickam AFB, Hawaii, each have three additional people to help fight the war on terrorism.

Lt. Col. Don Berchoff, commander of the 15th OWS at Scott AFB, is ecstatic to have three Master Sergeants from various ANG units working at his OWS. They comprise the Homeland Defense Contingency Element. Almost immediately after the terrorist attacks, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Fries, 15th OWS, called ACC to request additional manpower. Forty percent of the Guard and Reserve units in the AOR were activated. The 15th has seen a 20% increase in briefing and other support since Sep. 11, to include 22 additional daily products.

"The Guardsmen and Reservists help out immensely with the extra load," said Berchoff. They bring a lot of experience from their time in the Guard as well as from their civilian job. "They were productive within moments of hitting the floor," he added. The 15th OWS was also lucky to have two IMAs volunteer for 60 and 90-day active duty tours. Capt. Charles Spicer, an IMA assigned to Charleston AFB, has enjoyed his tour at Scott AFB so much, that he decided to come back on active duty full time. Berchoff raves about his new troops that he sees working hard everyday. "They are a very professional group of folks. We are grateful to have them."

The 28th OWS had a great need for Reserve weather personnel after the terrorist attacks. The 28th provides weather support for the southeastern U.S. and for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility from Kenya to Kazakhstan. Lt. Col. Tom Froonincks, commander of the 28th OWS, says that the workload increased dramatically after the attacks. The normal requirement of five TAFS for overseas locations went up to 20 for deployed locations. These new airfield forecasts were in support of deployed fighters, bombers, tankers, airlift, and reconnaissance platforms engaged in combat operations. Additional taskings for drop-zone forecasts, air-refueling forecasts, target forecasts, and early warning orbit forecasts were absorbed by the squadron.

Back in their CONUS operations center, the 28th OWS responded to Operation NOBLE EAGLE taskings, including an increase in flight weather briefings to Guard and reserve units performing combat air patrols, alerts, and orbits, and additional site forecasts for multiple locations in the southeast U.S. Guard members and Reservists accomplished both parts of the mission at Shaw. "We could not have done our mission without the Guard and Reserve," according to Froonincks, "every single one of them is motivated about being here."

So, who are these weather warriors who stepped up to the plate when their country needed them most? They are everyday citizens in their regular job. They have a wife or husband and maybe kids and a dog too. They are the volunteer baseball coaches, the hockey enthusiasts, Sunday school teachers and your neighbors. All of the folks who are mobilized now to fight the war on terrorism volunteered to defend our nation if we ever needed them.

Master Sgt. Joel Jordan is one of those folks. He is a member of the 113th Weather Flight, Terre Haute, Ind. On Sunday, Sep. 23, 2001, his squadron commander called him at home and informed him that he had been activated. He was told to report by Tuesday. He had a feeling all weekend that he was going to get the call. His stomach was

in knots. His first reaction after the call was shock, but soon after reality sunk in, his attitude became "let's go, let's get these guys." He was pumped up and excited to get going. His family, to include his mom, dad, bother and sister, encouraged and cheered him on. They continue to provide a lot of support during his deployment. Jordan is a quality assurance evaluator for meteorological and airfield operations at Grissom AFB, N.Y., in his civilian job. He feels very comfortable doing his old job again. He spent six years on active duty and became a confident weather forecaster. Joel says, "life has changed for the better" and this call-up came at a good time.

Photos courtesy of 28th OWS

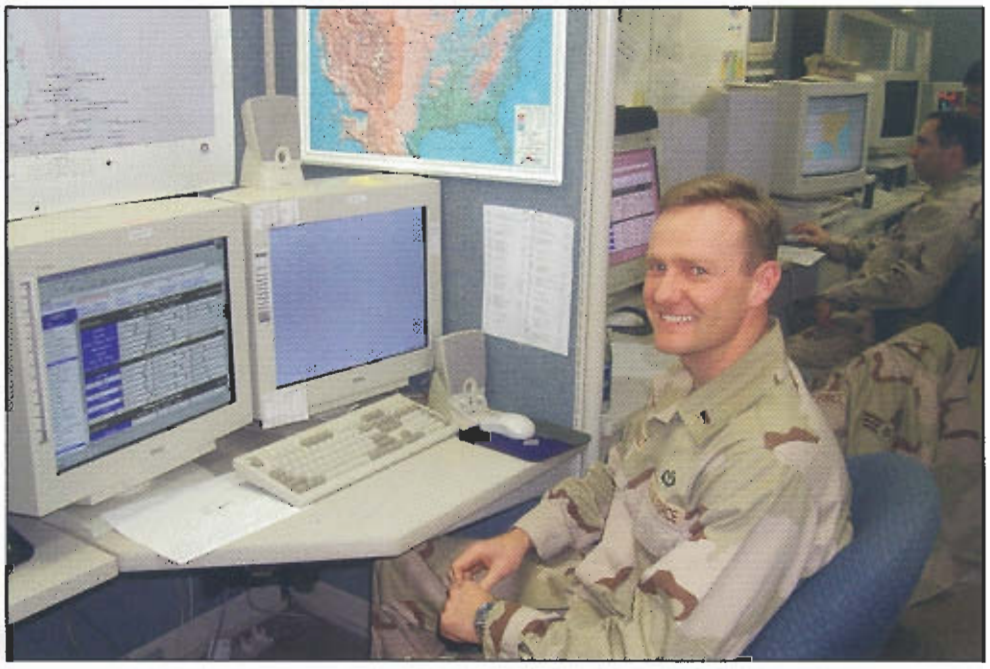
Lt. Col. Linda Shepard relays updated weather data while serving at the 28th Operational Weather Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.

The 15th OWS welcomed him like family and he felt at home when he saw some familiar faces of folks he used to work with. He quickly made good friends in the squadron. Going to hockey games in St. Louis, out to restaurants and to the movies with his buddies has made the time away from his home and family more bearable. He is even looking into flying at the Aero Club while at Scott AFB, Ill., if he gets a chance.

Maj. Clay Smith is an IMA assigned to U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB, Neb. He was on his annual active duty tour Sep. 11, for the Global Guardian exercise. They were already at a heightened security mode for the exercise and they immediately switched to real-world mode once the attacks were apparent. The arrival of the President at Offutt AFB later that day is a memory Smith will not soon forget.

That day became an 18-hour workday for Smith and many others at USSTRATCOM. It was known immediately that extra help in the METOC office would be imperative due to the increase in support to the USSTRATCOM Command in Chief, Admiral Mies. Smith stayed at USSTRATCOM after his 2-week annual tour was complete and used his inactive duty training periods and then went on extended active duty mandays. The METOC branch knew they had to activate one of their 3 Reservists. Smith volunteered to be mobilized right away. Back home in Chanhassan, Minn., his wife was not initially thrilled with the idea of Smith being gone so long, but she supports him and understands the needs of the nation. Today, he provides daily METOC briefings to the CINCSTRAT and his staff, and advises the senior controllers on METOC impacts to operations. According to Maj. Dennis Hobson, USSTRATCOM, METOC branch, "We would not have been able to do everything asked of us without Smith here."

Smith especially appreciates the opportunity to participate in several base activities that make the deployment more enjoyable. He ran a chili cook-off, is on the intramu-



1st Lt. Mark Thibault, a Guard weather officer from the 156th Weather Flight, Charlotte ANGB, N.C., on duty at the 28th OWS.

ral racquetball team, and participated in the Offutt sports fest. He was also selected to participate as an escort for the CINCSTRAT change of command ceremony.

1st Lt. Mark Thibault is a pilot for Southwest Airlines. He is also a Guard weather officer from the 156th Weather Flight of the Charlotte ANGB, N.C.. He is currently on active duty orders at the 28th OWS. He was activated Dec. 15; just three months after Southwest Airlines hired him as a pilot. It wasn't the best timing personally for him, but Thibault didn't hesitate when his country needed him the most. Southwest Airlines was very good about losing him temporarily to the war effort. His job is waiting for him when he gets back. Thibault has been in the military since 1984 as a member of the active Navy, Naval Reserves, and Air National Guard. He has ten years experience as a weather forecaster and weather officer, but never had worked in an OWS before. After a couple of weeks of training, he felt very comfortable working at the hub. "The airmen and NCOs really brought me up to speed on what was going on and how the 28th OWS provides weather support. They were my saving grace."

Thibault is now the flight commander of the flight weather briefing section and has 15 people working for him. He is thrilled to be given leadership opportunities in the squadron. He enjoys his job, especially briefing and talking to the pilots. He established a special rapport with the pilots since they know he is a flier as well. Thibault is always looking for ways to boost morale in the unit. One of the things he has been able to do is arrange helicopter flights at McEntire ANGB, S.C., for the troops. He is very grateful to his Guard unit commander, Maj. Charles Buckler, and the members of the 156th Weather Flight. They have all been very supportive from the very beginning of his deployment. Thibault's wife is in Charlotte, N.C., not too far from Shaw, so they have been able to visit several times.

Lt. Col. Linda Shepard also serves at the 28th OWS, and is charged with the huge task of managing the Time Phased Force Deployment Document for weather personnel and equipment being deployed to the USCENTCOM theater. In addition, she provides weather briefings to the USCENTAF Commander and senior staff on conditions and impacts to operational missions in the theater. On 24 Sep., Shepard was notified she would be mobilized at the beginning of October for one year. The in-depth training she had received since being assigned as an IMA to 28th OWS in 1999 helped make the transition to her wartime profession a smooth one. "Air War College also helped prepare me for this job," said Shepard. She stresses that active unit training and professional military education are essential in preparing IMAs for their wartime missions. Family and employer support, as well as job security, are key to successful deployments for Reservists. Shepard values the outstanding support of her family and friends. As a civilian, Shepard works at USSTRATCOM as the senior systems engineer for the Command and Control Modernization Program. She appreciates the care packages and notes of encouragement from her co-workers at her civilian job. During her off-duty time, Shepard is active in children's ministry with her local church. This is her first mobilization in 21 years as an IMA. The 28th OWS commander appreciates the fact that he has such a dedi cated and knowledgeable IMA at the squadron. "Lt. Col. Shepard has been invaluable to the unit. We could not have done the mission without her," said Froonincks.

There are many more members of the ANG and Air Force Reserves in our weather community. They all have a different story, but they also have many things in common. They all pledged to honor and defend the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. They are all willing to make sacrifices in their lives to protect our country and fight for freedom. They stand by ready and willing to get the call whenever we need them.

Reserve and Guard members on active duty at 28th OWS.

A Base Weather Station: Nevermore!

By Egad I. Stubma Toe (a.k.a. Col. Tim Miner)
Reserve Assistant to the Director of Air Force Weather

Last night upon a midshift dreary, while I pondered, not so clearly,
My new assignment to a reengineered CWT.
I wondered what would wait for me, wondered what it was that I would see,
At the based named for some dead person, where I would live along the shore.
"It's just a base weather station," I muttered, "that I am so definitely sure.
That is all, and nothing more."

I dreamed of my first weather station, and looked ahead with great elation,
To a time when I would be a station chief.
My job would be to watch my troops, as they jump through weather's hoops,
To analyze the weather scoop, with details that they would skillfully score,
At counters they would chore, in ways that make mere mortals bore.
They'd do all that, and much, much more.

Suddenly, I was rudely awakened, when I felt my shoulders shaken,
By the green-camouflaged warrior standing next to me.
He had eagles on his collar, standing on the Weather Strat Plan made him taller,
From the regulations he did holler, and from the CONOPS he loudly swore.
Words from pages of the PPLAN that he tore, words primeval – like a snore:
"Listen now, my son, to what's in store!"

"Your dream of watching that seemed jolly, you must know now is merely folly,
At every reengineered Combat Weather Team!
A 'small-footprint' is what you'll see, so a 'quarterback' is what you'll be.
Whether senior NCO or OIC, you'll work hard since you're in the rotation,
Leading and observing at the location. Supervising from the rear for you is not in store.
At a CWT, you'll lead from a'fore."

"As for weather-model analysis, that's a thing that you can 'dis.'
Your job is to be eyes-forward, can't you see?
And as you work with your OWS, you'll know your unit's mission best.
You'll speak of TAWS and IR scene, you'll speak of JDAMS and mobility.
You'll be the pointy-edge that's sharp and lean. For this you'll be forever long adored.
MEF analysis! That's now your chore."

"Now of that counter, let us talk, for I know that it will make you balk,
When I say 'That's now in your distant past.'
You'll no longer be Sergeant Smith in 'ole base ops, but 'Vapor', 'Flash', or 'Thundertops.'
A combat call-sign you'll be christened. Amongst the unit you'll talk and listen
About weather and its impact that I'm sure. At a reengineered CWT I'm absolutely sure,
You'll be a 'weather warrior' now and evermore."

"So now young warrior hone the spear! Don't look back and shed a tear,
For what once was, but is no longer so.
Observe and consult with your OWS, and prepare for your unit's combat MEF,
When our country's might must be the best, whether on the land, or skies, or on the shore.
You'll help all warriors know weather's score, for 'only then we'll, our victory, assure.' "
Quoth the eagle, quoting Sun Tzu, evermore... Y

Promotion selectees make "The Grade"

Selected for promotion to Master Sergeant:

Edward Acuavera, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
James Bagby, Pope AFB, N.C.
Richard Ballucanag, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Heidi Bondi, Camp Page, Korea
Miles Brown, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Timothy Burke, Asheville, N.C.
Toni Carter, Scott AFB, Ill.
Robin Clark, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Daniel Colwell, Grafenwoehr, Germany
Rachel Cox, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Terrie Davidson, Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
Gary Davis, Bradshaw AAF, Hawaii
Alan Doty, Offutt AFB, Neb.
John Edwards, Scott AFB, Ill.
Randy Elie, Heidelburg, Germany
Keith Fields, Moron AB, Spain
Wesley Fillmore, Barksdale AFB, La.
Oliver Fisher, Lackland AFB, Texas
Cary Fitzsimmons, Asheville, N.C.
Steven Glass, Learmonth, Australia
Lawrence Green, Offutt AFB, Neb.
James Gunderson, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Gary Hall, Learmonth, Australia
Mickey Hayes, Eglin AFB, Fla.
Brad Higgins, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
John Houghton, Tinker AFB, Okla.
Arleen Jancic, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
Daniel Johnson, Yongsan AB, Korea
Oliver Jordan, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
John Joyce, Andrews AFB, Md.
John Lindfors, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Francis Mango, Offutt AFB, Neb.
William Martin, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Brian McDonald, Sembach AB, Germany
Craig McDougall, Indian Springs, Pa.
Christopher McKinney, Grafenwoehr, Germany
Charles Monk, Scott AFB, Ill.
Michael Mortenson, Beale AFB, Calif.
Joseph Nichols, Fort Hood, Texas
Charlie Norman, Barksdale AFB, La.
James Ozgunduz, Pope AFB, N.C.
Troy Rames, Asheville, N.C.
Paul Richard, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Jody Rogers, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
Derrick Rushdan, Asheville, N.C.
April Spiczka, Yongsan, Korea
Todd Stephenson, Offutt AFB, Neb.
John Stevens III, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Ann Stubbs, Pentagon, D.C.
Lajuna Thompson, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Terry Tinter, Patrick AFB, Fla.
John Turnbull, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Jeffrey Vogel, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Keith Wagner, Camp Humphreys, Korea
Elisa Williams, Scott AFB, Ill.
James Williams, Hill AFB, Utah
Kelly Williams, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
Thomas Zipprich, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant:

Harry Alonso, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico
Lois Anderson, Peterson AFB, Colo.
Kenneth Asbell, Lajes AFB, Azores
David Batchelor, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Robert Benton, Pope AFB, N.C.
Matthew Beveridge, Fort Polk, La.
Christopher Blanch, Minot AFB, N.D.
Kevin Bottino, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Randy Burk, Sembach AB, Germany
Charles Cabanero, Hanscom AFB, Mass.
Connie Caldwell, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Randall Claar, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Jessika Clarke, Camp Humphreys, Korea
Jason Clemens, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Kevin Coleman, Fort Polk, La.
Staci Coleman, Giebelstadt AB, Germany
Richard Corey, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Mark Cornell, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
Israel Cruzcolon, Ramey Solar Observatory, Puerto Rico
Joel Darr, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Matthew Dearinger, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Roberto Diaz, Robins AFB, Ga.
Douglas Dibble, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Susan Dickson, Ramey Solar Observatory, Puerto Rico
Charles Dill, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
David Doler, Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
Timothy Dunman, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Gary Ellingson, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
Thomas Erhart, Sembach AB, Germany
Cynthia Forsyth, Fort Rucker, Ala.
Robert Fournier, Kadena AB, Japan
Russell Froat, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Marc Gahagan, Bobliagen Germany
Galo Garcia, Lackland AFB, Texas
Amy Gill, Moody AFB, Ga.
Jon Glenn, Yokota AB, Japan
Jeffrey Godemann, Yokota AB, Japan
Daniel Godin, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
Pedro Gonzalez, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
Lisa Gore, Langley AFB, Va.
David Gray, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Barry Gregory, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Sylvain Grippon, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Toby Grubbs, Eielson AFB, Alaska
Travis Hale, RAF Lakenheath, UK
Shawn Hannah, Dover AFB, Del.
Ron Hansen, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Sean Hansen, Wuerzburg, Germany

Phillip Hardin, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
Timothy Harrell, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Louis Harsson, Shaw AFB, S.C.
Brian Hearn, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Allen Hines, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
Martha Horner, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
Scott Houston, Asheville, N.C.
James Howard, Luke AFB, Ariz.
Randy Hughes, Aviano AB, Italy
Eric Jackson, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
Rodney Jacobs, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Taylor Jacobs, Scott AFB, Ill.
James Jones, Patrick AFB, Fla.
David Joyce, Fort Benning, Ga.
Ronald Kessler, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Landon King, Pope AFB, N.C.
Karl Kolumban, RAF Mildenhall, UK
Steven Krywany, Beale AFB, Calif.
Daniel Kuepper, Keesler AFB, Miss.
John Lawless, Sheppard AFB, Texas
Timothy Legg, Asheville, N.C.
Charles Littlejohn, Tinker AFB, Okla.
Michael Louridas, RAF Mildenhall, UK
Scott Maier, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
William Malcomb, Fort Benning, Ga.
Randall Marmino, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Kyle Mathers, Asheville, N.C.
Kevin Mattingly, Bradshaw AAF, Hawaii
Dean Matuszewski, Offutt AFB, Neb.
David Mayer, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
John McKeown, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Kevin McKinney, Scott AFB, Ill.
Raymond Miller, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Det. 7, Continued from Page 3

then we send it back out," Rankin said. "If we don't process those observations and forecasts here, they don't get out to our ground and aviation customers, period."

The observations and forecasts are processed and delivered to duty customers and federal agencies such as the National Weather Service, which in turn makes them available to The Weather Channel and other sources.

"We average 180,000 messages coming in and we put out 400,000 messages each day," Rankin said. "We process more messages than most typical base e-mail systems. What we take pride in is the fact that we are data hungry. We move weather modeling data between all of those international and federal centers.

"We help the forecasters out there by giving them as much data as possible to create their forecast," he said. "This allows the forecaster do their job better whether it is for a war zone area in Afghanistan or whether it is local support for resource protection here at Tinker."

This weather information is particularly critical during spring in Oklahoma, a time often rattled by severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Weather data helps forecasters pinpoint where a storm will brew and the path that it takes. "We serve as a central delivery point for all the critical information so that severe thunderstorm warnings, tornado warnings, etc. can be given out to base populations anywhere in the world," Rankin explained. "All the data comes here and it goes back out since we're the DOD's central processing hub for all text weather bulletins including watches and warnings."

But now because of an Air Force Headquarters call for re-engineering of AFWA, all of Tinker's Automated Weather Network Systems operations and mission functions will be transferred to Offutt AFB.

"By centralizing all their support at Offutt, they'll be able to improve their automated weather processes," he explained. "All strategic center computers are being consolidated into a new web-enabled, shared database environment, improving support to the warfighter."

When Rankin arrived at Tinker, he said there were 34 members in the detachment. Today, there are only 12 remaining. Rankin said, "half of them have Permanent Change of Station orders to other bases while the rest will remain here at Tinker in organizations such as the 72nd Communications Squadron, 552nd Computer Support Squadron or the 3rd Combat Communication Group.

Det. 7s formal inactivation was June 27, but the mission continued at Tinker AFB until the end of July with HQ AFWA's system duty officers remotely monitoring the systems. On July 26, the last of more than 750 customers completed their transition to HQ AFWA systems. Considering the enormity of the Det. 7 reengineering effort, the customer transitions went extremely smooth. The last legacy mainframe computer maintained by AFWA, was formally decommissioned July 31.

The Automated Weather Network continues at HQ AFWA. Though the structure of the AWN has drastically changed, it's still the DoD's global communications network for collecting and distributing alphanumeric terrestrial and space weather data throughout Air Force Weather; Navy and Army weather systems; and federal and foreign meteorological, space, and aviation centers.

Rankin said those who have worked for Det. 7 should be extremely proud of the contributions they have made. "We have provided around-the-clock weather information in all major ground, air and space military operations," said Rankin. "From the Vietnam campaign through Operations Noble Eagle and Operations Enduring Freedom, we've been behind the scenes taking care of the mission."

Suzanne Miller, Barksdale AFB, La.
Michael Milton, Kadena AB, Japan
Rocco Minetti, Aviano AB, Italy
Craig Musselman, Fort Campbell, Ky.
Molly Meyers, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Douglas Neal, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Kim Norman, RAF Mildenhall, UK
David Nowak, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Rickey Palmer, Asheville, N.C.
Arnold Perez, Yokota AB, Japan
Vincent Petrasek, Fort Knox, Ky.
Otis Pless, MacDill AFB, Fla.
Terry Prime, Travis AFB, Calif.
Thomas Prochazka, Lajes AB, Azores
Samuel Pugh, Misawa AB, Japan
Angela Radden, Pope AFB, N.C.
Clarence Rice, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
Derrick Rittenbach, Minot AFB, N.D.
Wes Robinson, Charleston AFB, S.C.
Kurt Rohl, Laughlin AFB, Texas
Jason Ronsse, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Ernest Samuel , Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Larry Shelvy, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
Timothy Sloan, Böblingen, Germany
Gerard Smieja, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Chad Smith, Charleston AFB, S.C.
Brady Spiczka, Yongsan AB, Korea
Elizabeth Spurrier, Vicenza, Italy
Mark Stover, Fort Lewis, Wash.
Davis Springfield, Learmonth, Australia
Dohn Terrell, McGuire AFB, N.J.
Aaron Thomas, Fort Campbell, Ky.
Sheila Thompson, Hill AFB, Utah
Jeffery Thurman, Elelson AFB, Alaska
Craig Towlson, Camp Red Cloud, Korea
Darren Towne, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Joshua Turnier, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Kelly Vasko, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
William Vonalmen, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Robert Wade, Fort Campbell, Ky.
Shane Wagner, Fort Eustis, Va.
Paul Walker, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Anthony Walswick, Vandenburg AFB, Calif.
Richard Wells, Incirlik AB, Turkey
Andre Williams, Kadena AB, Japan
Stephen Williams, Wheeler AFB, Hawaii
Musette Willis, Kadena AB, Japan
Susan Willis, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Benjamin Wretland, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Richard Wright, Asheville, N.C.
Stephen Wyatt, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Robert Yancy, Barksdale AFB, La.

2nd Lt. John McMillen
21st OSS/OSW, Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Command/Weather Briefer
Years In Service: 2 years
Hometown: Phoenix, Ariz.
Role Model / why?: My role model is Capt. Frank Tersigni, my first supervisor. His effortlessly utilized his vast scientific and job knowledge to overcome any leadership challenge. He is able to handle any situation rationally and logically. I work toward someday having a similarly broad knowledge base, and the skills to apply that knowledge.
Hobbies: Fly Fishing, Hiking, Gardening, Cooking and Hunting
Most Memorable Air Force Weather Experience: My most memorable experience so far as a weather officer was a video teleconference briefing to the NORAD CINC and the commanders of each NORAD region. During the briefing the Alaska NORAD region commander announced to the entire teleconference that I was the Son-In-Law of the Alaska Region vice commander. I then saw my Father-In-Law on screen. He vouched for my credibility to the CINC. The crowd applauded, and that will probably be the only time I will ever get applause for providing a weather briefing.

WEATHER WARRIORS

Staff Sgt. Martha Horner
325th OSS/OSW, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
Weather Technician
Years in service: 12 years
Hometown: Palestine, Texas
Role model / why? My mother – she gave up many opportunities to ensure that my sister and I had the care and attention that we needed. Her strong work ethic and ceaseless devotion to her children inspired me to become the person I am today. She encouraged me in all endeavors and helped me to decide to join the Air Force.
Hobbies: Volunteer mentor/tutor, working on bachelor's degree in geosciences, spending time with my husband and my cats
Most memorable AFW experience: In March 2000, I was deployed to South Africa on a humanitarian mission to support the flood recovery efforts in Mozambique. The hours were long and hard, and there were numerous challenges in dealing with the local weather office and air traffic control tower, and in accurately forecasting weather at specific points on a flight path. One morning, I was allowed to accompany an MH-53 Pave Low helicopter on its mission of ferrying supplies and monitoring local river and water conditions. I was able to experience first-hand the impact that the weather had on the aircraft. It was this flight that made me understand how important we are to mission success.

SALUTES

Retirements

Col. Robert Allen, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Col. Mike Jamilkowski, OSD, Washington, D.C.
Col. Jud Stailey, OFMC, Silver Springs, Md.
Col. Phil Yavorsky, HQ AMC, Scott AFB, Ill.
Master Sgt. Darrell Adams, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Master Sgt. James Jezek, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Master Sgt. William Johnson, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Master Sgt. Isaias Ortiz-Lopez, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Master Sgt. James Secor, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Awards and Decorations

LEGION OF MARIT

Col. Robert Allen, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb. (1st OLC)
Col. Jud Stailey, OFMC, Silver Springs, Md.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Col. David Smarsh, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Col. Mark Welshinger, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Jay Fitzgerald, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Mark Kaster, USA Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Kim Waldron, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. Curtis Winstead, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Lt. Col. David Zehr, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Maj. Christopher Bjorkman, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Maj. John Shepley, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.
Senior Master Sgt. Salinda Larabee, HQ USAF/XOW, Washington, D.C.

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Master Sgt. **Kenneth Burgess**, 3rd ASOS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska
Tech. Sgt. Carter Wirtz, 3rd ASOS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska
Staff Sgt. Richard Lopes, 3rd ASOS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska

AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
OL-A, AFWA, Ft. Meade, Md.
OL-B, AFWA, Washington, D.C.
OL-H, AFWA, Hanscom AFB, Mass.
OL-K, AFWA, Norman, Okla.
OL-M, AFWA, Asheville, N.C.
OL-S, AFWA, Schriever AFB, Colo.
Det. 7, AFWA, Tinker AFB, Okla.
AFCCC, AFWA, Asheville, N.C.
AFCWC, AFWA, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
OL-A, AFCWC, AFWA, Camp Blanding, Fla.
OL-B, AFCWC, AFWA, White Sands, N.M.

Education

WEATHER OFFICER'S COURSE

2nd Lt. **Christopher Avery**, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
2nd Lt. David Bieger, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.
2nd Lt. Christopher Chase, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
2nd Lt. Adrian Christiansen, 15th OWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
2nd Lt. Michael Connelly, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
2nd Lt. Daniel Fisher, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
2nd Lt. Noel Keene, 28th OWS, Shaw AFB, S.C.
2nd Lt. Christopher Kuhlman, 15th OWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
2nd Lt. Adam Stepanek, 15th OWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
2nd Lt. Bryan Walter, 15th OWS, Scott AFB, Ill.

WEATHER CRAFTMAN'S COURSE

Tech. Sgt. John Burton, 37th OSS/OSW, Lackland AFB, Texas
Tech. Sgt. Trevor Williamson, 46th WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.
Staff Sgt. Nya Ayala, 17th OWS, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Staff Sgt. Stephen Bacand, 17th OWS, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Staff Sgt. Brian Bishop, 35th OSS/OSW, Misawa AB, Japan
Staff Sgt. Richard Bollinger, 24th STS, Pope AFB, N.C.
Staff Sgt. Mathew Boyd, Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany
Staff Sgt. Shawn Crabeels, AFCCC, AFWA, Asheville, N.C.
Staff Sgt. Joel Decker, 18th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Staff Sgt. Thomas Dishion, Det. 3, 10th CWS, Fort Carson, Colo.
Staff Sgt. Clinton Dobry, 341st OSS/OSW, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
Staff Sgt. Carol Eifert, 7th OSS/OSW, Dyess AFB, Texas
Staff Sgt. David Eisler, 31st OSS/OSW, Aviano AB, Italy
Staff Sgt. Robert Gaylord, 5th OSS/OSW, Minot AFB, N. D.
Staff Sgt. Asha Gray, 86th OSS/OSW, Ramstein AB, Germany
Staff Sgt. Stephen Hale, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
Staff Sgt. **Derek Hanson**, 208th WF, St. Paul, Minn.
Staff Sgt. James Harding, 3rd ASOS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska
Staff Sgt. Laura Herbst, 19th ASOS, Fort Campbell, Ky.
Staff Sgt. Mathew Hill, 75th OSS/OSW, Hill AFB, Utah
Staff Sgt. Cynthia Hohalek-Jurgens, 18th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Staff Sgt. Bart Hopkins, Det. 3, 7th WS, Illesheim, Germany
Staff Sgt. **Andrew Krotzer**, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Staff Sgt. **Gerardo Jaime**, 325th OSS/OSW, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
Staff Sgt. **Jamie Jenner**, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
Staff Sgt. Latoya Lee, OL-N, AFWA, Yokota AB, Japan
Staff Sgt. Danny Lopez, 10th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Staff Sgt. David McKinney, AFTEG, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Staff Sgt. Michael Oates, 30th WS, Vandenburg AFB, Calif.
Staff Sgt. Stacey Peterson, 10th CWS, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
Staff Sgt. Terry Prime, 60th OSS/OSW, Travis AFB, Calif.
Staff Sgt. **James Raggett**, OL-N AFWA, Yokota AB, Japan
Staff Sgt. **Eric Shafer**, 56th OSS/OSW, Luke AFB, Ariz.
Staff Sgt. Rudolph Skonord, 377th ABW, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Promotions

Staff Sgt. Joseph Taylor, Det. 1, 8th WS, Fort Eustis, Va.
Staff Sgt. Tommy Teague, 20th OSS/OSW, Shaw AFB, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Dionne Tirschel, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Staff Sgt. Shane Wagner, Det. 1, 18th WS, Fort Eustis, Va.
Staff Sgt. Yasmeen Wilson, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan
Staff Sgt. Nancy Young, 335th TRS/UOA, Keesler AFB, Miss.

FORECASTER COURSE
Chief Petty Officer Michael Hamerski, USCGC Healy, Seattle, Wash.
Staff Sgt. Barney Burr, 21st ASOS/ASW, Fort Polk, La.
Staff Sgt. Jodi Cauch, 165th WF, Louisville, Ky.
Staff Sgt. Craig Gaillardet, 49th OSS/OSW, Holloman AFB, N.M.
Staff Sgt. Mark Hatten, Det. 2, AGOS, Fort Irwin, Calif.
Staff Sgt. Jessica Lebrun, 123rd WF, Portland, Ore.
Staff Sgt. Wesley Martin, 4th OSS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
Staff Sgt. Monica Preble, 120th WF, Buckley AFB, Colo.
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Reynolds, 55th OSS/OSW, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Staff Sgt. Anthony Roles, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Whitham, 113th WF, Terre Haute, Ind.
Senior Airman Marjorie Arfa, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
Senior Airman Sharnette Carter, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Senior Airman Martin Clark, 125th WF, Tulsa, Okla.
Senior Airman Michael Deal, Det. 5, 10th CWS, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Senior Airman Douglas Fortin, 20th ASOS, Fort Drum, N.Y.
Senior Airman Jenifer Galvez, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Senior Airman Erik Gilliland, 10th CWS, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Senior Airman Christine Lindsey, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
Senior Airman Christopher Lozzi, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Senior Airman Joshua Peters, 14th OSS/OSW, Columbus AFB, Miss.
Senior Airman Shameaka Robinson, 355th OSS/OSW, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Senior Airman Bradley Snyder, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Senior Airman John Stein, 57th OSS/OSW, Nellis AFB, Nev.

WEATHER FORECASTER APPRENTICE COURSE
Senior Airman Randy Messer, 28th OWS, Shaw AFB, S.C.
Airman 1st Class Albert Gsell, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.
Airman 1st Class Joshua Stowers, 209th WF, Austin, Texas
Airman 1st Class Tiffany Coutee, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.
Airman 1st Class Robert Frost, 15th OWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
Airman 1st Class Christine Ringrose, 15th OWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
Airman 1st Class Matthew Staton, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.
Airman Natalie Velez, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.

SNCO ACADEMY
Senior Master Sgt. Lorne McClard, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Master Sgt. Louis Canjar, AFCCC, AFWA, Asheville, N.C.

NCO ACADEMY
Tech. Sgt. Michael Claxton, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Tech. Sgt. William Cowgill, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Tech. Sgt. John Kovachich, AFCCC, AFWA, Asheville, N.C.
Tech. Sgt. Robert Nechtman, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL
Senior Airman Bradley Snyder, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Senior Airman Joseph Morris, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

SELECTED FOR INTERMEDIATE SERVICE SCHOOL
Capt. Richard Benz, AFIT – Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
Capt. Richard Butler, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Capt. Peter Cohen, Det. 6, 7th WS, Wuerzburg, Germany
Capt. Diana Hajek, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Capt. Joseph Kurtz, 3rd OSS/OSW, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

SELECTED FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR
Eric Barela, HQ AFSPC, Peterson AFB, Colo.
Kyle Bellue, HQ AETC, Randolph AFB, Texas
Richard Benz, AFIT, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
Thomas Blazek, Det. 3, 7th WS, Illesheim, Germany
Kenneth Browning, 20th OSS/OSW, Shaw AFB, S.C.
Brian Burnside, 13th ASOS, Fort Carson, Colo.
Richard Butler, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Stephen Cabosky, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Christopher Cantrell, 17th OWS, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Michael Ceule, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany
Stephen Cocks, AFIT, College Station, Texas
Peter Cohen, Det. 6, 7th WS, Wiesbaden, Germany
Christopher Cox, 53rd WRS, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Robert Coxwell, 15th ASOS, Fort Stewart, Ga.
Barry Crook, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.
James Everitt, OL-S, AFWA, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Andrew Goodnite, 30th WS, Vandenburg AFB, Calif.
Brian Griffith, AFIT, Ft Collins, Colo.
Diana Hajek, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Timothy Hall, AFOG, Washington, D.C.
Michael Hinson, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
Joseph Kurtz, 3rd OSS/OSW, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
Kelly Law, 55th SWXS, AFWA, Schriever AFB, Colo.
Robert Mazany, 17th OWS, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Bruce Muller, 90th OSS/OSW, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
Tamara Parson, HQ PACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Michael Petrocco, 6th OSS/OSW, MacDill AFB, Fla.
Mark Quigley, 1st OSS/OSW, Langley AFB, Va.
Jennifer Ronan, AFIT, Salt Lake City, Utah
Catherine Rourke, 28th OWS, Shaw AFB, S.C.
Donald Schiber, 17th OWS, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Lisa Shoemaker, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.
Steven Storch, 39th OSS/OSW, Incirlik AB, Turkey
James Vickers, 6th WF, Fort Rucker, Ala.
Gail Weaver, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.
Jennifer Winslow, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

General and Chief's Coin Corner

Staff Sgt. Kenar Wiley, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany, received her general's coin for supervising a 3-person orderly room supporting more than 200 people. She led the way for transition to use of travel manager, LEAVE WEB, and government travel cards. She manages more that 100 TDY orders and supports the OWS commander's vision to visit all CWTs and weather support areas.

General's coins

Maj. J.J. Isherwood, 48th OSS/OSW, RAF Lakenheath, UK
Capt. Rob Wilson, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
2nd Lt. Brian Butler, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
2nd Lt. Dawn Golding, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
2nd Lt. Joseph Coughlin, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
2nd Lt. Erica Loechl, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
2nd Lt. Matt Sattler, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Master Sgt. Tracy Manera, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany
Tech. Sgt. George Anghelescu, 48th OSS/OSW, RAF Lakenheath, England
Tech. Sgt. Dave Granniss, 100th OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, UK
Tech. Sgt. Roland Gonzalez, Det. 12, 7th WS, Vicenza AB, Italy
Tech. Sgt. Greg Myers, 100th OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, UK
Tech. Sgt. Dan Yanok, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
Tech. Sgt. **Tom Zipprich**, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Staff Sgt. Brian Clark, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Staff Sgt. Carl Kolumban, 352nd OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, UK
Staff Sgt. Ryan MacDonald, 100th OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, UK
Staff Sgt. Paul Walker, 355th OSS/OSW, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Senior Airman Robert Branham, 355th OSS/OSW, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Senior Airman Stephanie Harshaw, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Senior Airman Kevin Smith, 25th OWS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Chief's coins

Master Sgt. Robert Kane, Det. 11, 7th WS, Heidelberg, Germany
Tech. Sgt. Andre DeJean, Det. 6, 7th WS, Wiesbaden, Germany
Staff Sgt. Thomas Erhart, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
Staff Sgt. Joshua Turnier, 355th OSS/OSW, Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Airman 1st Class Travis Jones, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany
Airman 1st Class Laci Wood, 100th OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, UK

Airman 1st Class Travis Jones, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany, received his chief's coin for garnering the First Term Airman's Center "Look Sharp Award" and first-ever two-time winner of Training Directorate MVP Award. He was selected ahed of 79 other students as the Student of the Quarter during technical training. He led the UK forecast section through the strongest wind event in years; issued 20 watches with more than nine hours lead-time and warnings with more than three hours lead-time; 100% verification ensured commanders best prepared to act.

Hurricane Hunters Storm Offutt

A seven member crew flew a new WC-130J from Keesler AFB, Miss., to Offutt AFB, Neb., in support of the Air Force Weather Agency at Offutt's Air Show Aug. 24-25. Having the *Hurricane Hunter* on the ramp with "weather" emblazoned on the tail was a definite draw for the Air Force Weather booth located next to the aircraft. Together they both did an outstanding job informing the estimated two-day crowd of 325,000 of the vital role weather plays in military operations. Left, Col. Chuck Benson, AFWA commander, visits with Maj. Rich Harter, 53rd WRS meteorologist.