

The Magazine for Air Force Weather

OBSERVER

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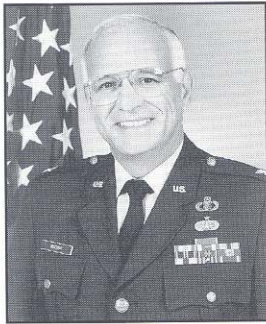


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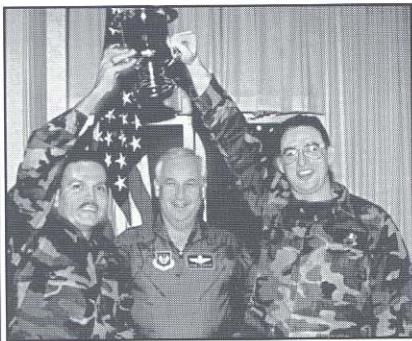
How Air Force
Weather helps equip
the Air Force
from 'cradle to grave'



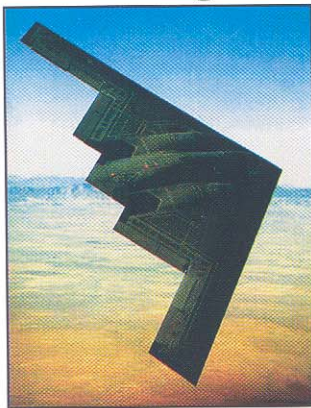
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Headquarters Air Weather Service

Observer
Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon
Air Force Director of Weather

Col. Frank J. Misciasci Jr.
Commander

Col. Jack Hayes
Vice Commander
Headquarters Consultant

SSgt. Steve Elliott
NCOIC, Public Affairs/Editor

Capt. John Pino
Capt. Brian Beitler
2nd Lt. Sarah Terison
2nd Lt. Jahna Schadt
SMSgt. Mike Spaulding
Headquarters Consultants

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HQ AWS/PA
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Scott AFB, IL 62225-5206

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Guard and Reserve

Serving AFW proudly



Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon
Air Force Director of Weather

When you think about the people who make up Air Force Weather (AFW), who comes to mind?

It's probably the forecaster behind the counter at the base weather station or the staff weather officer briefing the division commander at a deployed Army headquarters. Maybe it's a computer operator at Air Force Global Weather Central or the solar observer monitoring space.

But what about your banker, or your child's teacher, or maybe your auto mechanic? If you say, "no way", you might be wrong! They might be part of AFW, as members of the Air Reserve Component (ARC).

Citizen-soldiers of the Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve (AFRES) make up more than 15 percent of the Total Force AFW team operating daily around the world.

In their traditional role, the Guard and Reserve augment the active force during crisis and contingencies -- a mission they accomplish with pride. During Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM, ARC weather folks were there, providing quality weather for both active and reserve units. More recently, ANG forecasters deployed into Haiti in support of the Army and Special Operations Force for Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY and they're still there today.

In the past year, reservists and guards-

men participated in many other exercises and deployments. As part of the Air Force team deployed to Exercise PATRIOT RICO in Puerto Rico, Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) answered the call. Supporting air-to-air, close air support, and Navy SEAL operations, the IMAs enhanced the combat effectiveness of the deployed joint forces. Still others were in the trenches in Chievres, Belgium, providing drop zone forecasts for the 136th Airlift Wing from Oklahoma City, Okla., during NATO exercise PHOENIX PARTNER.

Closer to home, ARC weather forces performed a more conventional mission when they were on scene to help during the Midwest floods of 1993 and the forest fires in the western United States in 1994.

These are the type of situations you normally think about when you hear about the Reserve. However, ARC weather people use their skills to play a big part in many nontraditional military missions.

Take the nation-building effort in Central America, for example. Code named FUERTES CAMINOS, this ongoing operation is helping the Guatemalans establish the infrastructure needed to further their modernization efforts. National Guard weather teams of two to three people provide weather for aviation operations supporting this humanitarian cause. So far, in 1995 alone, 23 ANG weather personnel have made the trip, with many



more expected to follow.

Maintaining a state of readiness to successfully accomplish these diverse missions requires quality training. IMAs, training hand-in-hand with their active duty counterparts at base weather stations, not only hone their meteorology skills, but become experts in the missions of their supported unit. The 33 ANG weather flights, supporting the Army, train in garrison and at the ANG Weather Readiness Center (WRC) at Camp Blanding, Fla. Here they receive comprehensive training in forecasting, observing, tactical communications, and most importantly, soldier skills. In conjunction with the Air Force Combat Weather Facility at Hurlburt Field, Fla., the WRC produces a highly-trained warrior, ready for any situation.

So, the next time someone mentions Air Force Weather, don't forget to include the proud warriors of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Employed effectively, the Total Force Air Force Weather team is a force multiplier for any operation.





Col. Frank J. Misciasci Jr.
Air Weather Service
Commander

This is my final column as the Commander of the Air Weather Service. As most of you know, I will retire from the Air Force this summer, and on May 18, that great American, Col. Joe Dushan will assume command of AWS.

I am thrilled that I get to hand over the reigns to Joe — his skill, devotion, and energy are just what's needed to continue and expand on the progress we've made in the past several years as we move Air Force Weather capabilities into the next century, and I'll be cheering him on.

A military career goes by incredibly quickly, and the closer you get to the end of it, the faster it goes. These past two years have been a blur! In this last column, I'd like to offer a few personal "observations":

About our people

The men and women of Air Force Weather, both military and civilian, have always been among the very best that the Air Force has to offer — and the quality of our people is, if anything, even better today!

In the course of my travels, it has been a tremendous source of gratification to observe first hand the talent and

Thanks ...

dedication of our young airmen, NCOs and junior officers. These folks are ready and eager to contribute, and with proper nurturing by effective senior leaders, they will be ready to meet the challenge of keeping Air Force Weather relevant and on the cutting edge of combat force enhancement in the coming years. It is absolutely imperative that our senior officers and NCOs provide the vision and leadership to grow our people.

In the past five years, AFW has been faced with an amazing series of challenges: organizational restructure, AF downsizing, severe budgetary reductions, institution of the single enlisted career ladder, and a complete overhaul of training just to name a few.

We senior leaders didn't always do a stellar job of communicating what was going on with you during these seemingly tumultuous times but you people met these challenges, and because of you folks in the centers and the base weather stations, we have held our own in the face of these seminal changes—now, the challenge is to get better. So—my thanks to every one of you for what you've done, and what you will do in the coming years.

On having a "successful" career

First, let me define a successful career. Rank and longevity have nothing to do with it! Surprised? Don't be. I define a successful career as honorably and faithfully discharging the oath that we took when we enlisted, or were commissioned, for the period of time that we signed on for—period.

Yes, there are other trappings that come with increasing lengths of service—increased pay, increased rank—neat jobs, but when I started out in the AF 26 years ago, I didn't plan on a career in the military and I didn't worry overmuch about managing my "career." I'll let you in on a little secret—in my case, my "success" was pure luck! Just

ask anyone that knows me!

The luck in my case is first, having had absolutely outstanding people that I worked for, worked along side of, and had working for me over the years. Their talents made me look good. Second, every job I had in 26 years just happened to be the best job in the Air Force.

Someone once described luck as what happens when preparation meets opportunity. Every job we have in AFW represents opportunity. Prepare yourself to meet increased challenge — study our craft — do PME — expand technically — learn from your leaders. Then, when opportunity presents itself — give 100 percent — you will succeed (P.S.- remember, nobody can give more than 100 percent.) Be honest with yourself. If you don't love our profession, you need to do something else. You can't succeed if your heart isn't in it. Be true to yourself. Don't try to be something you're not! As Popeye says, "I yam what I yam!" Build on your strengths and work on your weaknesses, but don't change your personality — if you try, you won't be happy, and if you're not happy, you won't succeed.

Finally, and most importantly, if you are married, be true to your family. You may retire from the military some day, but you marry and have children for life! Keep your family foremost —their love and support is essential for personal success.

I'd like to go on but I can't bust SSgt. Elliott's budget, so let me say **THANKS** — to all of you who have worked with me over the years, those of you who have rolled up your sleeves and pitched in to make AFW work — those of you who have stood tall as members of the world's finest Air Force — and you are legion.

I've had a wonderful ride, and Sue and I will always treasure the friendship, camaraderie and memories that the Air Force has given us.

So — keep the faith and get amongst 'em! — be seen' ya!

AFW assignments

You never know what you'll get

CMSgt. Jim Hoy

**Air Force Weather
Senior Enlisted Advisor**

Last week I went to see the movie, *Forrest Gump*, and among the immortal truths I remember are the lines about life and a box of chocolates. While I'm sure I don't have the words exactly right, it goes something like this, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."

What's that got to do with an article in the *OBSERVER*? Well, 25 years ago or so, I arrived at my first duty station, Hurlburt Field, Fla. I was assigned to the base weather station. At the time, there was a separate weather detachment on Hurlburt, a group of airborne weathermen, all parachutists, or, as we called them, "snake-eaters."

Why would anyone want to jump out of perfectly good airplanes! Only two things fall out of the sky ... one comes from birds and the other are fools. I didn't see myself in either of those categories. And besides, I learned early that you don't volunteer for anything, and jumping out of airplanes was only for volunteers.

Five months later I was at Fort Benning, Ga. (attending is not quite the right word, participating is closer but doesn't describe the full measure of misery), participating in the basic parachutist course. I can't say what prompted me to jump out of "perfectly good airplanes" — at the time it may have been the size 12 boot, but about 25 years later I wouldn't trade the memories, camaraderie, or friends. As

a matter of fact, I met my wife as a result of jumping out of airplanes, and she even went through the ground school for sport parachuting.

"Life is like a box of chocolates..."

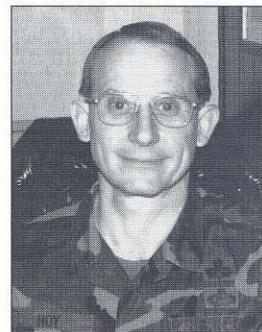
The tradition of the airborne, particularly weather airborne, includes participation in nearly every U.S. military operation: World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and DESERT STORM.

The Air Force Observer of the Year Award is named after SSgt. Robert A. Dodson, who jumped with the 82nd Airborne Division behind the beaches in France at 0230L, June 6, 1944. Sgt. Charlie Staub had parachuted an hour and a half earlier with the 101st Airborne Division into Normandy. To quote the book, *Thor's Legions* by John Fuller, "In early 1944, eleven 19th Weather Squadron officers and 16 enlisted men were specially trained to parachute into German-occupied Yugoslavia to radio out weather reports to support bombing missions from North Africa..."

A note from the book says, "Volunteers were called for, and the response far exceeded the need. After careful ... screening, the initial training began ... The complement was then moved to Bari, Italy, for the flight to Yugoslavia."

"Life is like a box of chocolates..."

So the moral of this story is—AIR FORCE WEATHER NEEDS YOU! CMSgt. Tom Klumb, PALACE WEATHER at the Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFMPC) sent out an urgent call for volunteers for parachute duty. It seems that we're only 50 percent manned to support organizations like the 82nd Airborne Di-



vision, the U.S. Army Special Forces and Rangers, and U.S. Air Force Special Operations Forces. Who can volunteer? Weather observers and forecasters who meet the minimum requirements to PCS to a unit with parachutist position, and meet the medical and physical standards to attend the U.S. Army Airborne Parachutist Course. The standards are listed in Air Force Catalog 36-2223, USAF Formal Schools Catalog.

While some would highlight the esprit de corps, the special training to participate in special operations, or even the additional pay, there is one unyielding fact. Each parachutist is first and must remain a proficient observer or forecaster. The job is to provide weather information to enhance military operations, and the parachute is just a way to get to work.

If you'd like to volunteer, or just get a few more facts, give me a call, call one of the units that have parachutist positions, like Fort Bragg, or call PALACE WEATHER at AFMPC. My number is DSN 224-7410, or E-Mail "jhoy@pafosu3.hq.af.mil".

Remember, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you'll get" until you volunteer.

FORECAST CHALLENGE '95

For the second time in as many years, the best forecasters in the Air Force got together to test their skill at FORECAST

CHALLENGE '95, held at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Mar. 6-10, 1995.

Last month's OBSERVER detailed which teams won what

awards. This month, photos taken during the competition are featured.

Once again, congratulations to all the winners and to all the team members and support staff who made this second Weather Forecasting Competition a success.



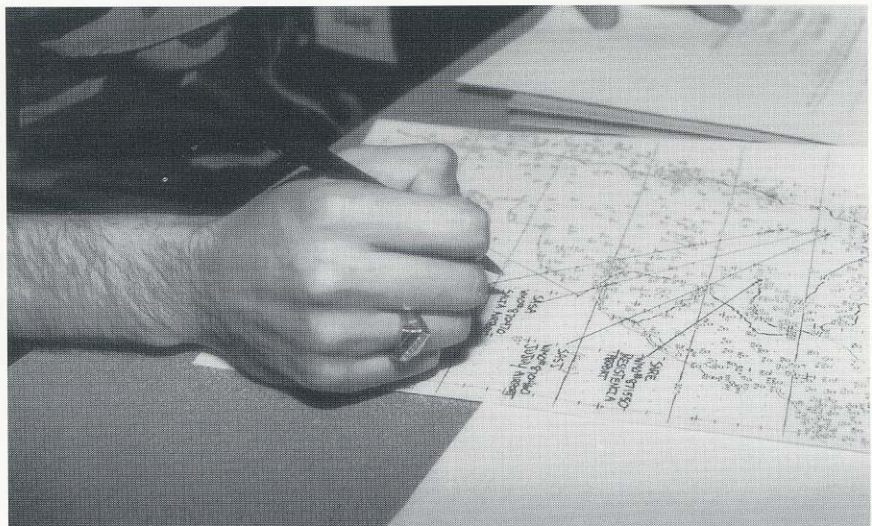
Below: TSgt. John D. Sumption (Air Force Reserve, Ellsworth AFB, S.C.) studies a computer report.



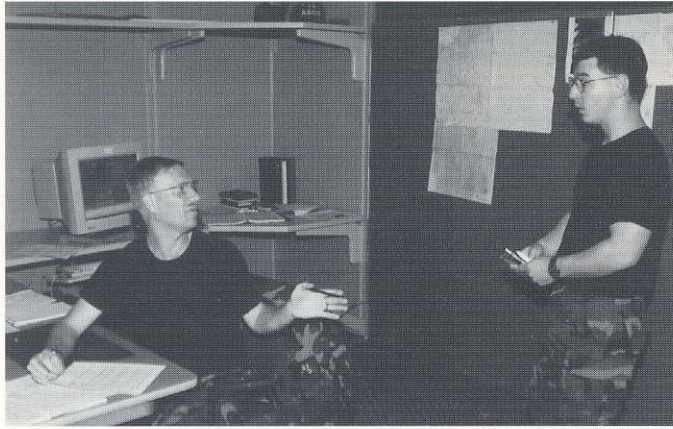
Above: The overall winners from USAFE, TSgt. Alfredo Dominguez III (Ramstein AB, Germany) and SSgt. Dennis B. Ramsdell (Giebelstadt AB, Germany) show the concentration that won the competition.



AMC team members SSgt. Joseph B. Burge (Scott AFB, Ill.) and SSgt. Clause D. Tranter (Dover AFB, Del.). This was Burge's second trip to Forecast Challenge.



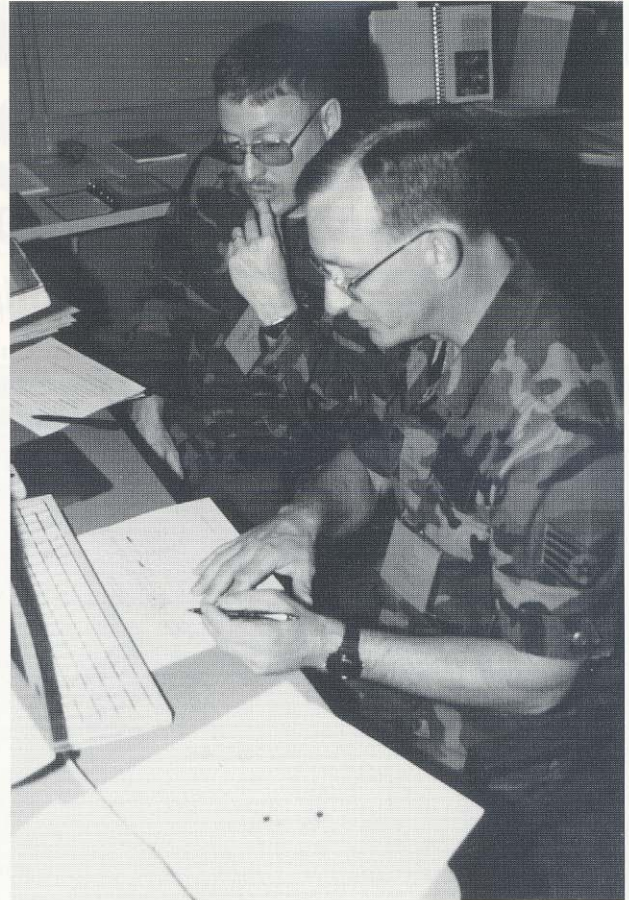
Checking the charts.



ACC (Army Support) team members SSgt. Barry J. Hunte and Sgt. Carlos A. Delanuez, Hunter AAF, Ga., discuss strategy.



A change in plans: TSgt. Mark E. Anderson (right, checking watch) announces a last-minute schedule change to the competition.



SSgt. Randall E. Ritchie (Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio) and SSgt. Robert E. Curry (Eglin AFB, Fla.) teamed up as the AFMC entry at Forecast Challenge '95.

**All Photos by SSgt. Steve Elliott,
NCOIC, Air Weather Service Public Affairs**



Air National Guard team member TSgt. Nelson W. Lee (Ellington ANGB, Texas)



ACC team member SrA. Tricia A. Oleksa (Howard AFB, Panama) hits the charts.

Flight Commanders

A golden career opportunity

Capt Tim Hutchison
Air Weather Service
Chief of Personnel

In last several months, I've discussed the values and opportunities for obtaining advanced academic degrees (AAD) in the atmospheric sciences, as well as the vast spectrum of job opportunities that open up to the AAD-holding officer. Many officers choose to obtain their degree in their mid-senior captain years, i.e., 6-10 years.



However, there is another tremendous opportunity out there during these same years ... being the commander of a base weather station.

Now I know, many have already started to argue "We don't have commanders anymore!" Without getting caught up in the nomenclature of the "leader" of the base weather station, this month's column will concentrate on, for simplicity's sake, the weather flight commander.

Air Force weather has almost unsurpassed opportunities for the mid-senior level captain to "be in charge". As you know, when AF Weather reorganized, the BWS moved under the wing they support. The officer-in-charge was no longer the detachment commander, but was now the commander of the weather flight or FLTCO (falling under the Operational Support and ALO Squadron).

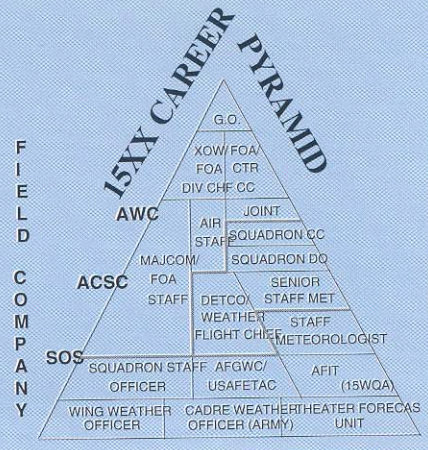
With the exception of the Army commanders, FLTCOs lost the A-prefix, Uniform Code of Military Justice authority, as well as a certain degree of autonomy as the commander of a ten-

ant weather unit, who's only parent organization may have been half a country away. After the reorganization, the BWS gained a local support network which was previously unavailable — a tremendous help to the BWS previously far removed from its parent weather squadron and wing. Previously, the BWS was integral in all of their customer operations, and now they belong to the customer and truly are a part of wing, brigade, division, etc.

The FLTCO has tremendous opportunities due to the leadership role he or she has been put in. I've heard many say "it isn't what it used to be, since we don't have the A-prefix anymore". Wrong. Selection board feedback indicates that it is the level of responsibility, the signs of strong leadership that get an officer promoted and mark them for future leadership positions. I doubt, very seriously, that decisions are made based on the presence or absence of an "A" before the AFSC.

Being a FLTCO shows you have been given the job of leading a 15-person unit (often larger), comprised of officers, enlisted and civilians; ensuring it was trained and ready to support your customer in wartime; learning your customer, their particular missions, weapons and strategies; and tailoring your support to meet their needs. I think that says a lot more than whether or not the job carries an A-prefix or not.

As the weather flight commander, your focus is simple—prepare your unit to support the customer in wartime. As a commander, you are probably the most educated in meteorology,



so directing and ensuring technical health is your responsibility. With technology racing at an exponential pace, you are the "expert" meteorologist—the individual most able to sift through the rapidly advancing technologies and forecast techniques and insert them into your weather station. Challenge your people to excellence and accept nothing less.

Many officers, whether due to the obtaining of an advanced degree through AFIT, or just plain old "bad timing" may not have the opportunity in their captain years to be a flight commander.

Kiss of death? No! While being a commander provides unique opportunities to lead and motivate, those same characteristics can be exhibited as a branch chief of 8-10 people at one of the centers, HQ AWS, major command staffs, etc. The bottom line is that their isn't one "fail-safe" career path for the officer, weather or otherwise, except to gain experience through a variety of jobs, progress to increasing levels of responsibility and, of course, do your very best in the job you have today.

If you have specific career questions, contact me and I'll either answer them in future columns or call you back. Capt. Tim Hutchison, HQ Air Weather Service, Chief of Personnel (AWS/RMP), 102 West Losey St., Rm. 105, Scott AFB IL 62225-5206 or DSN 576-4895, ext 344. You can also contact me through electronic mail at "Hutch@hqaws.safb.af.mil".



AWS Quality

Succeeding With The Continuous Improvement Process

Earl P. Wilsing
Air Weather Service
Quality Advisor

The ultimate goal for integrating quality principles into our daily operations is to do things better and smarter.

Too often, we make the jump from a potential improvement opportunity to the "obvious" solution without basing our decisions on facts.

The Quality Air Force (QAF) continuous improvement process (CIP) is a logical, fact-based approach to solving problems and creating value-added process improvement. Here are the basic steps of the QAF CIP:

Step 1: Identify Improvement Opportunity

Select the appropriate process for improvement. Make the selection based on the organization's plans, priorities and data. Make sure the improvement team understands why the process was selected and how the improvement effort supports the organization's goals.

Step 2: Evaluate the Process

Select a challenge/problem and set a target for improvement. Often an improvement team charter will specify a broad improvement area which must be synthesized down to specifics. Collect/interpret data to help focus the scope of the improvement effort.

Step 3: Analyze

Identify and verify the root cause or causes. Focus on the root cause of the problem, not the symptoms. Select the root cause with the greatest probable impact. Use data to verify root causes.

Step 4: Take Action

Plan and implement actions that correct the root cause (or causes). Are proposed solutions effective? Feasible? Cost effective? Choose the best course of action and develop an implementation plan. Implement the plan.

Step 5: Study Results

Confirm the actions taken achieved the target. Use the measurements that identified the improvement opportunity to study the results of your efforts.

Step 6: Standardize Solution

Maintain the improved level of performance. Integrate verified improvement efforts into daily operations. Revise procedures and provide training. Share successes with other organizations. Establish periodic review points for the future.

Step 7: Plan for the Future

Plan what to do with remaining problems and evaluate the team's effectiveness. Analyze and evaluate remaining problems. Plan future actions. Evaluate team effectiveness for successes and areas to improve.

The steps and procedures contained in the QAF CIP model are not a new way of thinking. Successful managers and workers have been using similar models for decades. This model provides you with a scientific, fact-based guide to help solve problems and create value-added process improvement. It is up to you to use it.

Having trouble with a particular quality tool or technique? You're probably not alone. Let us know if there are any Quality-related topics you would like to see tackled in future issues. Tell us what you think. Contact Earl P. Wilsing at: HQ AWS/RMX, DSN 576-5654, ext. 297 or by E-Mail: "WILSING@HQAWS.SAFB.AF.MIL"



AIR FORCE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MSgt. David H. Diskell, 20th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Drum AIN, N.Y.
 Maj. Bil I. Greg, 89th OSS/OSW, Andrews AFB, Md.
 TSgt. Arlen D. Lewis, Headquarters Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, Ill.
 TSgt. Mike McAleenan, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
 MSgt. Paul F. Leidig, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
 Capt. Mark T. Kramer, 2nd Weather Flight, Ft. McPherson, Ga.
 Lt. Col. Blaine K. Tsugawa, 10th WF, Air National Guard
 MSgt. Eric J. Kowalski, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 SMSgt. Benton E. Holden III, Det. 2, 607th WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster)
 MSgt. N.Eal Roll, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 Maj. Edward L. Weniger, HQ Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb. (1st OLC)
 Maj. Thomas J. Ling, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb. (2nd OLC)
 MSgt. Robert D. Campbell, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb. (3rd OLC)
 MSgt. Daniel Taylor, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.



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SSgt. Randy J. Elie, 89th OSS/OSW, Andrews AFB, Md.
 MSgt. Victoria L. Edwards, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 TSgt. Dennis B. Flanagan, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SSgt. Lawrence McCoy, Jr., 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SSgt. Scott J. Johnson, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 TSgt. Donald P. Baldauf, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster)
 TSgt. Doug Rishel, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
 TSgt. Mike Nelson, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
 TSgt. Bill Dennis, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.
 SSgt. Kevin O. Johnson, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
 TSgt. Terri L. Ortegon, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 SSgt. Troy R. Marshall, Det. 2, 607th WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea (1st OLC)
 MSgt. John T. Gamash, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 TSgt. Thomas A. Hoffman, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 2nd Lt. Robert A. Sylvester, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 MSgt. Gary S. Keith, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 TSgt. Doretta D. Johnson, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. William E. Zook, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. Victor Corriolo, Det. 7, HQ AFGWC, Tinker AFB, Okla.
 SrA. Dawn C. O'Neill, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Col. William J. Drzal, Air National Guard Assistant to Air Force Director of Weather
 SSgt. Eric D. Friedrich, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SrA. Keith C. Hubbard, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
 SSgt. John A. Carroll, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (1st OLC)
 SrA. Richard A. Cumbo, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SrA. Carter F. Wirtz, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SSgt. Susan L. Bowers, 15th ASOS, Hunter AAF, Ga.
 1st Lt. James C. Parsons, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

JOINT FORCES ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SSgt. Ronald B. Sharp, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 SSgt. Michael G. Chilcott, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SrA. Shelly A. Inda, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.



AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SrA. Richard C. Custer, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SrA. Kimberly J. Lester, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SrA. Richard J. Wells, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 TSgt. Renwick W. Brannon, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
 SSgt. Wesley G. Fillmore, ACC AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.
 SrA. Lowell R. Ivy, 200th WF, ANG
 SrA. Beate Kinzel, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 SrA. Michael S. Albanese, OL-A, Det. 1, 607th WS, Camp Stanley, Korea
 SrA. Pamela D. Peyton, OL-A, Det. 1, 607th WS, Camp Stanley, Korea

SrA. Bruce A. Bennett, OL-A, Det. 1, 607th WS, Camp Stanley, Korea
 SrA. Paul S. Casadevall, Det. 2, 607th WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea (1st OLC)
 SrA. James C. Smith, Det. 2, 607th WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea
 MSgt. John W. Underwood, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 SSgt. Michael E. Williams, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 SrA. Elizabeth A. Garcia, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SrA. James K. Davison, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TSgt. Harvey Kislow, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SSgt. Daryl W. Kirby, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SSgt. Richard A. Fricot, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 A1C Rebecca L. Sandmann, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 2nd Lt. Steven N. Dickerson, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SSgt. John W. Lindfors, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SrA. Frank Acevedo, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (1st OLC)
 SrA. Stephen M. Strait, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (1st OLC)
 A1C Marlin C. Verasamy, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

Capt. Jon E. Lundberg, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 1st Lt. Jeffrey E. Lancero, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 MSgt. David H. Driskell, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 TSgt. Harvey Kislow, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 TSgt. Philip D. Poyner, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SSgt. Daryl W. Kirby, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SSgt. Heidi J. Frost, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SSgt. Richard A. Fricot, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SSgt. Daniel H. Byrd, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. Todd P. Lericos, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. Suzanne F. Miller, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. Shannon D. Miller, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. Raul C. Mananquil, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. David W. Gorden, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. Robert A. Mullin, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 SrA. Allen R. Clay, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 A1C Brian D. Bushnell, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 A1C Rickie D. Davis, Jr., Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 A1C Preston L. Gibson, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 A1C Rebecca L. Sandmann, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 A1C Dana E. Savary, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 Capt. Andrew E. Reeder, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SSgt. Charles F. Wood, Jr., 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SSgt. John A. Carroll, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SrA. Carter F. Wirtz, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SrA. Stephen M. Strait, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 A1C Marlin C. Verasamy, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 A1C Darren D. Benston, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.



AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SrA. Michael Weiss, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan
 SrA. Richard C. Custer, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SrA. Kimberly J. Lester, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea
 SSgt. Rodney J. Hull, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 SrA. Amber K. Martinez, 15th ASOS, Ft. Stewart AIN, Ga.
 TSgt. Richard T. Kocinski, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 SSgt. Michael E. Williams, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 SSgt. Thomas S. Mayl, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 SrA. Patrick R. Ashley, Det. 7, HQ AFGWC, Tinker AFB, Okla.
 SrA. Seth R. Farnsley, Det. 7, HQ AFGWC, Tinker AFB, Okla.
 SrA. Johnny E. Whitehead, Det. 7, HQ AFGWC, Tinker AFB, Okla.

AIR FORCE RECOGNITION RIBBON

SSgt. Ronald B. Sharp, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

(Service at 4409th OG/WE, Riyadh AB, Saudi Arabia)

SrA. Melanie J. Prindl, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
 Capt. Kevin L. Witte, ESC/WE, Hanscom AFB, Mass.
 MSgt. Joy L. Harding, U.S.A.F. Environmental Technical Applications Center, Scott AFB, Ill.
 TSgt. David Rivers, Jr., Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. Brad W. Higgins, OL-A, 56th OSS, Gila Bend, Ariz.
 SrA. Kevin A. Coleman, 10th ASOS/ASW, Ft. Riley, Kan.
 SrA. Jeremy R. Reeves, 92nd OSS/OSW, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

(Service at 4404th OSS/OSW, Operation Southern Watch, Dec. 1994-March 1995)

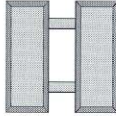
Capt. C. Joanne Radsliff, 9th OSS, Beale AFB, Calif.
 1st Lt. Kimberly J. Castillo, 23rd OSS, Pope AFB, N.C.
 MSgt. Timothy M. Hearn, 4th OSS, Seymour Johnson AFB, S.C.

MSgt. Everett Berry, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. James E. Barton, 3rd WS, Ft. Hood, Texas
 SSgt. Mark A. Gravelle, 30th WS, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
 SSgt. Louis G. Straw, 377th ABW/OTW, Kirtland AFB, N.M.
 SrA. Ernest G. Samuel, Jr., 89th OSS, Andrews AFB, Md.
 SrA. Joey McQuaig, Jr., 15th ASOS, Wright Army Airfield, Ga.
 SrA. Mathew Bollinger, 1st WS, St. Lewis, Wash.
 SrA. William H. Greenwood, 3rd WS, Ft. Sill AIN, Okla.
 A1C Timothy K. Schwader, 71st OSS, Vance AFB, Okla.
 A1C Samuel W. Trotter, 3rd WS, Ft. Hood, Texas

PROMOTIONS



Robert J. Rizza, 92nd OSS/OSW, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



Patrick Rothbauer, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii



Robert L. Gilmore, 156th WF, Air National Guard
 William M. Spaulding, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.



Richard D. Koch, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.



Robert T. Baker, 15th ASOS, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.
 Jane A. Delanuez, 159th WF, ANG
 Valentina McNamara, 146th WF, ANG
 Robert F. Warren, 146th WF, ANG
 Hardy A. Frey, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 Keith E. Wagner, Det. 2, 607th WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea



Keith C. Hubbard, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
 Wesley G. Fillmore, ACC AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.
 Michael A. Griesemer, 110th WF, ANG
 Robert K. Henry, 104th WF, ANG
 Keith L. Roach, 111th WF, ANG
 Jason D. Welsh, 146th WF, ANG



Michael Weiss, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan
 Jeffrey S. McKenna, 156th WF, ANG
 John B. Peple, 200th WF, ANG
 Jason T. Rogers, 181st WF, ANG
 Chales Wildberger, 104th WF, ANG
 Jon P. Contreras, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 Lisette A. Meunier, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 Shannon M. Simon, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.



Dana E. Savary, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 Brian D. Bushnell, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 Keith A. Verdi, 15th ASOS, Hunter AAF, Ga.
 Curtiss K. Akim, 195th WF, ANG
 Christian G. Printup, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 Emili A. Drennon, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.
 Timothy D. Foss, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 Justin C. Alcorn, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.



Brady L. Spiczka, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
 David B. Greer, 156th WF, ANG
 Joan E. Deeley, 412th OSS/OSW, Edwards AFB, Calif.

REENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Rodney D. Jones, OL-A, 18th WS, Ft. Belvoir, Va.
 SSgt. Carlton W. Hatfield, OL-A, 18th WS, Ft. Belvoir, Va.
 SSgt. Teddy J. Wykle, Jr., OL-A, 18th WS, Ft. Belvoir, Va.
 TSgt. Christopher M. Rambali, 2nd WF, Ft. McPherson, Ga.

SEPARATIONS

Capt. Mark T. Kramer, 2nd WF, Ft. McPherson, Ga.

RETIREMENTS

Lt. Col. Joe D. Elms, 156th WF, ANG

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

ARRIVING

SSgt. Eric Garcia, from Nellis AFB, Nev., to Yokota AB, Japan
 SrA. Mark Ayres, from Keesler AFB, Miss., to Yokota AB, Japan
 1st Lt. Todd McNamara, from Castle AFB, Calif., to HQ AMC/DOWX, Scott AFB, Ill.

DEPARTING

TSgt. Tafft Davis, Yokota AB, Japan, to Falcon AFB, Colo.
 TSgt. Alvin Hill, Yokota AB, Japan, to RAF Lakenheath, U.K.
 Capt. Richard A. Carpenter, Langley AFB, Va., to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
 1st Lt. Layne E. Kasper, Langley AFB, Va., to Laughlin AFB, Texas

AWARDS

Outstanding Air Mobility Command Civilian, Weather Operations Support -- 1994

Alan Zahnle, 89th OSS/OSW, Andrews AFB, Md.
 HQ AMC/DO Civilian of the Quarter -- Jan.-March 1995
 Robert E. Miller, Scott AFB, Ill.

AMC NCO Of The Year, Weather Operations Support

TSgt. David W. Oetting, 92nd OSS/OSW, Fairchild AFB, Wash.
 15th Air Base Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year - 4th Qtr., and
 15th OSS Company Grade Officer of the Year - Hickam AFB, Hawaii
 Capt. Lucy Lee

Pacific Air Forces BEST Award -- 1994

Capt. (then 1st Lt.) Patrick Rothbauer, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
 15th OSS/OSW NCO of the Year -- Hickam AFB, Hawaii

TSgt. Jeff J. Briggs

15th OSS/OSW Airman of the Quarter (1st Qtr., 1995) -- Hickam AFB, Hawaii

SrA. Keith C. Hubbard
 HQ ACC/DO Senior NCO of the Quarter (1st Qtr., 1995) -- Langley AFB, Va.

MSgt. D. Robbie Robinson
 437th Operations Group NCO of the Quarter -- Charleston AFB, S.C.

TSgt. Thomas C. Balsoma

437th OG NCO of the Year -- Charleston AFB, S.C.

TSgt. Jerry L. Scholl

Charleston AFB Airman Leadership School -- John L. Levitow Honor Graduate

SrA. Carrie D. Roberts
 FORSCOM Intelligence Soldier of the Month
 Maj. Kevin D. Scasny, 2nd WF, Ft. McPherson, Ga.
 Collens Award (Tactical Category) - ANG
 146th WF, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Collens Award (Non-Tactical Category) - ANG

121st WF, Andrews AFB, Md.

Texas State Award - ANG

SSgt. Larry D. Beck, 181st WF, ANG

131st Airman of the Year - ANG

SrA. James T. Jyz

412th OSS Senior NCO of the Year -- Edwards AFB, Calif.

MSgt. Eric J. Kowalski

Headquarters Pacific Air Forces Weather Senior NCO of the Year -- 1994

MSgt. John W. Underwood, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

HQ PACAF Outstanding Weather Forecaster -- 1994

SSgt. Ronald B. Sharp, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

11th Air Force Senior NCO of the Year -- 1994

MSgt. John W. Underwood, 611th OSS/AFU, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Continuing Studies in Psychology

MSgt. Victoria L. Edwards, 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea

Officer Training School Distinguished Graduate

2nd Lt. Mark Hidalgo, 15th OSS/OSW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

WSR-88D Operator/Manager Course

2nd Lt. Steven M. Callis, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

TSgt. Jerry L. Scholl, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Community College of the Air Force -- Associates Degree in Weather Technology

SrA. John E. Rhoden, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Weather Technician Course Graduate

SrA. Jeffrey W. Renfrow, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Weather Satellite and Photo Interpretation Course Graduate

SrA. Jeffrey W. Renfrow, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Tropical Weather Course Graduate

SrA. John E. Rhoden, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Four-Year ROTC Scholarship, Creighton University, Neb.(For Nursing)

SrA. Shelly A. Inda, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Two-Year ROTC Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Omaha

SrA. Scott P. Marchek, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

CDC Pacesetter Award - Communications Computer Systems Programming Specialist (3C052)

SrA. Debra L. Erkkila, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.



Air Force Materiel Command

MISSION

To develop, deliver and sustain the best products for the world's best Air Force.



The Air Force Materiel Command equips the Air Force with the best weapons systems through “cradle-to-grave” management of U.S. Air Force systems and technologies.

To satisfy our Integrated Weapons System Management (IWSM) philosophy, AFMC is organized into laboratories for research, product centers for development and acquisition, test centers for test and evaluation, and logistics centers for sustainment. In addition, AFMC retains management responsibility for some “retired” systems (e.g., aircraft, missiles) at Davis-Monthan AFB. AFMC weather personnel play a role in almost every aspect of IWSM.

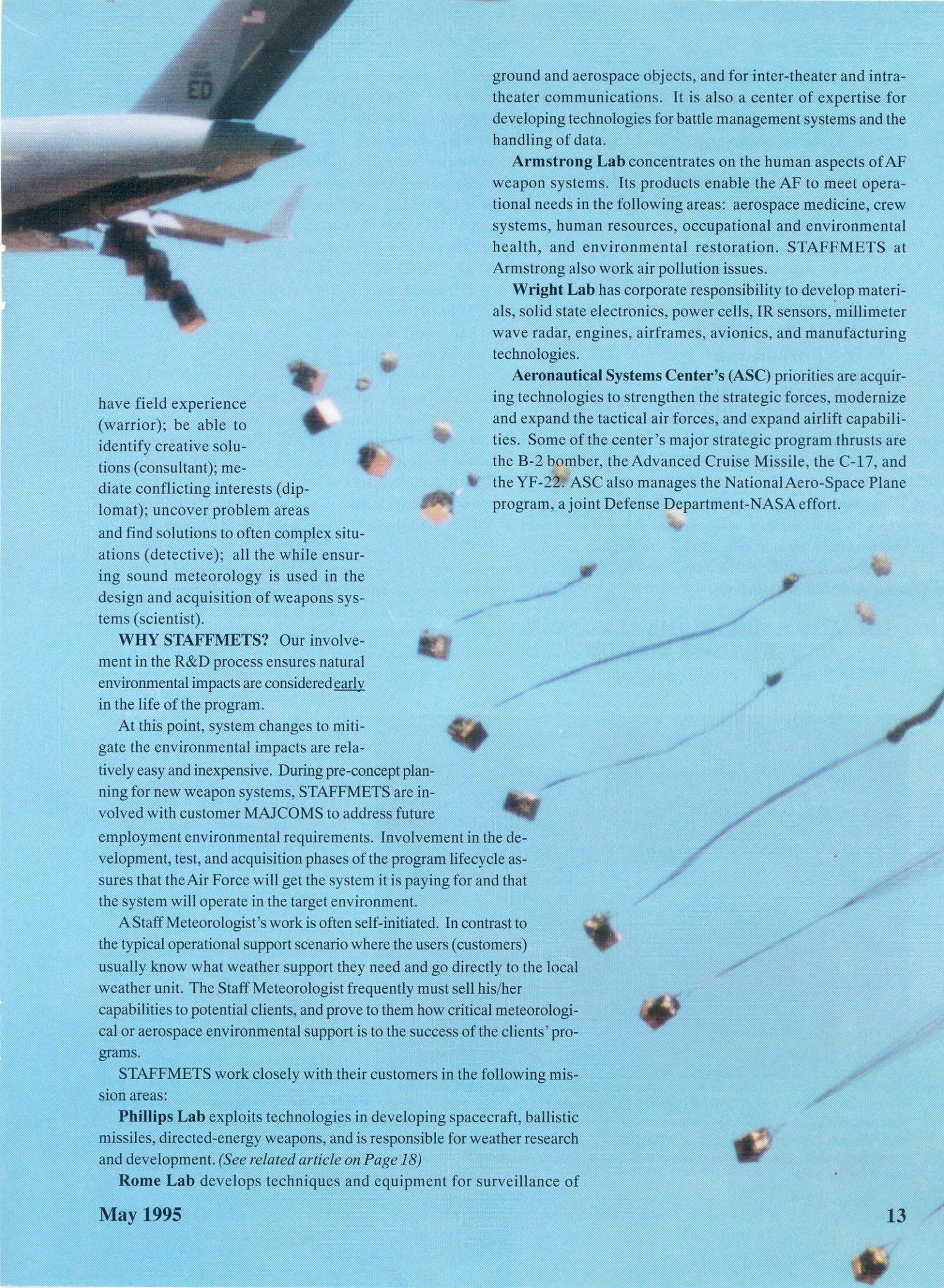
WHO WE ARE. Air Force Materiel Command weather forces are forged from the post-Air Weather Service divestiture of manpower and assets previously belonging to Air Force Systems Command and Air Force Logistics Command. As one MAJCOM weather staffer put it, “...we’re the cats-and-dogs command.”

Not only do AFW personnel provide support to research & development, test & evaluation, and acquisition (STAFFMETS), but AFMC operates base weather stations in the command. As such, we support not only our own unique airframes (e.g., YF-22), as well as ACC and AMC aircraft, helicopters, deployments, and rotational taskings of all kinds.

ONE SIDE OF THE AFMC COIN STAFFMETS

The brief definition of an AFMC Staff Meteorologist: A warrior, a consultant, a diplomat, a detective, and a scientist all rolled into one.

The STAFFMETS function as part of the AFMC acquisition team — in a lab, a product center, or at a test range — to ensure the weapons systems delivered to the war fighters are the absolute best available. Staff meteorologists must



have field experience (warrior); be able to identify creative solutions (consultant); mediate conflicting interests (diplomat); uncover problem areas and find solutions to often complex situations (detective); all the while ensuring sound meteorology is used in the design and acquisition of weapons systems (scientist).

WHY STAFFMETS? Our involvement in the R&D process ensures natural environmental impacts are considered early in the life of the program.

At this point, system changes to mitigate the environmental impacts are relatively easy and inexpensive. During pre-concept planning for new weapon systems, STAFFMETS are involved with customer MAJCOMS to address future employment environmental requirements. Involvement in the development, test, and acquisition phases of the program lifecycle assures that the Air Force will get the system it is paying for and that the system will operate in the target environment.

A Staff Meteorologist's work is often self-initiated. In contrast to the typical operational support scenario where the users (customers) usually know what weather support they need and go directly to the local weather unit. The Staff Meteorologist frequently must sell his/her capabilities to potential clients, and prove to them how critical meteorological or aerospace environmental support is to the success of the clients' programs.

STAFFMETS work closely with their customers in the following mission areas:

Phillips Lab exploits technologies in developing spacecraft, ballistic missiles, directed-energy weapons, and is responsible for weather research and development. *(See related article on Page 18)*

Rome Lab develops techniques and equipment for surveillance of

ground and aerospace objects, and for inter-theater and intra-theater communications. It is also a center of expertise for developing technologies for battle management systems and the handling of data.

Armstrong Lab concentrates on the human aspects of AF weapon systems. Its products enable the AF to meet operational needs in the following areas: aerospace medicine, crew systems, human resources, occupational and environmental health, and environmental restoration. STAFFMETS at Armstrong also work air pollution issues.

Wright Lab has corporate responsibility to develop materials, solid state electronics, power cells, IR sensors, millimeter wave radar, engines, airframes, avionics, and manufacturing technologies.

Aeronautical Systems Center's (ASC) priorities are acquiring technologies to strengthen the strategic forces, modernize and expand the tactical air forces, and expand airlift capabilities. Some of the center's major strategic program thrusts are the B-2 bomber, the Advanced Cruise Missile, the C-17, and the YF-22. ASC also manages the National Aero-Space Plane program, a joint Defense Department-NASA effort.

Electronic Systems Center (ESC) develops and acquires systems combining computers, radars, information displays, and communications gear. For example, mission planning systems, the Airborne Warning and Control System, the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command Center in Cheyenne Mountain.

Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), logically enough, designs and acquires space and missile systems. After launch, the center completes satellite on-orbit check-outs before turning the assets over to other federal space agencies. STAFFMETS also work at SMC's operating location in Onizuka AFB, Calif.

Air Force Development Test Center (AFDTC) is responsible for the complete munitions life cycle. Managed by the 46th Test Wing, tests on Eglin AFB's ranges include aircraft systems, missiles, guns, bombs, rockets, targets and drones, high-powered radar, and airborne electronic countermeasures equipment. In addition, the 46th Test Group at Holloman AFB, N.M., operates a rocket-sled test track.

Air Force Flight Test Center (AFFTC) tests improvements to radar weapons delivery and navigation systems, evaluates new aircraft and upgrades to aircraft already in the inventory for Air Force units, the DOD, NASA, and other government agencies.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AFMC COIN **BASE WEATHER STATION**

WHAT 9-to-5 JOB? AFMC weather units support the



Capt. Ron Lee (center), program manager for Improved Precision Airdrop Capability, a Wright Lab program, assists Giovanni Pagan (left), lead engineer, and Capt. Steve Fiorino, staff meteorologist, in performing a functionality check of the GPSonde. The check ensures the unit is properly transmitting its GPS and meteorological data to a receiver on board the aircraft. The computer monitored by Pagan gathers and processes data transmitted by the sonde.

war fighter from Ecuador and Honduras to Norway and Italy, and on to Southwest Asia. Our personnel directly support the theater CINC's missions by providing support to ACC or AMC operational resources. AFMC weather units are numbered among the warfighters, and are well trained and equipped to support these missions. AFMC units logged over 1,900 TDY man-days in 1994 in support of these and other TDYs. AFMC units stand ready! (Even STAFFMETS are allowed to go on these adventures.)

AFW AND IWSM

If "routine" Base Weather Station support and "routine" STAFFMET support weren't enough, AFMC's participation in improving "day-to-day" weather support starts at the Air Force's Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). Our weather officer at AFOSR acts as a science sponsor and "broker" for weather research. AFOSR provides funding to both science performers and for those transitioning the technology to customers. The ultimate goal is to advance the science. The meteorology focus currently cuts across the fields of atmospheric dynamics, remote sensing, cloud physics, and atmospheric electrification.

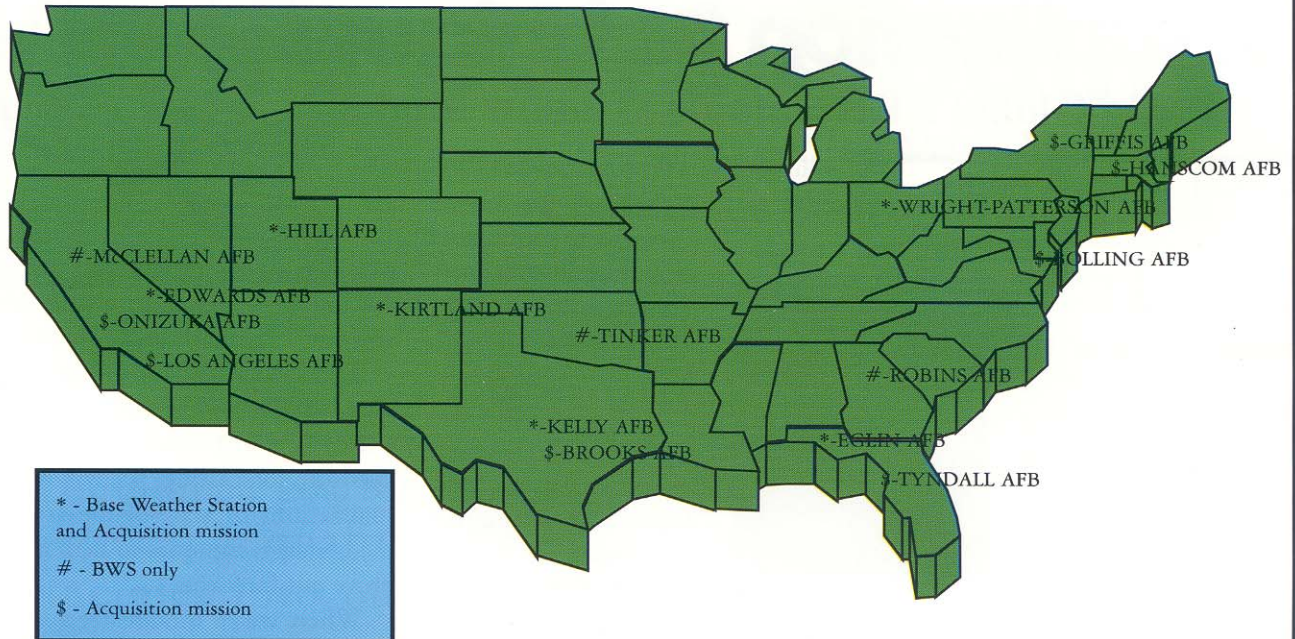
The Geophysics Directorate (at Hanscom AFB) of Phillips Laboratory conducts research to further Air Force understanding of the environment between the Earth and the sun, and its effects on systems and operations. AFOSR provides some of the research funding for the Geophysics Directorate work in meteorology, and ionospheric and optical atmospheric effects study areas. The Geophysics Directorate also investigates AFW high-interest areas, for example, tactical decision aids and contrails.

Of particular direct interest to the Air Force Weather community is the AFMC Weather Systems Program Office (SPO) at ESC. This SPO is responsible for acquiring weather systems to meet AFW requirements. Additionally, under the IWSM concept, the System Support Manager at Sacramento-Air Logistics Center is directly responsible to the program office for ensuring logistics support is considered during the lifecycle of all programs, and for providing logistics support to selected weather systems.

There you have it — in a nutshell— AFMC Weather. As you may have discovered by this point, AFMC weather has a little bit of everything. In fact, you might think of us as a miniature version of AFW — we really do it all.

(Editor's note: Information gathered by AFMC Weather and all photos courtesy of AFMC Weather.)

Air Force Materiel Command Weather Units



WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT OUR UNITS?

EDWARDS AFB, CALIF.

The 412th OSS/OSW supports the Air Force Flight Test Center in conducting and reporting on developmental flight test and evaluation for AF units, the DoD, NASA, and other government agencies. They furnish weather for the Edwards Flight Test range and the USAF Test Pilot School. Edwards has approximately 150 test and support aircraft of 35 different airframes (B-1, B-2, C-17, F-117, SR-71, F-15, F-16, YF-22, U-2, to name a few). Rocket lab and Space Shuttle support are also priority missions.

EGLIN AFB, FLA.

The 46th Weather Flight, one of only two numbered weather flights in the Air Force, supports the 33rd Fighter Wing's three F-15 squadrons, the Air Force Development Test Center with its complex munitions testing, and the USAF Air Warfare Center with their operational testing of new developments in air combat technology. This unit, one of the most complex around, maintains traditional base weather station support, as well as STAFFMET roles to ASC and other tenant customers. While the mission may be traditional, the vast array of specialized weather support equipment employed is not.

HILL AFB, UTAH

The 75th OSS/OSW provides support to the 388th Fighter Wing, 545th Test Group, and the Ogden Air Logistics Center. The base weather station provides support to the Utah Test Range (UTTR), in particular, for Advanced Air Launched Cruise Missile testing.

KELLY AFB, TEXAS

Home to the San Antonio Air Logistics Center. The 76th OSS/OSW is called upon to support the 433rd Air Wing's (AFRES) C-5's.

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.

The 377th ABW/OTW delivers weather support to the Special Operations Flight Training with their C-130s, HH-53s, and UH-1s.

MCCLELLAN AFB, CALIF.

Home of Sacramento Air Logistics Center. The 77th OSS/OSW supports the 940 Air Group (AFRES) and Coast Guard C-130s in search-and-rescue missions.

ROBINS AFB, GA.

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. The 78th OSS Weather Flight is expanding their mission as they are refining support plans for the new JOINT STARS mission. An additional 20 aircraft will start arriving January 1996. Also in 1996, Robins will begin support for the base's new B1-B mission. Combined with their lead wing air refueling responsibilities, this makes Robins the "Pack Mule" for mobility within the command.

TINKER AFB, OKLA.

The 72nd OSS/OSW is on the hot seat to provide weather support to the 552nd Air Control Wing (AWACS), the Navy's Strategic Communications Wing, the 507th Tactical Fighter Group (AFRES), and the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

The 88th Weather Flight, the other numbered weather flight in the Air Force, at Wright-Patterson is composed of STAFFMETs supporting Wright Lab and the Aeronautical Systems Center, as well, as a base weather station function. The weather flight supports the newly resident National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), and over 15 on-site and off-base reserve component customers.



Visualization techniques

Using Global's Relocatable Window Model

Col. Joseph D. Dushan
Commander

In the last issue of the *OBSERVER*, I described what a great theater forecasting tool we have in the Air Force Global Weather Central Relocatable Window Model (RWM).

Having said that, current hardware constraints limit processing to five of the seven different operational windows during each forecast cycle.

We are pursuing hardware upgrades which will allow us to run a number of windows simultaneously and get them to the field quicker. Expect to see major improvements within a year.

We are using the RWM in combination with workstation technology to develop new techniques for warfighter support. This leads to visualization techniques. The speed and



volume of data flowing into AFGWC today exceeds the capability of the forecaster to process and assimilate it effectively without assistance.

That's why our Product Improvement Branch (DOA) is expending considerable effort developing new display and visualization techniques.

State-of-the-art three- and four-dimensional visualizations of RWM meteorological parameters allow us to assimilate information quicker and look at elements which weren't available before. Using workstations and visualization/animation software, the Product Improvement Branch developed a user-friendly interface for displaying gridded data from the RWM.

For example, forecasters can create a 36-hour animated loop of moisture convergence (e.g., a good indicator for precipitation or thunderstorms); overlay other parameters like the Lifted Index (a tool for diagnosing areas of instability); construct cross-sections along any route for turbulence, icing, winds, etc.; or investigate changes over time for a particular parameter.

The color-enhanced output enables the forecaster to visually synthesize a great amount of data very quickly.

The icing tool and other new RWM techniques are already being used by AFGWC forecasters to improve products sent to the field.

When AFGWC transitioned to SDHS in 1988-89, manual forecast

processes were simply transferred to machines. It is time to change that and take a dramatic step forward.

This spring, a suite of workstation visualizations will be used to evaluate a truly new method for severe thunderstorm forecasting. We will use visualizations of state-of-the-art and theoretical techniques to help us improve our forecasts.

When we've modernized severe forecast methods, we'll address each and every forecast process here. It won't be fast, but it will be certain and we'll do it in conjunction with planned hardware and software modernization programs to reduce impacts to field users.

In the future, we envision widespread deployment of robust, portable workstations to make creative use of new technologies.

On-site production of gridded data analysis tools will be possible, not only at AFGWC, but at base weather stations and in the field during real-time contingency operations. Specialized weather visualizations will also be transmitted directly into the cockpit of combat aircraft for real-time mission enhancement.

In the interim, we will continue to develop techniques to improve centralized products. Additionally, we will use the AFGWC Dial-In Subsystem (AFDIS) to get proven visualization products to front-line users in the field until these visualization capabilities are available on the SHDS and can be shipped out to the field units via AWDS.



Editor's Note: Col. Joseph D. Dushan will assume command of Air Weather Service May 18, 1995, replacing Col. Frank J. Misciasci, Jr., who is retiring.

Col. Jack Hayes, AWS Vice Commander, will assume command of AFGWC.

More about these developments in the June 1995 *OBSERVER*.



What can we do for you?

We're not just 'big, important' projects

Lt. Col. Jud Stailey
Commander

In my past several *OBSERVER* articles I've talked about what we do at ETAC and where we're headed in the future. However, I may have failed to communicate an important capability we value at the center today — RESPONSIVENESS.

Many years ago USAFETAC had a reputation for working only large, "important" projects and taking a long time to finish them. I know that opinion existed because I used to hold it myself when I was in the field. And that reputation discouraged people from asking ETAC for products which they needed for their missions.

Until recently, we thought that was just interesting history. Then we discovered that some people in the field still think ETAC works on only big, important projects. **Let's explode that myth!**

We completed 728 projects last year! We could never have gotten that many large, time-consuming projects done. Over seventy percent of last year's projects required less than 40 man-hours to complete. For those projects, the average elapsed time from validation to completion was less than 10 calendar days.

Obviously, we do work small projects, and we get them done quickly. Just how quickly depends on the priority of the project, our current workload, availability of data and complexity of the project.

Now, let's suppose you have a problem you think climatological information may help you solve. How do you get help? The textbook method is to send us a written request (called a Support Assistance Request, or SAR) using guidance in AFI 15-118. But suppose you're not sure you know exactly what you want or what ETAC can do for you. In that case, give us a call.



Mr. Gilford or MSgt. Ellis in DOO (DSN 576-4024, Comm 618-256-4024) will work with you or refer you to an expert in the particular area in which you need assistance. They will also help you put your SAR together—we need a written request for the work we do, but it doesn't have to be a painful process.

Once we know what you need, we'll set a delivery date. Customers usually specify a particular date by which they need the results.

We complete more than 90 percent of our projects by the date requested by the customer. However, occasionally the level of effort required for a project, its priority, and our workload won't allow us to complete a project on the customer's timeline.

In that case, we'll negotiate a later delivery date. Once we've agreed upon a date, we'll move mountains to meet it. Last year we completed over 98 percent of our projects on time.

We've worked hard to build a new reputation for responsiveness, and we'll work hard for you. If you think ETAC can help you, give us a call.

WSR-88D Data Now Available

Historical WSR-88D (formerly called NEXRAD) data is now available through USAFETAC. Our Operating Location A can acquire the data from the National Climatic Data Center at Asheville, N.C.

Level II data (technical data such as reflectivity, mean radial velocity, and spectrum width) is available at no cost to qualified ETAC customers. Level III data (final products as they appear on a PUP) is available from National Weather Service WSR-88D sites only, and requires prepayment of \$10, per product, for handling. Because of the varying availability of data and costs involved, OL-A recommends that potential requesters contact Pat Giese at DSN 266-3100 (commercial, (704) 271-4216) before submitting a Support Assistance Request for WSR-88D data.

EO Climatology on CD-ROM

USAFETAC will release their "Electro-Optical Climatology" program on CD-ROM in June 1995. The CD version will eventually replace the floppy disk version of the interactive program. This program provides climatology of IR transmittance, along with frequency distributions of weather elements affecting EO weapon performance (precipitation, visibility, ceiling, etc.) for more than 5,800 locations around the world. The floppy disk version of the system required 120 3.5-inch disks of compacted data to cover the sites. The new version will be contained entirely on one CD.

ETAC programmers have also updated the software to run in the Windows environment. The new program is organized similarly to the older DOS program to make it easy for the user to transition, but it also takes full advantage of the Windows graphical interface to simplify use.

Geophysics R&D



A Resource For Air Force Weather

(Editor's note: The XO Directorate (XOX) works closely with Air Force Phillips Lab (AFPL) to solve technology needs for Air Force Weather. The following profile describes PL's mission and programs. If you'd like more detailed articles on any of PL's programs, please write, call or fax the editorial staff.)

The mission of the Air Force Geophysics Directorate of Phillips Lab (PL/GP), located at Hanscom AFB, Mass., is:

To understand, mitigate, or exploit the effects of the air and space environment on Air Force systems.

Scientists from AFPL/GP conduct an integrated research program for Air Force Weather and its operational customers, which addresses atmospheric and space impacts on Air Force operations.

GP focuses research on Air Force and Army warfighting requirements—for example, atmospheric scientists work with optical physicists to combine weather and system sensitivities into decision aids for planning theater operations. GP scientists work with operational forecasters at Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC), the U.S. Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center (USAFETAC), the 50th Weather Squadron, and meteorologists at HQ AWS to enhance the current capabilities to forecast tropospheric and space weather.

PL/GP atmospheric scientists are working with AWS and the Air Force

major commands to improve predictions of contrails in order to enhance the survivability of DoD assets. Research by PL/GP space and ionospheric physicists has led to new models of the "weather" in the very high atmosphere that are important for satellite operations.

In developing its new ongoing programs, GP ensures they are closely-coordinated with the new requirements planning process for Air Force Weather.

Current PL/GP Programs include (periods of work indicate initial deliverable date and follow-on enhancements):

- A relocatable, data-fusion algorithm which will exploit in-theater data sources. It will also provide analysis of post and current observations for the initialization of theater forecast models. The program will be integrated into the Tactical Observing and Forecast System (TOFS) in the late 1990's. (1994-97)

- An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Forecast Model will provide a data-denied, first-in theater forecast capability prior to longline communications setup. It is an expert system approach using observations, geography, topography, climatology, and one and two dimensional NWP models.

The model will provide terminal forecasts (up to 12 hours) of all standard surface weather elements. It will be integrated into TOFS in the late 1990s. (1995-98)

- A next-generation global cloud analysis model to replace AFGWC's Real-Time Nephanalysis Model (RTNEPH) to generate improved cloud analysis and forecasts. (baseline code delivered 1994)

- Night Vision Goggle (NVG) Operations Weather Software to be used by forecasters to predict NVG conditions given lunar, terrestrial, and weather conditions for a specified NVG mission profile. (1995-99)

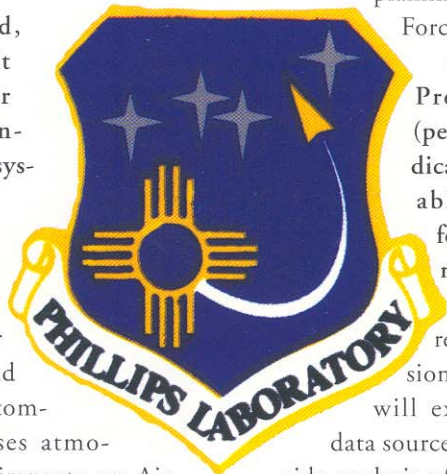
- Global weather applications algorithms to determine clouds, present weather and surface visibility, turbulence and icing, thunderstorm, and other parameters required to support Theater Battle Management (TBM). (1995-98)

- A model which uses real-time data to extrapolate ionospheric conditions globally. (1995)

- An improved ionospheric model which will provide better warning of disruptions to C3I systems. (1996-97)

- A solar model which will provide 1-3 day warning of solar events impacting spacecraft operations. (1995-2001)

- A user-friendly interface to all atmospheric electro-optical background and signature codes. (1996-2001)





What we'll take to war

Tactical Observing and Forecasting System

What tools will weather warriors take to the next war? Over the last couple years we've made significant progress towards enhancing your war fighting capabilities, in spite of losing the funding for the Combat Weather System (CWS).

To overcome this setback, Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon, Air Force Director of Weather, made "First-In Weather Capability" his first priority. As with any budget cut, we reevaluated our priorities and reprogrammed funds from other weather programs. The new program is called Tactical Observing and Forecast System (TOFS).

The first order of business was to obtain a Manual Observing System (MOS). Our Combat Weather Facility had researched some hand-held components based on the concept of updating the old Belt Weather Kit (BWK).

They found commercially available components that met most of the requirements specified for the CWS MOS. The new MOS measures the same elements as the BWK and has digital readouts for temperature/dew point, pressure, and wind speed measurements.

We enhanced the system with a laser range finder to measure cloud bases, and added a global positioning system to determine location. We bought two sets of sensors and tested them at Phillips Laboratory's Weather Test Facility at Otis ANGB and during three COMBAT LIGHTNING training exercises at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The lab specialists and combat students liked what they saw.

When can you expect to use these new tools? With the exception of the laser range finders, we will buy the first 31 sets this summer and another 81 over the next year and a half. We continue to work the funding to obtain

more than the first 112 complete MOS units. The system will come with a case that you can easily carry on and off an aircraft. To complete the TOFS we have a forecast system coming out of development.

The forecast system should look familiar. The budget ax didn't affect the software development for the CWS Tactical Forecast System (TFS). We had subscribed to the goal of training in peacetime as we would go to war.

As such, the TFS developers took

AWDS and other existing weather software and upgraded them to theater battlefield management standards yet retained an AWDS look and feel. Training should be kept to a minimum.

We tried to put all your base weather station functions into a single computer. We added light and climatology programs, Air Force Remote Users' Software, Naval Oceanographic Data Distribution System, and office automation programs.

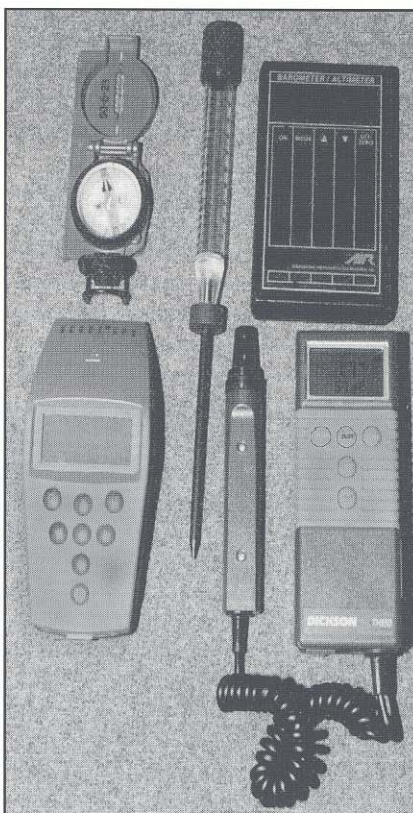
The whole TFS software package will run on a portable/laptop computer with a 10.4-inch screen. You won't have to suffer too much eye strain for the initial stage of combat, since we include a full size monitor you can ship to arrive after the first-in airplanes.

The laptop will drive the full-size monitor and other peripheral equipment. A user review group, consisting of seasoned weather warriors, has ensured the development effort meets your needs.

You can expect to see these powerful forecast workstations in very limited quantities in FY96. In FY97 we will procure 90 for distribution to first-in-weather units.

A preview of TOFS's capabilities will take place at Shaw AFB, S.C., in July 1995. User's will conduct an operational assessment to evaluate their ability to make weather observations, receive weather data via Theater Deployable Communications, and disseminate tailored products to a C4I system.

The MOS and TFS components make up the TOFS. They will meet the primary needs of a highly mobile weather warrior. Future improvements will supplement this much needed capability. For more information contact Maj. George Whicker, HQ AWS/SYDC, DSN 576-3268, ext 312, or E-mail "whicker@hqaws.safb.af.mil".



Digital photo by SSgt. Steve Elliott

THE NEW MANUAL OBSERVING SYSTEM: (Clockwise from upper left) luminous dial compass, rain gauge, barometer, temperature/dew point sensor, Global Positioning System receiver. (Not shown: laser rangefinder)

Towards the future

Meeting tomorrow's communications needs

Col. George Yurchak, Jr.
*Director, Automated
 Communications Systems
 38th Engineering Installation Wing
 Tinker AFB, Okla.*

In an earlier edition of the *OBSERVER*, we told you what the 38th EIW/SD does today to provide communications for weather product distribution.

Ever looking toward the future, we're also planning for tomorrow's communications requirements to meet the ever-increasing amount of real-time weather data needed by the warfighter.

Our first challenge is to develop a communications solution to support those increasing weather requirements now and into the next century.

The next challenge is to get all the weather data to every user in a timely manner. And our final challenge is to lower the recurring costs of how we do business today, getting the most "bang" for the Air Force "buck."

We have contracted Abacus Technology

to provide us a plan to upgrade communications and provide a road map for the future by October 1995.

To design this road map, Abacus Technology and 38th EIW/SD have been busy talking to everyone we can find who knows weather. We've asked them to identify requirements to meet the current needs and future planned and unplanned needs, for tactical and garrison users.

Many ongoing efforts are also in progress to support new requirements and pave the way for the new Weather Communications Architecture. We are involved in assisting the Electronic Systems Center (ESC/AVW) by providing very small aperture terminals (VSAT) satellite communications to distribute weather satellite imagery to the Automated Weather Distribution System (AWDS).

Once in place, the warfighters will have a full suite of weather products in one basket to enhance mission planning. Also, this provides for an initial backbone architecture supporting a single data stream over satellite broadcast.

We are also working the Joint METOC

initiative that shares data between the Fleet Numerical Meteorology Oceanography Center (FNMOC) at Monterey, California and Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC), Offutt AFB, Neb. The data is currently flowing across a 56-kilobit/second circuit from FNMOC to AFGWC.

This circuit will be replaced by Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) service linking the work centers at FNMOC; AFGWC; Naval Oceanography Center (NAVOCEANO) at Stennis Space Center, MS; and National Meteorological Center (NMC) in Washington DC.

ATM is a brand new technology which will allow us to transfer large amounts of data, up to OC-3 rate of 155 megabits/second, under the concept of "bandwidth on demand."

ATM is an emerging service, and will give us communications on the "leading edge of technology."

Our commitment at the 38th EIW/SD is to provide the best methods of communications to carry weather products and data to the warfighter in the farthest corners of the world.



WEATHER WINNERS!

The winners of the 1994 Air Force Weather Awards, as released March 8, were:

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Outstanding Air Force Weather Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Patrick Ludford, 12th OSS/OSW, Randolph AFB, Texas (AETC).

Senior NCO of the Year: MSgt. Robert L. Fuller, 19th ASOS, Ft. Campbell, Ky. (ACC).

NCO of the Year: TSgt. Richard W. Downing, 12th OSS/DOW, Randolph AFB, Texas (AETC).

Airman of the Year: SrA. Gregory S. Schmidt, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan (PACAF).

Civilian of the Year: GS-12 Kim J. Runk, AFGWC/DOA, Offutt AFB, Neb. (AWS).

Outstanding Staff Support (Best Award) Officer Category: Capt. Richard

D. Twigg, HQ AWS/SYD, Scott AFB, Ill. (AWS).

Best Award, Enlisted Category: TSgt. Ronnie P. Caldwell, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan (PACAF).

Best Award, Civilian Category: GS-13 Michael R. Howland, HQ AFGWC/DOX, Offutt AFB, Neb. (AWS).

Outstanding Air Force Weather Forecaster (Pierce Award): TSgt. Paul A. Strickler, AFSOC/ASOS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (AFSOC).

Outstanding AFW Observer (Dodson Award): SrA. Lisa R. O'Conner, 100th OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, U.K. (USAFE).

Most Significant Technical Weather Contribution (Merewether Award): Capt. Carolyn M. Vadnais, Steven Weaver, Capt. Robert G. Hauser, 88th WF, Wright-

Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Best Application of Climatology (Zimmerman Award): Richard A. Woodford, Capt. Chan W. Keith, Capt. Thomas J. Smith, USAFETAC/SYT, Scott AFB, Ill. (AWS).

UNIT AWARDS

Outstanding Base/Post Weather Station (Williams Award): 46th Weather Flight, Eglin AFB, Fla. (AFMC).

Outstanding Specialized Weather Unit (Moorman Award): Tanker Airlift Control Center, Scott AFB, Ill. (AMC).

Outstanding Tactical Weather Unit (Grimes Award): 16th OSS Weather Flight, 16th OSS/OGSW, Hurlburt Field, Fla. (AFSOC).

OBTW

“Oh, By The Way”

Space Information Network (SPIN)

SPIN is a program to investigate the exploitation of the Internet by AFSPC. Within SPIN, a weather team has been formed consisting of representatives of each weather unit in the command. This team, headed by HQ AFSPC/DOOW, will be looking at how the Internet, specifically the World Wide Web (WWW), can be used to enhance weather operations, staff support, briefings, product dissemination, and information flow between weather units.

With such advantages as high transfer rates, easy use, world wide access, versatility among data types and formats (documents, images, sound, video, etc.), the WWW holds promise as an extremely useful tool for many aspects of the weather mission.

To access the experimental SPIN Home Page use the following URL: “<http://www.spacecom.af.mil/default.html>”.

College Credits For NEXRAD Course

The Community College of the Air Force will now award six semester hours of college credit for completion of the National Weather Service WSR-88D Operations Course conducted at Norman, Okla.

This policy applies to all graduates of the NWS course from October 1991 to the present.

Graduates must take a copy of their NWS certificate of completion to the education office at their base. The education office will mail the certificate copy,

along with an AF Form 968 (CCAF registration), requesting accreditation to the member's CCAF records. Make sure the certificate is the NWS certificate, not an Air Force Training Certificate.

Those who graduated from the WSR-88D course at Keesler AFB, Miss., need not take any action. The CCAF will automatically award credit upon completion of the course at that location.

For more information call MSgt. Kline at DSN 576-5731, ext. 238.

AWS Parachutists Reunion at Bragg

There will be a reunion for all AWS parachutists at Fort Bragg, S.C. July 28-30, hosted by the 18th Weather Squadron. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Steven Dickinson at DSN 236-3805/9819/3914 or commercially at (910) 396-3805/9819/3914.

Air Combat Command has WX IMA Vacancies

The Headquarters Air Combat Command Weather Division has several IMA vacancies for staff weather officer and NCO positions in Air Command units.

The vacant positions are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Grade</u>
<i>Pope AFB, N.C.</i>	<i>Major</i>
<i>Langley AFB, Va.</i>	<i>Captain</i>
<i>Beale AFB, Calif.</i>	<i>TSgt.</i>
<i>Hill AFB, Utah</i>	<i>TSgt.</i>
<i>Shaw AFB, S.C.</i>	<i>TSgt.</i>

Substitution to one grade below authorized is permitted.

For more information about these positions and application procedures, call MSgt. Ruch, HQ ACC/DOWRJ at DSN 574-8441, or (804) 764-8441.

News You Can Use

Air Weather Assn. on the Internet

Visit the Air Weather Association's “Buzzard's Nest” home page for more information about the AWA, Air Weather Service, comments from past and present AWS commanders, and much, much more.

To get to the AWA home page, use the following URL: “<http://www.infi.net/~cwt/awa.html>”.

To get to the virtual library and lots of interesting information, use this URL: “<http://www.infi.net/~cwt/index.html>”.

Look SHARP

Have you tried to run your Skew-T/T Hodograph Analysis and Research Program (SHARP) lately?

Many units are finding that upon upgrading their computer or their software that the SHARP program no longer works.

See OBTW, continued on Page 23



Got a hot

tip on how to do something smarter, easier, faster? Why not share it with the rest of your weather bretheren?

Send your submission to the Air Weather Service Public Affairs Office. We'll check it out with our technical folk, and if it looks good, it'll get published in a future OBSERVER, with a credit to you. The AWS/PA address is on page 2.

Here is a trouble shooting guide:

1. The program blows up immediately after choosing option 3.

a. Reload the original program.

2. You get a "DATA NOT FOUND" error after choosing option 3.

a. Check the data path listed in the lower right hand corner. Is it correct? If not, either rerun the install.exe and give it the correct path or rename the subdirectory.

b. If the path is correct you probably have an incompatible DOS SORT.EXE. Copy the DOS SORT.EXE from whatever version of DOS you are working with into the SHARP directory.

c. A missing or empty data (RAOBS) subdirectory may also give you a "data not found" error.

3. You get an error when you display the SKEW-T or the Hodograph. The problem is probably with your mouse.

a. Make sure that the mouse is loaded through your AUTOEXEC.BAT and not through windows.

b. Make sure that the mouse is loaded in LOW MEMORY instead of high.

4. SHARP refuses to accept a RAOB from the SHED.EXE

a. You must first SAVE and then LOAD the data or it will not work.

b. Rename your RAOBS subdirectory data. Rerun INSTALL.EXE to give SHARP the new path.

For more information on SHARP, see FYI # 29. The HQ Air Weather Service contact is MSgt. Susan Reyes-Sauter at DSN 576-4721, ext.504.

WSR-88D

Publications - Do I Have What I Need?

Do you, as an Associated Principle User Processor (APUP) or a Unit Control Position (UCP) operator, have the documents or publications necessary to manage an effective NEXRAD program?

If not, the following is a list materials you might consider obtaining.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS:

-- FMH-11, "Doppler Radar Meteorological Observations", Parts A - D and supplements;

-- "Memorandum of Agreement" for interagency operations of the WSR-88D dated 1990.

These documents are required for UCP locations and highly recommended for APUP sites. They outline your rights and responsibilities as a URC member.

OPERATIONS DOCUMENTS (APUP):

-- Operator Handbook Set - Volumes 1-3;

-- NWS Engineering Handbook (EHB) 6-531 or 60531-1, Build 8 (If you don't have, ask maintenance);

-- Tales from the hotline - Volumes 1-4;

OPERATIONS DOCUMENTS (UCP):

-- NWS EHB 6-521, Operations Instructions UCP, 15 Aug. 92, to include changes through #5, 15 Jan 94;

-- Operator Handbook UCP, Job sheets 25 Oct. 93, to include changes through #2, 19 Apr 94;

-- Guidance on adaptable parameters, Field Support Hotline, 1 Apr. 94;

-- Tales from the hotline - Volumes 1-4.

TRAINING (UCP Operations):

-- UCP on-site training program, 2 Apr. 94.

-- Radar Product Generation UCP on-the-job proficiency check list, Version 2, 24 Mar 94

-- Control Course: UCP and Operating System student guide

If you don't have all the documents listed above or have questions concerning any of the them, contact the Documentation Section at the OSF (405) 366-6540, ext. 3238, and talk to SrA. Jerrod Walker or TSgt. David Chappell at ext. 3243.



Weather Heritage

Got a "war story" you'd like to share with some of the current active duty "youngsters"?

The *OBSERVER* editorial staff is interested in publishing your personal experiences while serving as or with weather specialists in the U.S. Army Signal Corps/U.S. Army Air Forces/U.S. Air Force with the Air Weather Service.

Young -- and not-so-young -- active duty Air Force Weather personnel enjoy meeting and talking with some of their predecessors. We would like to create a forum to share your perspective or personal account of an historical event.

Please keep comments short; a page-and-a-half of double-spaced typing will fill the page.

If you have an interesting, high-quality photo (black and white or color), send it along and we'll send it back after the story is published.

So, if you would like to contribute or for more information, please write, fax, or E-mail the *OBSERVER* at:

HQ AWS/RMA

Attn: SSgt. Steve Elliott

102 W. Losey St., Rm. 105

Scott AFB, IL 62225-5206

FAX: DSN 576-6306/2417;

CMCL (618)256-6306/2417;

Electronic mail:

"elliott@hqaws.safb.af.mil"

The COMET Outreach Program

If you're at an operational Air Force Weather (AFW) unit or one of our weather centrals and you are looking for help solving an operational forecast problem—or if you've been selected to attend AFIT at a civilian university and you are looking for help finding a thesis topic and funding your research—here is an option you might want to consider.

In 1991 Air Weather Service (AWS) joined the National Weather Service in sponsoring the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology (COMET) Outreach Program.

The program provides a mechanism for establishing cooperative partnerships between AFW forecasters and university meteorologists to find solutions to forecasting problems of interest to both partners in the projects. AWS has sponsored successful partnerships between university scientists and an AFW forecaster at Elmendorf AFB, an AFIT graduate student at North Carolina State University, and a HQ AWS staff meteorologist.

All an AFW forecaster or AFIT graduate student needs to successfully participate in this program is a strong interest in working with a university partner to help focus and steer a COMET Outreach project toward a conclusion that benefits the Air Force.

During the past several years, AFIT has developed strong working relationships with the meteorology departments at a number of civilian universities, enabling AFIT graduate students at these universities to work on research problems of interest to the Air Force.

The COMET Outreach program provides an excellent vehicle for expanding university support for these partnerships. Air Force forecasters can participate in this process by bringing

an operational weather problem that is within the scope of an AFIT M.S. or Ph.D. program time limits (one to three years) to the attention of AFIT or HQ AWS.

AFIT is prepared to work with the AFW forecaster and his/her unit to build a COMET partnership between an AFIT graduate student and a university faculty member interested in taking on the project.

HQ AWS will work with the civilian university and COMET to provide Air Force funds for the partnership. These partnerships can benefit the AFW unit, the AFIT graduate student, and the university—the

AFW unit receives expert help with its forecast problem, the AFIT graduate student receives help in completing their advanced academic degree, and the university receives AF funds for its research and improves its chances of recruiting future AFW graduate students.

AWS is presently working to establish several new one- or two-year partnerships scheduled to begin in January 1996.

For more information, contact Dr. Dale Meyer at HQ AWS at DSN 576-5631, ext 444 or at meyer@hqaws.safb.af.mil.

For more information about the universities and their faculty's expertise in meteorology please contact Capt. Tom Neu, AFIT/CIRW, at DSN 785-3291 or (E-Mail) tneu@afit.af.mil.

Tell me what you REALLY think!

Here's your chance to tell the *OBSERVER* staff what you like and *don't* like about the magazine ... now that it's in the fifth month of the new format. Please be **honest, open and direct in your comments**. We want to hear the negative as well as positive comments. (You won't hurt our feelings!) We're planning a "feedback" issue later this summer and we'll print every one of your comments, as space permits (And, no, the negative comments won't get thrown in the trash!). If there isn't enough room here for all your comments, please feel free to use another sheet of paper. Thank you for your support!

What I like _____

What I don't like _____

What I would change _____

Mail to: HQ AWS/RMA, 102 W. Losey St., Rm. 105, Scott AFB, IL 62225; fax to DSN 576-4710;

E-mail: "elliott@hqaws.safb.af.mil"



YF-22

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