

The Magazine for Air Force Weather

OBSERVER

August 1995

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USAFE

**How Air Force Weather Helps Their
Real World Mission - All The Time**

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Weather Survey

Many common threads among AFW

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

the officers—a total of 1,903 responses in all.

Do the following comments sound familiar?

◆ *"Where is the career field going?"*

◆ *"Why can't we cross-train or do a career broadening tour?"*

◆ *"Two jobs in weather—war and peacetime. Use different equipment for both—doesn't work!"*

◆ *"Not enough DDN lines to hook up to AFDIS at tactical sites."*

◆ *"Need to educate operators on importance of weather. Weather misunderstood"*

◆ *"Weather people doing Army support deserve to be as well equipped as those supporting the AF"*

◆ *"We have fewer people yet the mission remains the same or has even increased."*

They should sound familiar—these are just a few of the thousands of comments you sent in with your responses to the weather career field survey.

Shortly after my arrival, I decided that it was important to check the "pulse" of the Air Force Weather (AFW) troops, especially in light of the DoD drawdown and Air Weather Service restructure. With AFMPC's assistance, we put together a career field survey directed toward every enlisted and officer member.

A few of you never saw the survey because of mailing problems—we apologize for that. However, many of you not only had the opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns, but actually did.

The survey response rate was 59 percent for the enlisted and 75 percent for



cerns within our community deal with career progression, equipment, training, manning, and perceptions of AFW, both internal and external to our own ranks.

For example, enlisted members commented on reenlistment bonuses, making promotion testing more job specific, and clarifying the senior NCO career track; officers questioned promotion rates, command opportunities, and the viability of a technical versus command track.

Both groups expressed interest in greater career broadening and crossflow opportunities. Inadequacies and lack of standardization in tactical communications and weather equipment were hit hard by all.

These career field concerns folded into the "big picture" issues of continued DoD downsizing, benefit changes, and pay and

From those completing the survey, we received 1,092 comment sheets and reviewed every one of them. I would like to thank each of you who responded. Your input is vital to the future direction of AFW.

There were many common threads both in the survey results and in the multitude of comments.

compensation. I am committed to work those issues that we can directly influence, and voice our concerns to the appropriate agencies for those issues that we can't work alone.

You will find a summary of the survey results in an accompanying article. (See Page 8) Copies of the complete survey are available at Headquarters Air Weather Service and at each major command weather staff.

Over the next few months, you'll see special articles in the *OBSERVER* addressing career field survey issues in more detail. We will let you know what initiatives are already in place and what the plan of attack is for those issues not already under scrutiny.

I encourage you to use the newly established Commander's "Hot Line" in the *OBSERVER* if you have additional concerns or want to share ideas on how to make AFW the best it can be.

Remember, *WE are Air Force Weather* and it will take each and every

one of us working together to keep AFW a viable, integral part of our fighting forces—a force multiplier for the 21st century."

"I am committed to work those issues that we as a career field can affect, and voice our concerns to the appropriate agencies for those issues that we can't work alone."

**Brig. Gen. Thomas Lennon
AF Director of Weather**

Have a question for General Lennon? Write to: HQ USAF/XOW, 1490 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20330-1490.



by Col. Joseph D. Dushan
Commander, Air Weather Service

AFW Stan Eval

A Positive Step Towards The Future

STANEVAL will be on technical effectiveness, not operational, administrative, or command issues. In many ways, STANEVAL visits will look very much like revised, revitalized, and refocused Technical Consultant Visits (TCVs) of a few years ago.

WHY is also easy. Simply put, STANEVALs are "ops normal" in the Air Force. Aircrews are subject to annual check rides and certification. The medical community receives a periodic Health Management Inspection.

It is just as vital for the AFW community to do the same. And for the same

reasons.

Why is also easy to understand when you consider the AWS mission. "Provide technical advice and help. Assess the technical performance and effectiveness of support and services provided by the AFW system. Ensure standardization and interoperability."

So the fundamental reason "why AWS"? It is our mission to perform and we must execute it or be relieved of the mission. Pretty basic military concept.

Next, let's briefly examine WHO. The STANEVAL teams will be made up of about four people, sized and structured (e.g., officer - enlisted mix) to fit each unit. MAJCOMs will always be invited to participate in visits to their weather units.

At AWS, the STANEVAL function will be aligned as a separate division under the supervision of the Vice Commander. There are a couple of reasons. First, it is again "ops normal" - consider your wing CVI. Second, we want to make a definite separation and distinction from the Meteorological Enhancement Teams (METs) and Meteorological Process Review (MPR) teams in our Technology, Plans, and Programs (XO) Directorate. Finally, and most importantly, we consider the STANEVAL to be a high-value, high-visibility, high-payoff program for the entire AFW functional team.



AT EASE EVERY BODY! This is a pop quiz!

It will be multiple choice and the minimum passing grade is 100 percent. The good news is there's only one question and it's easy if you've read my two previous articles.

All right, here is the question -- *Name the item that doesn't belong in Air Force Weather.*

- A. White Hat
- B. Black Hat
- C. Flight Cap
- D. BDU Cap
- E. Kevlar Helmet

Right you are! The answer is **B. Black Hats** were the movie villains and desperados. They had a reputation for mean, underhanded, sneaky conduct and were roundly booed. Clearly, there is no place in the AFW team for such behavior.

I use this device to introduce a discussion about the AFW Standardization and Evaluation (STANEVAL) Program which has unfortunately and unfairly been characterized as being "Black Hat." Actually, I'm surprised to learn the extent of misunderstanding about the STANEVAL Program, spread by word of mouth and rumor.

Although program details are still being fine-tuned, let me set the record straight by laying out some basics: *What, Why, Who, How, and When.*

The WHAT part is pretty straightforward. STANEVAL teams will visit every base and post weather station once every year to 18 months to evaluate the technical standardization of worldwide weather unit operations. We're still looking at ways to expand visits to Weather Support Units, Theater Forecast Units, and weather centrals. The focus of each

We want to give it the access, oversight, and visibility it deserves

The HOW part is still being fine-tuned. Basically, AWS is completing work on an implementing AFI, qualification checklists, and proficiency tests. Appropriate checklists, standards, and information will be circulated to the field before visits begin.

STANEVAL visits will be coordinated with the MAJCOMs and teams will in-brief the Operations Group commander upon arrival. Visits are expected to last 2 or 3 days. STANEVAL teams will run the checklists, administer standardized proficiency tests, conduct task evaluations and assess the unit's technical processes.

Ratings assigned will be for the unit as a whole (no individual assessments) and will be either Q1 - Qualified, Q2 - Qualified, but additional training needed, or Q3 - Unqualified. An out-brief and written report for the Operations Group commander will complete the visit.

Should fixes be necessary, the Operations Group commander may request assistance from an AWS MET or MPR, if desired. AWS will track trends only for the purpose of developing technical guidance products or identifying areas needing emphasis at the technical training schoolhouse.

WHEN is the final item. We will conduct our first STANEVAL visit in September 1995. Although we're hammering out details related to manpower, training, and documents, AWS will move out quickly and smartly to complete an aggressive schedule of unit visits.

Well, there you have the "straight skinny" as we used to say. The real bottom line is that STANEVAL is a necessary and vital link to achieve what we're all working for so diligently: Top quality, accurate, reliable weather services for Air Force and Army warfighters. Let me know if you have questions or suggestions about the STANEVAL. I'm committed to doing it and doing it right the first time. Thanks!

Have a question for Colonel Dushan? Write to: HQ AWS/CC, 102 W. Losey St., Rm. 105, Scott AFB, Ill. 62225-5206.

WX Enlisted Career Path

Senior NCOs need to develop skills

by CMSgt. Jim Hoy
Air Force Weather
Senior Enlisted Advisor

The most frequently asked questions as I travel to visit our Air Force weather facilities center around two subjects: our training and the weather enlisted career path.

Since I've written several articles on training, let's discuss the weather enlisted career path this month. In the inaugural issue of the *OBSERVER*, I wrote about changes in our schoolhouse and what the changes meant to assignments for graduates. The role of a weather technician through the rank of technical sergeant is to become the very best at their specialty—the best at observing and forecasting the medium in which our ground, air, and space forces operate.

As Air Force Director Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon puts it, "observing and forecasting from mud to the sun." We allocate huge sums of money to develop observing and forecasting skills in our enlisted force.

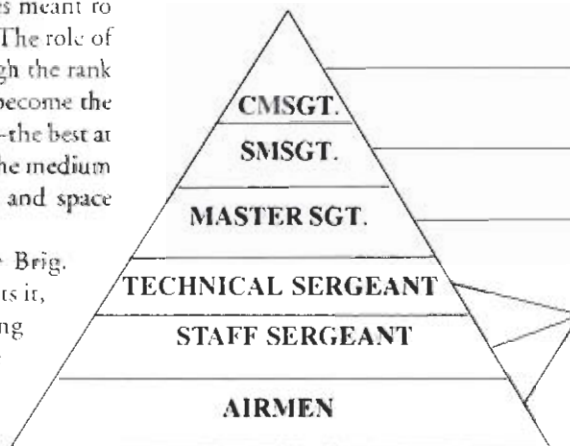
There are skills along the way that you should pick up—employment of fixed and tactical weather station systems like AWDS, NEXRAD and the new Small Tactical Terminal (STT); management skills that improve our weather capabilities; and, of course, leadership and supervisory skills. Our efforts must be focused on observing and forecasting to ensure the success of Air Force and joint operations.

Development of additional skills at the technical level are a means to an end—accurate observations and forecast.

I've been addressing technical sergeants and below so far. What about senior NCOs? There is no doubt we

need highly qualified technicians in our senior NCO ranks. But, as with the rest of the Air Force, here's where we begin to separate technicians from managers.

Since approximately 1976, we have relied primarily on master sergeants to run our weather stations. While we ask our master sergeants to be the chief forecaster and chief observer, our expectations are that station managers expend most of their time allocating their resources to accomplish a mission—produce that observation and forecast. That's what master sergeants do in the



| |
|---|
| Staff positions at MAJCOM/MACOM/AWS/Air Staff |
| Manage large work center, staff positions at MAJCOM/MACOM/AWS/Air Staff |
| Manage small/medium work center; some staff positions at MAJCOM/MACOM/AWS |
| Technicians, Air Force and Army operations, including SOF, space, and weather centers |

Air Force, and that's what we do in a weather station — manage a work center — an Army or Air Force weather station — to produce a product.

As with the technical sergeants, staff sergeants, and airmen, there are additional skills to develop: management of operations in our weather centers, and staff positions at Air Force Major Commands (MAJCOMs), Army Major Commands (MACOMs), AWS, and our centers.

A tour as a staff NCO adds to your bag of skills, but the function of the master sergeant in the Air Force generally remains planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and controlling a first-line unit. Moving from

managing a small weather station to a larger one enhances your chances for selection for senior master sergeant.

And how do you get a job as a station chief? Check the February 1995 edition of the *OBSERVER* and the article about EQUAL-PLUS. That program remains the way we advertise and select people for key enlisted positions.

Now, senior master sergeants. You

see ENLISTED, continued on Page 23

Contact Chief Hoy at DSN 224-7410 or by electronic mail at "jhoy@pafosu3.bq.af.mil"

Editor's Note: The following is some of the feedback and suggestions you have sent to Air Weather Service about the OBSERVER since January 1995. Where applicable, I've answered some of the questions you've brought up.

A Community Corner?

"The new format is a big hit!

This change has yielded a highly professional appearance, favorable public relations medium, yet retained some operational flair.

We suggest that the AFW officer career columns should be written by (or ghostwritten for) AFW senior leadership, possibly the AWS vice commander. Enlisted career progression would only be appropriate coming from a senior enlisted leader, such as Chief Hoy or Chief Klumb (from AFMPC).

Another suggestion is to create a 'community corner' to highlight noteworthy extracurricular events in which AFW people participate. Also, include a schedule or calendar of events or planned visits, conferences, MET, MES, MPRs, and other events involving the AFW community.

Lastly, we believe that a slight increase in technical content, similar to the AWS 'Ops Digest' would benefit the entire AFW community."

(Editor: Good ideas! In the new "Observations from The Field", you'll find stories about weather people, at work and at play. As for technical content, check our "Oh, By The Way" for the latest from the guys in the HQ AWS Technical Training branch.)

IMA keeps up with the latest from the field

"As an IMA, I rely on the OB-



SERVER for the best and latest news directly from the field. Great articles on new technology and new operations. It's a great format. It keeps getting better. It reflects pride in the military weather profession.

My only gripe is that the articles do not cover the breadth of widespread weather activities. That's likely due to a lack of input from the field. How about some articles about weather support from the customer's perspectives?"

Nifty mag!

"Nifty mag! Every weather person here in Europe who has seen the new OBSERVER is impressed. Congrats to the AWS staff for a super product!"

Appealing to all weather people

"It is, without a doubt, a great improvement upon the earlier newspaper-style version. Importantly, the content is right on target with an appeal to all weather service personnel, past and present.

Thank you for getting a first-class publication going for the Air Force Weather people. It is sure to pay dividends through enhanced morale, a sense of belonging, and knowing what is going on outside the unit in which they serve."

Loved the worldwide weather station list!

"The new OBSERVER is outstanding! Every person in the unit has voiced approval over the improved format. Our favorite article was the listing of all the weather stations and associated units in the January edition."

(Editor: Glad you enjoyed the listing. A lot of other folks have said the same thing. We plan to run a "Weather Almanac" as a special edition every January. In next year's edition, we'll include fax numbers and E-mail addresses for those weather stations and other locations with this capability.)

Give us weather stuff, and weather stuff only!

"Bravo! Congratulations on the new OBSERVER! I am very impressed with the inaugural issue. The biggest reason? The ENTIRE publication covered topics concerning Air Force Weather. My primary gripe with the previous editions and format of the OBSERVER was that more than 50 percent of the material had absolutely nothing to do with the AFW community. It was general information that was several days, weeks, and occasionally months old.

My position was, and continues to be, if you do not have enough weather-related material to fill the publication, then go with a smaller edition. Don't fill it with non-weather-related infor-

mation. That is why I am so pleased with the new OBSERVER. Every page had relevance to the weather community. Congrats on a super job."

(Editor: Couldn't agree more! This is a WEATHER magazine for WEATHER people. In most cases, you can get the other news from your base or post newspaper. You won't see any "filler" in this magazine!)

More from the front lines

"We read the new OBSERVER magazine and thought it was a good first edition.

The change from a newspaper to a magazine did wonders for its image and readability. We had a few suggestions:

Add a question and answer columns for technical or procedural questions, and have an expert from AFGWC or USAFETAC provide solutions. It is often an insurmountable challenge to locate the exact office or person at AWS, AFGWC, or ETAC, when our communication lines are as limited as they are in the field.

Also, increase the coverage of the weather warriors on the front lines; the people and innovative measures they take to overcome the many personnel, equipment, logistical and data acquisition problems encountered in real-world weather operations."

(Editor: As of June 1995, every article published will have the name, telephone number and E-mail address (where available), at the end of the article. As for frontline stuff, hey, if you don't tell me about it, I can't print it! I'm always on the hunt for a good story.

Doppler radar articles?

"Our unit is impressed with the new format! It looks professional and is light-years ahead of the old OBSERVER. Keep up the great work!

How about an article on the Doppler radar? Many units don't have it installed yet, and it would be interesting to hear how forecasters like it and

where it has been installed thus far."

Future success

"It seems to be an outstanding publication and I hope it will have a most successful future."

Don't change anything!

"I enjoy the color photos and the list of units, names and phone numbers. Don't change anything!"

'Officer Opportunities' provides valuable advice

"Some feedback on the new OBSERVER — in a word, fantastic! It's nice to see such a high-quality magazine for all weather folks. The news articles have been very interesting and informative. Please keep up the great work.

I would also like to mention that I think the 'Officer Opportunities' section is terrific. It really helps our young officers get some ideas on what to do next. Capt. Tim Hutchison is providing valuable information.

I particularly liked the first issue's 'Weather Almanac' and I hope that you print that annually. A list of all the weather units, phone numbers and their addresses was a superb addition, and more help to each unit than you can imagine. We here at Andrews AFB appreciate your efforts!"

(Editor: The "Officer Opportunities" page will be a monthly staple, along with columns by General Lennon, Colonel Dushan, and Chief Hoy.)

Nice!

"I just had the opportunity to see a copy of the 'new' OBSERVER magazine. How nice! Keep up the good work."

You outdid yourselves

"I'm always happy to keep up with the Air Weather Service family as I enter my 11th year of retirement. I was happy to receive the old version of the OBSERVER — but you folks outdid yourselves this time. You deserve a

Pulitzer — tremendous job and thanks again!"

(Editor: I don't know about a Pulitzer -- just send money!)

Use Army medals

"I work at the 2nd Weather Flight at Fort McPherson, Ga. First, let me say that the new OBSERVER looks great. Looks like you folks put in a lot of hard work into making it a very professional periodical.

I've noticed that you don't have an icon to represent the two Army medals: the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. I'm not sure what software you are using, but you may want to see if they have these medals. If not, I would be willing to find them for you.

Army support is still a major portion of the Air Force Weather mission and we shouldn't slight those folks who earn these medals. Again, kudos on the new publication."

(Editor: You're right! Army support makes up 40 percent of our Air Force Weather mission. I should be getting the other medals soon. The Air Force Home Page on the Internet says they'll have those available soon.)

How about a column for retired AWS people?

"A really good job on the new OBSERVER. Congrats! Suggest you consider a column on the Air Weather Service retired force ... where they're at, what they're doing, etc."

MORE FEEDBACK

Keep those cards and letters coming! Your suggestions are valuable to the success of the OBSERVER. Any comments, positive or negative, can be sent to either the regular or e-mail address on Page 2.

Weather Survey

Results provide insight into thoughts, concerns of AFW

by Lt. Col. Michael E. Hoofard
Air Force Directorate of Weather
Deputy Chief, Resources Division

With Air Force Director of Weather Brig. Gen. General Lennon's opening article (*see page 3*) serving as the introduction, let's move right into a summary of the survey results.

For each hullet statement, the overall AFW response is given first, followed by an enlisted and officer breakout within parentheses. Example: AFW % (Enlisted %/Officer %)

Current thoughts on the Air Force overall

- 82% (78/91) satisfied with Air Force experience.
- 56% (52/64) said Air Force is good organization to work for today.
- 69% (68/70) lean toward staying in 20 years (*Note: an additional 8% of the respondents have already completed 20 years of service.*)

Current thoughts on weather career field

- 72% (69/80) satisfied with experiences in weather career field.
- 57% (53/65) find enjoyment in present job.
- 76% (82/61) understand career field progression path.
- 30% (33/24) believe career path provides opportunity to meet Air Force career goals.
- 49% (51/45) willing to crossflow into another career field.
- 74% (78/66) believe they have received adequate training to do job.
- 50% (57/33) believe they have adequate in-residence PME opportunities.
- 61% (55/76) believe they have

adequate educational opportunities.

- 35% (40/24) believe they have adequate tactical met equipment.

Perceptions of the future

- ◆ 29% (25/39) believe Air Force will be a good organization to work for in 5 years.
- ◆ 37% (33/47) believe they will be promoted on or ahead of schedule.
- ◆ 69% (76/53) believe they will be allowed to serve until retirement (20 years).

Reasons for leaving the Air Force

Top 10 factors most frequently identified by enlisted:

1. Shift work.
2. Work schedule.
3. Promotion opportunities.
4. Pay and allowances.
5. Say in base of assignment.
6. Overall job satisfaction.
7. Amount of additional duties.
8. Number of PCS moves.
9. Say in job assignment.
10. Recognition for efforts.

Top 10 factors most frequently identified by officers:

1. Number PCS moves.
2. Amount of additional duties.
3. Promotion opportunities.
4. Shift work.
5. Compatibility with spouse's career.
6. Number of TDYs.
7. Length of duty day.
8. Availability of comparable civilian jobs.

9. Overall job satisfaction.

10. Recognition for efforts/Air Force job (tied).

The above statistics, though just a sample of the entire survey, provide some insight into the thoughts, issues, and concerns of those within AFW.

Areas of concern ... include career progression, equipment, training, Army and special operations, and how AFW is perceived by the rest of the Air Force.

A F M P C performed a job satisfaction analysis using the survey results; they rated career field job satisfaction "good" overall and on par with

job satisfaction Air Force wide as assessed in a Summer 1994 survey.

While we — the members of AFW — appear generally satisfied with our Air Force and weather career field experiences, we are clearly apprehensive about the future of the Air Force and the career field.

Areas of concern include — but are not limited to — career progression, equipment standardization (peacetime vs war), training (single schoolhouse), manning, Army and Special Operations, and how AFW is perceived by the rest of the Air Force.

AF/XOW, HQ AWS, and the MAJCOM weather staffs are already working many of these issues. We will keep you abreast of our progress through future articles, conferences, and memos to the field. Don't stand on the sidelines as we work these important issues. Every one of you can contribute to and participate in this effort through constructive feedback, innovative ideas, and day-to-day professionalism.

Former CMSAF Sam Parish:

New weather troops poised to 'make their mark' on AF Weather

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

I recently had the honor of talking to former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Sam E. Parish during a graduation ceremony at the Weather Schoolhouse at Keesler AFB, Miss. He was there to award basic meteorology badges to the last class of weather observers to graduate from Keesler.

Now why would a retired CMSAF be at a weather schoolhouse?

For those new to the weather field, like me, I found out that he also was the Air Weather Service Senior Enlisted Advisor from July 1973-October 1975, and spent more than 20 years of his 31-year Air Force career in the weather career field.

After enlisting in the Air Force in 1954, Chief Parish attended the weather observer course at Chanute AFB, Ill. (now closed), where he was the honor graduate.

His first tour was as NCO-in-charge of weather communications at Wiesbaden AB, Germany. He then returned to Chanute for the Chief Observer course and again made honor grad. From 1960-1966, the chief was assigned to Air Force Systems Command, Hanscom AFB, Mass. While at Hanscom, he also attended the AFSC NCO Academy, and once again was the honor graduate.

From June 1966-June 1969, CMSAF Parish was Chief Observer for the 7th Weather Squadron in Heidelberg, Germany. He then transferred to Headquarters Air Weather Service as the command's Chief Observer, and later as Chief, Observing Services and Procedures Division.

In July 1973, the chief became the Senior Airman Advisor for Air Weather Service. In October 1975, he was assigned as the Weather Assignments NCO for Mil-

itary Airlift Command's Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel.

From there, Chief Parish began the "second" part of his career, the next 11 years saw him become Sergeant Major for the 36th Combat Support Group Consolidated Base Personnel Office, Bitburg AB, Germany from 1976-1977; Senior Enlisted Advisor for U.S. Air Forces in Europe from 1977-80; 40th Air Division SEA (Wurtsmith AFB, Mich., from 1980-1981; and Strategic Air Command SEA from 1980-83.

Chief Parish became the eighth CMSAF Aug. 1, 1983, and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1986.

During our conversation, I was able to ask Chief Parish several questions about issues concerning the enlisted weather force.



Photo by SSgt. Steve Elliott

Chief Parish presents the basic meteorologist badge to AB Angela Martin at her graduation from the weather observer course, June 8, 1995, at Keesler AFB, Miss.

"The educational level of these new people is as high as it was for the officers when I enlisted in 1954."

**Chief Parish
Former CMSAF**

Q. With technology growing by leaps and bounds and the enlisted force shrinking, how can today's enlisted weather person prevent being overwhelmed?

A. That's a tough question to

address. I think the young people today are so different than when I came in and they don't have to worry about being overwhelmed.

They are already familiar with much of technological advances made recently. What was a technological advance for me is routine for today's young airman. It's going to be a heck of a lot easier for these new airmen to keep up than the old-timers like

me who have been around the system a long time.

Q. What's the biggest difference you see in the weather training you had and weather training today?

A. The biggest difference I see today is the young people themselves. The educational level of these new people is as high as it was for the officers when I enlisted in 1954. Half the people in my observer course had not graduated high school.

The education, the dedication, the reason they're in the Air Force is different than when I came in. I'm not sure I see the same type of discipline extended to them as I had when I came off the farm in 1954, but we can do a good job instilling discipline. What I saw here today (at Keesler) would make anyone proud. Here are 12 individuals who could appear on an Air Force recruiting poster -- very sharp and dedicated. They're going to make a great contribution to the Air Force and Air Force Weather.

They'll make their mark when they get to their units, supporting combat and real-world missions. Being a part of their units, never forgetting their heritage as weather people ... that's what will keep them in good stead in their careers.



DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

2nd Lt. Jeffrey A. Baltes, Headquarters Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

SM/Sgt. Reed A. Knuthsen, HQ Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii (2nd OLC)
 MSgt. Gary C. Youngren, HQ PACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
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 CMSgt. James G. Berry, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 MSgt. Rodney R. Herbison, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SMSgt. Floyd M. Parton, Operating Location B, 18th Weather Squadron, Ft. Eustis, Va. (1st OLC)
 1st Lt. Col. Robert Blevins, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan

AIR RESERVE FORCES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

1st Sgt. Berkley D. Boward, 146th Weather Flight, Pittsburgh, Pa. (1st OLC)(Air National Guard)
 SSgt. Richard A. Webb, 146th WF, Pittsburgh, Pa. (1st OLC)(ANG)

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Donald G. Shannon, 18th Weather Squadron, Ft. Bragg, N.C.



AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

MSgt. Chester F. Howes, 31Q AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 TSgt. Stephen L. Wilcox, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. Russell E. Smith, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. Joseph M. Taylor, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. John S. Turnbull, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 Sr.A. Rayetta L. Brown, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. Craig Kierwin, 86th OSS/OSW, Sembach AB, Germany
 MSgt. David W. Martin, 6th Weather Flight, Ft. Rucker, Ala. (2nd OLC)
 NSgt. Kathleen Mullinax, 6th WF, Ft. Rucker, Ala. (1st OLC)
 Sr.A. Todd Morris, 6th WF, Ft. Rucker, Ala.
 MSgt. Steve C. Kirby, HQ USAF Environmental Technical Applications Center, Scott AFB, Ill. (2nd OLC)
 1st Lt. Jennifer Winslow, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 SSgt. Eric Garcia, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

2nd Lt. Thomas J. Black, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 SSgt. Patricia M. Callaghan, OL-N, 18th WS, Ft. Belvoir, Va.



AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SSgt. Shane P. Castle, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
 Sr.A. Michael R. Ramsey, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
 TSgt. Mickey W. Miltani, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 Sr.A. Janette H. Rozniarski, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 TSgt. Robert R. Fliggby, 6th WF, Ft. Rucker, Ala.
 TSgt. Brian Nestus, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 SSgt. Shawn Dahl, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 SSgt. James Haavisto, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Michael Dillon, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Ryan Kiefer, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 1st Lt. Cliff Stargardt, Air Combat Command AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Sr.A. Mark R. Wilcox, 437th ASOS, C Flt., Lawson AAF, Ft. Benning, Ga.
 Sr.A. Mike L. Wang, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan



AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SM/Sgt. Earl J. Simon, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (7th OLC)
 SM/Sgt. Manuel M. Vela, Jr., 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (6th OLC)
 MSgt. Craig A. Anderson, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (4th OLC)
 TSgt. Edward J. Sheebe, Jr., 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (4th OLC)
 TSgt. Keith A. Johnson, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (2nd OLC)
 SSgt. Stephen M. Straub, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (4th OLC)
 Sr.A. Michael T. Carter, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (1st OLC)
 TSgt. Brian Nestus, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 SSgt. James Haavisto, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Daniel Godin, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Ryan Kiefer, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Melanie Glaab, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Lois Martin, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
 Sr.A. Ashley Ringo, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

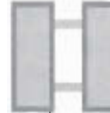
ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

TSgt. William D. Malcomb, 47th ASOS, C Flt., Lawson AAF, Ft. Benning, Ga.
 SSgt. James Havisto, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

PROMOTIONS



Donald P. Hinkson, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.



Donald G. Shannon, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 John B. Hennessey, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 Cliff Stargardt, ACC AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.



Nicole M. Wood, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
 Steven N. Dickerson, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.



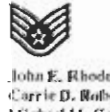
Graduates of Air National Guard Academy of Military Science
 Douglas M. Brundell, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich.
 Kenneth H. Campbell, 105th WF, Nashville, Tenn.
 Jeffrey J. Hoffman, 104th WF, Malcom, Md.



Angelita F. Lewis, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 David W. Martin, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.



Rodney J. Hull, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 Keith A. Johnson, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
 David S. Gogian, 127th WF, Forbes Field, Kansas (ANG)
 Jeffrey J. Soja, 131st WF, Westfield, Mass. (ANG)
 Scott E. Thomas, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich. (ANG)



John E. Rhoden, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
 Carrie D. Roberts, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
 Michael M. Cave, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
 Stephen M. Straub, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.



James Haavisto, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Tracy Ross, ACC AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.



Robert G. Branham, 104th WF, Columbus, Ohio (ANG)
Cindy W. Butler, 122nd WF, New Orleans, La. (ANG)
Amber E. Leifson, 122nd WF, New Orleans, La. (ANG)
Jeffrey Mireweather, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich. (ANG)
Christopher Felton, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich. (ANG)
Ashley Ringo, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



Duane R. Bennish, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Kelli Senchuk, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Sharon Ballinger, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



Tashia D. Campbell, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Patrice M. Hernandez, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Dennis P. Munstle, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Jennifer A. Gumaer, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Christine A. Walenkauskki, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
William Gray, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

SSgt. Wendell Foreman -- from 93rd OSS/OSW, Castle AFB, Calif., to 6th OSS/OSW, MacDill AFB, Fla.
SSgt. Robert Wood -- from 30th WS, Vandenberg AFB, Calif., to 6th OSS/OSW, MacDill AFB, Fla.
2nd Lt. Deann M. Emery -- from Iowa State University, an 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
Ann. Janet P. Heidebrink -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
Ann. John P. Rogers -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 20th ASOS, Ft. Drum, N.Y.
1st Lt. Jeffrey E. Lauer -- from 20th ASOS, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y., to Beale AFB, Calif.
SRA. William P. Renian -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 341st OSS/DOW, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
2nd Lt. Matthew S. Kemp -- from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., to Navigator Training, Randolph AFB, Texas
SRA. Michael A. Bilbey -- from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., to Forecaster School, Keesler AFB, Miss.
1st Lt. Kirth Pederson -- from 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., to Tinker AFB, Okla.
1st Lt. Jennifer Winslow -- from 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., to Andersen AFB, Guam
MSGT. Patrick Ashton -- from 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., to Illesheim AIN, Germany
SRA. Lois Martin -- from 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., to Keesler AFB, Miss.
A1C Sharon Ballinger -- from 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., to Keesler AFB, Miss.
1st Lt. Cindy Rosa -- from Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y., to 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
SRA. Melanie Glaab -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Ann. William Gray -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
AB Angela Willy -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
SRA. James Gibson -- from Keesler AFB, Miss., to 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan
SRA. Randall Marmino -- from 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan, to Keesler AFB, Miss.
Capt. Chuck Pappas -- from HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill., to the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

REENLISTMENTS

TSgt. Ronald L. Cook, Det. 4, 50th WS, Holloman AFB, N.M.
SSgt. Greg A. Benson, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
SMSgt. Floyd M. Parton, OL-B, 18th WS, Ft. Eustis, Va.
SRA. Martha Roberts, OL-B, 18th WS, Ft. Eustis, Va.
SRA. Lois Martin, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
SRA. Darrell Roberts, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan

RETIREMENTS

SMMSGT. Reed A. Knudson, HQ PACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
MSGT. Gary C. Youngren, HQ PACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Maj. Pamela M. Ribovick, HQ AFSC/CI, Hurlbert Field, Fla.

SEPARATIONS

A1C Bruce W. Davis, Jr., 341st OSS/DOW, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
SRA. Michael Dillon, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Capt. Dawn M. Molzen, ACC AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.

EDUCATION

Air Command and Staff College correspondence course
Maj. David T. Miller, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
WSR 88-D Operator/Manager Course
TSgt. Philip D. Poyner, 20th ASOS, Ft. Drum AIN, N.Y.
SSgt. Marc Allen, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
U.S. Army Airborne School, Ft. Benning Ga.
SRA. Marc R. Gahagan, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
SRA. John M. Barnard, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Community College of the Air Force Degree in Weather Technology
SSgt. Rodney D. Jones, OL-A, 18th WS, Ft. Belvoir, Va.
TSgt. Brian Nesius, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
SSgt. Marc Allen, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Keesler AFB, Miss.
TSgt. David A. Bessey, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Airman Leadership School
SRA. Jeffrey D. Owen, 18th WS, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
SRA. Roger Finley, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D. (Distinguished Graduate)
Weather Technician School, Keesler AFB, Miss.
SSgt. John P. Hale, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich.
SRA. Melanie Glaab, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Officer Training School selection
SRA. Tabitha Seaton, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.
AWDS Managers Course
SRA. Roger Finley, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

AWARDS

437th OSS Airman of the Quarter
SSgt. Glenn SRA. John E. Rhoden, 437th OSS/OSW, Charleston AFB, S.C.
449th OSS Senior NCO of the Month (Dharran AB, Saudi Arabia)
MSGT. Pete Copeskey, HQ Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, Ill.
119th Operations Group Airman of the Year/319th OSS Airman of the Year
SRA. Lois Martin, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
319th OG Company Grade Officer of the Quarter
1st Lt. Jennifer Winslow, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
319th OSS Senior NCO of the Quarter
MSGT. Patrick Ashton, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
319th OSS NCO of the Quarter
SSgt. Shawn Dahl, 319th OSS/OSW, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
AFSPC Best Award for Outstanding Use of Climatology - 1994
Capt. Jeffrey B. Lorenz, ACC AOS/AOW, Langley AFB, Va.
77th Airlift Wing Japanese Civilian of the Quarter
Yoshihumi Ogawa, 374th OSS/DOW, Yokota AB, Japan

Worldwide Weather Technical Sergeant Selection List -- Cycle 95E6

| Name | Base | Command |  |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------|--|
| Anderson, Douglas P. | Eielson AFB, Alaska | PACAF |  |
| Andrews, John L. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Barber, James J. | Offutt AFB, Neb. | AWS | |
| Barbitta, Andrew J. | Tyndall AFB, Fla. | AETC | |
| Beauchamp, Scott D. | Nellis AFB, Nev. | ACC | |
| Bird, David A. | Eielson AFB, Alaska | PACAF | |
| Boulton, Max R. Jr | Offutt AFB, Neb. | AWS | |
| Brandt, James A. | Osan AB, Korea | PACAF | |
| Burkhalter, Ronald | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Butrovich, Michael | Pope AFB, N.C. | ACC | |
| Carrasquillo, Manuel | Peterson AFB, Colo. | AFSPC | |
| Carrillo, Victor G. | Tinker AFB, Okla. | AWS | |
| Ciotola, Theresa M | Dover AFB, Md. | AMC | |
| Duke, Mark K. | McClellan AFB, Calif. | AFMC | |
| Dufresne, Paul F. Jr | Pentagon ADM, D.C. | AFCOS | |
| Ebbert, Daniel T. | Hohenfels AJN, Germany | USAFE | |
| Farmer, James V. Jr | Maxwell AFB, Ala. | AETC | |
| Farris, John D. | McChord AFB, Wash. | ACC | |
| Frievald, Jeffrey G. | Hickam AFB, Hawaii | AFSPC | |
| Gaunt, Jerry R. | Holloman AFB, N.M. | ACC | |
| Gagins, Garry R. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Gay, Paul A. | Eglin AFB, Fla. | AFMC | |
| Herren, James C. | Randolph AFB, Texas | ACC | |
| Hildsorf, David M. | Offutt AFB, Neb. | AWS | |
| Hilsenbeck, Bill P. | Barksdale AFB, La. | ACC | |
| Jenkins, David B. | F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo. | AFSPC | |
| Johnson, Jeffrey E. | Patrick AFB, Fla. | AFSQC | |
| Kay, John R. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Koble, Gary R. | Hickam AFB, Hawaii | PACAF | |
| Lind, Clark W. | Vandenberg AFB, Calif. | AFSPC | |
| Mallard, Sidney D. | Nellis AFB, Nev. | ACC | |
| Marsiock, Michael A. | Edwards AFB, Calif. | AFMC | |
| Mayfield, Samuel R. | Scott AFB, Ill. | ACC | |
| Mazur, Scott E. | McChord AFB, Wash. | AMC | |
| McCoy, Colin W. | Hurlbert Field, Fla. | AWS | |
| McElroy, Stephen P. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Michael, John R. | Eglin AFB, Fla. | AFMC | |
| Moore, R Phal | RAF Alconbury, England | USAFE | |
| Moran, Daniel A. | Anderson AB, Guam | PACAF | |
| Nielsen, Randy P. | Edwards AFB, Calif. | AFMC | |
| Ohm, Dennis G. | Edwards AFB, Calif. | AFMC | |
| Powell, Lenore D. | USAF Academy, Colo. | USAFE | |
| Pratt, Steven D. | Elmendorf AFB, Alaska | PACAF | |
| Ristuben, Keith A. | Osan AB, Korea | PACAF | |
| Robertson, Frank O. | USAF Academy, Colo. | USAFE | |
| Ryzich, Teresa M. | Pope AFB, N.C. | ACC | |
| Smith, Russell T. | Offutt AFB, Neb. | AWS | |
| Soria, Joey A. | F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo. | AFSPC | |
| Stiverson, Alton E. | Holloman AFB, N.M. | AFSPC | |
| Sullivan, James A. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Swanson, Geri L. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AETC | |
| Taylor, Thomas N. | Robins AFB, Ga. | AFMC | |
| Tevebaugh, William | Offutt AFB, Neb. | AWS | |
| Walton, Clifford T. | Randolph AFB, Texas | AETC | |
| Whitehead, Steven P. | Osan AB, Korea | PACAF | |
| Williams, Gregory W. | Keesler AFB, Miss. | AFSPC | |
| Winters, Myron G. Jr | K.I. Sawyer AFB, Mich. | ACC | |



Editor's Note: Every effort is made to make sure your people get the recognition they deserve. Due to the huge amount of submissions every month, we can only fit so many in, but it is my promise to use every name submitted, if not in this issue, then in the next one available. Please be patient, your people DO make a difference!



U.S. Air Forces in Europe

Mission Statement

“Enhance the effectiveness of Air Force Weather - Europe — it’s people and services — as a force multiplier for combatant forces.”

by Capt. Carl Batts
U.S. Air Forces in Europe
Directorate of Weather

Flexing the muscle of the air and land arms of the European Command (EUCOM), U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) and U.S. Army in Europe (USAREUR) are the vanguard to the security of the region.

Whether it’s providing air interdiction and humanitarian airlift to war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina, providing subsistence to the starving in Rwanda, or supporting NATO peacekeeping missions to Macedonia, USAFE and USAREUR weather units provide accurate, timely weather support.



Wherever the mission dictates, Air Force Weather - Europe (AFW-E) maintains a watchful eye on the sky.

Throughout history, weather has proven to be a deciding factor in major operations and exercises. In the 50 years since the victory of the Allied Forces in Europe, vast improvements in weapons systems employed in theater continue to increase dependence on accurate weather information as a force multiplier to effectively employ combat operations.

The mission of AFW-E is as varied as its area of responsibility (AOR). Ranging from the grassy knolls of the British Isles to the peaks of the Swiss Alps, from the heat of the Sahara Desert to the bitter cold of the Barents Sea, recent contingencies and exercises have tasked AFW-E in every aspect of weather support.

16th Air Force Weather

Operations DENY FLIGHT, PROVIDE PROMISE and PROVIDE COMFORT are all major contingency operations based from

Aviano AB, Italy and Incirlik AB, Turkey. The relocation of two F-16 wings and fast-paced contingency operations have significantly transformed the once "Sleepy Hollow" of Aviano into a high "ops tempo" location. The changeovers effectively doubled the base population in less than a year.

Dealing with "unreliable and inconsistent" weather information from other countries, personnel "have demonstrated the capability to efficiently support real-world combat operations throughout the 16th Air Force," said Capt. Ron Comoglio, wing weather officer at Aviano. Several different types of aircraft from several nations may take off from a base, executing missions over the entire Mediterranean and Southwest Asia regions, using weather support from either base.

Operating in an ever-changing environment, flexibility remains a key factor in mission accomplishment. As SrA. Lili Llanas, an observer at Aviano, puts it, "The most important characteristic we have is flexibility ... we keep rolling with the punches."



1st Lt. Brian Pukall cites another important factor: "There has always been a sense of cohesiveness ... we have always looked after one another both at work and away from it." Although these factors play important roles, weather personnel agree, putting the mission first is the key.

17th Air Force Weather

Even with the drawdown in Europe, the mission of the 17th Air Force continues to expand. Supported by the 86th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) Weather Flight, weather support is diverse and unique. The Flight, composed of 42 personnel is organized into a command section and three elements.

Maj. Jim Walker, flight commander, actually serves in three positions: Flight Commander, 17th AF Staff Weather Officer, and the Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AIRCENT) Senior Meteorology Officer. The command section also has the NATO Weather Operations and Plans Officer; a Technical Services Officer, and the USAFE Meteorological Satellite Coordinator. This diversity is a direct result of USAFE's downsizing, as the 86th OSS Weather Flight took on responsibilities formerly manned at HQ USAFE.

The Base Weather Station at Ramstein AB, Germany, is one of the few remaining 24-hour forecast and observing sites in Europe. The station's primary customers are the 86th Airlift Wing and the Kaiserslautern Military Community, which is the largest American community outside the United States. Forecasters also provide briefings to pilots from limited duty stations which, when combined with the local wing, average more than 1,000 aircrew briefings a month. The unit also supports space shuttle launches with members deploying to Banjul, The Gambia,



SrA. Mike Murray, an observer at RAF Mildenhall, U.K., checks wind data in the AN/FMQ-13 recorder.

and Zaragoza, Spain.

The Weather Support Unit is a 10-member team which provides support throughout USAFE. They provide weather support to the USAFE Commander-in-Chief and Staff, AIRCENT, U2 reconnaissance, transient USAFE Pilot-to-Metro service, air refueling forecasts, and forecasts for special contingency operations. The unit also provides transoceanic fighter movement support and extended forecasts for the On Site Inspection Agency of START II.

The Interim Combined Air Operations Center (ICAOC) Met Cell at Sembach AB, Germany, provides staff support to the 17th AF and forecasts for the offensive and defensive air operations in NATO's Central Region. Weather personnel at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, support a variety of aircraft, including A-10s, F-15s and F-16s, which are constantly deployed in support of operations such as DENY FLIGHT out of Aviano AB, Italy.

617th Weather Squadron

Providing optimal support to the EUCOM land forces as well as a variety of NATO organizations, such as the Allied Command Europe (ACE) and Allied Land Forces Central Europe (LANDCENT), the 617th Weather Squadron is at the forefront of Army weather support.

With its headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, the 617th WS deploys all across the AOR. The 617th



WS directly supported Operations SUPPORT HOPE in Rwanda, DENY FLIGHT and PROVIDE PROMISE in the Former Yugoslavia, and ABLE SENTRY in Macedonia. Using the latest in tactical weather and communications technology, such as the Integrated Meteorological System - Europe (IMETS-E), the 617th WS supported major joint and NATO exercises such as ATLANTIC RESOLVE 94, CARAVAN GUARD 94, COUNTER GUARD and ARCADE FUSION. Maintaining the highest standards of readiness, the squadron logged over 1,500 man-days of deployed contingency support, and over 9,500 man-days of exercise support in 1994.

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion in 1994, weather remained an important factor. A forecast team, lead by Capt. Tom Goulter of the 617th WS, provided accurate and up-to-date forecasts during the visit of President Clinton and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. While foreign dignitaries relied on local forecasts, and became stranded by the worst weather in 20 years, U.S. dignitaries were able to "beat the weather" and make their next scheduled appearance. The 617th WS proved what it means to "Own The Weather."

3rd Air Force Weather

From across the English Channel, the 3rd Air Force plays an integral role in the safety and security of the region as a part of AFW-E. Providing support to RC-135 reconnaissance missions, the six-member Special

Support Cell provides briefings and up-to-the-minute metwatch for extremely weather-sensitive missions.

Operating in a region from Africa to the Arctic Circle, the newly formed, seven-member Special Operations Weather Team (SOWT) supports the 352nd Special Operations Group based at RAF Mildenhall, England. A full-time responsibility, the SOW Team expects to deploy at least six months out of the year in support of the three Special Operations flying squadrons.

Perhaps one of the biggest missions from across the channel is that of the 100th Air Refueling Wing. The wing plays a vital role in the prosecuting of Operations DENY FLIGHT, PROVIDE PROMISE and SUPPORT HOPE. Whether from England or from deployed air refueling sites in Italy and France, personnel from the 100 OSS Weather Flight play an integral part in ensuring the mission accomplishment.

Demonstrating the spirit of jointness, weather personnel from RAF Lakenheath, England and Ramstein, AB Germany, deployed in support of a joint US Air Force, Navy and Royal Moroccan Air Force exercise, AFRICAN EAGLE 1994.

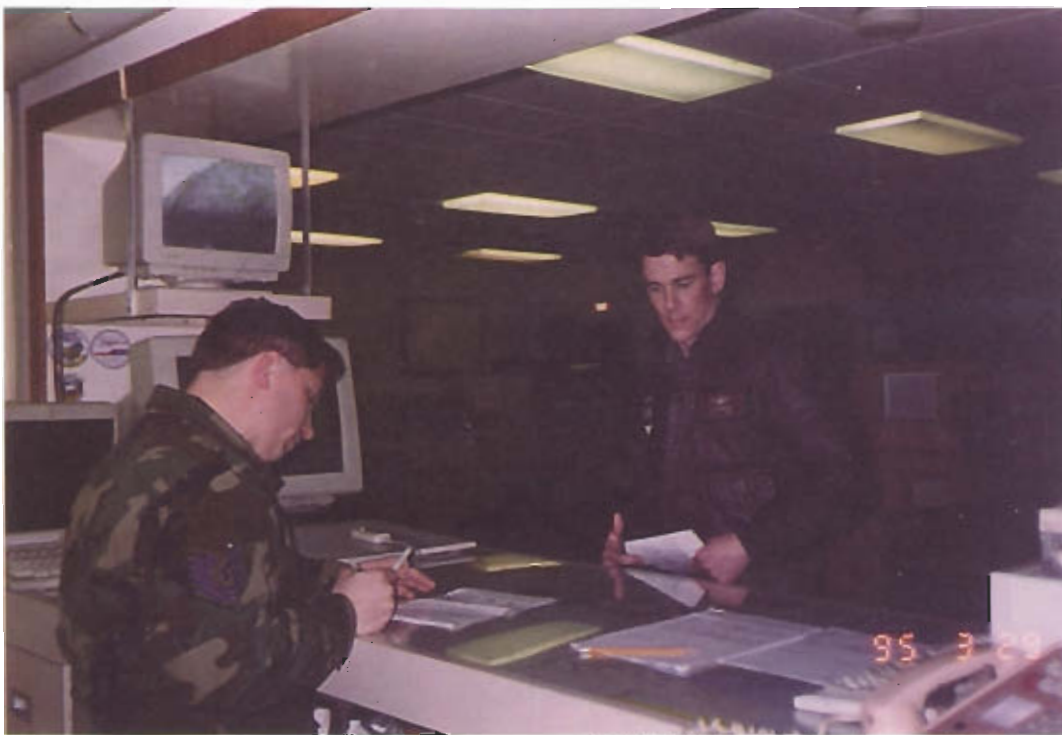
Under austere conditions, the four-person team provided a variety of weather products to include air-to-air, air refueling and electro-optical decision aid forecasts to varied customers.

Operating under diverse weather conditions, AFW-E personnel provide top-flight support to their customers, despite language differences and unfamiliar foreign weather equipment and data

systems. Cultural and political changes have affected the concept of operations in Europe and throughout the AOR.

Providing support and assistance to developing democracies is now a priority mission.

AFW-E provides the command with the needed weather support to optimize use of its assets and accomplish its mission. AFW-E ... It's real-time, all the time.



All photos (including front/back covers) courtesy of USAFE Weather

TSgt. Tommy Lang (left) provides a flight weather briefing to a pilot.

The Operations Center Team

Standing ready to help, day or night



by Col. Jack Hayes
Commander

This Spring, our survey of Air Force Weather (AFW) units throughout the world revealed that many people may not understand the functions of the AFGWC Global Duty Officer and our Operations Center team.



Since this team is your focal point at AFGWC, I want to ensure you know what the AFGWC Operations Center team can do for you.

Do you need weather information for a distant area to support an exercise? Do you need a commercial phone number for the Air Force Dial-In System because your deployed location doesn't have DSN? Are you missing a National Weather Service bulletin, or are your AWDS rerun requests not getting a response? Can't find the four-letter identifier for a faraway weather station? Or how about a MOMSS code so you can "pin" an AFDIGS chart? Did a pilot report a problem with a computer flight

plan? For all this -- and more -- the AFGWC Operations Center team stands ready to help, day or night.

The GDO position has existed since 1977, but to provide better service, we formed an AFGWC Operations Center this year. The team consists of the Global Duty Officer, the Systems Duty Officer, and the Production Duty Officer. The team monitors AFGWC's computers, communications and production. But more

importantly, the team is your round-the-clock contact.

Global Duty Officer

The GDO serves as your first contact about any weather product of service provided, relayed, or transmitted by AFGWC. The GDO is often able to answer other "non-AFGWC" weather-related questions, as well — or at least direct the caller to a suitable point of contact. In addition, the GDO keeps you informed of day-to-day computer or communication problems.

During non-duty hours, the duty GDO is the senior-ranking person at AFGWC. Because they personally represent me, I select highly-motivated, innovative officers for this position. GDOs have the authority to make decisions and take any required action to support you.

Systems Duty Officer

The Systems Duty Officers, or SDOs, are responsible for the smooth operation of AFGWC's complex computer architecture,

which includes 13 mainframe and minicomputer systems. SDOs ensure the timely receipt and processing of raw weather and satellite data — the critical first steps in creating the products we send you. In addition, SDOs manage the creation of automated AFGWC products (charts "untouched by human hands"), and the timely distribution of these products.

When hardware problems occur, a computer program fails, or a communications line goes down, the SDO's stress level goes up in a hurry. Why? To prevent or minimize the impact to you.

Production Duty Officer

The Production Duty Officer, or PDO, works production of those Global charts that have a forecaster in the loop. He or she ensures that forecasters have all the tools they need to create these products. The PDO also keeps a finger on the pulse of daily production, so that our charts reach you on time. Another key responsibility is troubleshooting the AFGWC-National Weather Service interface system, which feeds NWS charts into AFDIS.

AFDIS customers owe a great deal to the PDO. The PDO transfers Relocatable Window Models and Contrail graphics into the AFDIS server for all users. Should you request a special AFDIS satellite shot for a contingency, the PDO will make that happen, also.

This is a brief introduction to your Ops Center team. Now that you know what they can do for you, don't hesitate to contact your focal point at AFGWC with questions, suggestions, concerns or kudos.

No call is ever insignificant or irrelevant — I hope we'll be hearing from you!

Contact the Ops Center team at DSN 271-2586. Add the prefix 312 for overseas users. The commercial number is (402) 294-2586.



Photo by SrA. Thomas A. Radtke

Global Duty Officers at AFGWC (left to right): Capt. Randy J. Lefevre, Capt. Lester M. Hendren, Jr., Maj. Susan L. Hathaway, Capt. James C. Parsons, Maj. Catherine M. Biddulph, Capt. Terry L. Hoffman.



Modeled Climatology Just How Good Is It?

by Lt. Col. Jud Stailey
Commander

We've been modeling climatology at ETAC for several years. Our two most well-known modeled products are small computer programs called MODCV (for Modeled Ceiling and Visibility) and MODCURVES (for Modeled Curves of daily temperature, dew point, relative humidity, altimeter, and pressure altitude).

Both programs are designed to replace forecasting tools already available to weather station forecasters. MODCV replaces Wind Stratified Conditional Climatology (WSCC) Tables and MODCURVES replaces heating and altimeter setting curves.

Two questions are commonly asked about modeled climatologies. First, if we can already provide products based on real data, why model it? Secondly, how much do we degrade the usefulness of the data by modeling it?

The answers to these two questions are interrelated — one of the reasons for modeling climatology is that the results are sometimes better than the actual data!

Don't believe it? I didn't either the first time somebody suggested that modeled data could be better than the real thing. It's true, but I'll come back to that a little later. First I'll address other reasons for modeling climatology.

Modeled climatology is usually more compact than tables of data. We've found that plotted curves of the climatology of weather elements tend to have the same general shape, regardless of month, location, or other related factors (wind direc-

tion, cloud cover, etc.). We can define this basic curve mathematically. However, the details of the curve will vary somewhat as situations change. This allows us to recreate the climatology for any situation by putting numbers for the specific case into the basic equation.



Still with me? The bottom line: we replace 700 pages of WSCC tables with an equation and a relatively small table of coefficients which allow you to generate the climatology on the fly.

Modeled climatology has some other advantages. It smooths out irregularities in data — unnatural features caused by short periods of record, observing practices and biases, or errors in the data. It can realistically extend climatology beyond the limits of data — for example, estimating extremes based on a short period of record. It can also be generated more rapidly than the conventional product. For a recent emergency, we produced MODCV for a remote location in the

former USSR in a few hours.

But how could a model be better than the real thing? In the long term, nature tends to behave in patterns which can be described by smooth curves. Observational data tends to have errors which put unnatural bumps in the curves. The models remove these bumps, and hence, better approximate the real world than the noisy data. This isn't just theory — we proved it.

When we first developed MODCV we ran a test. For nine bases in the U.S. and Europe, we put out two forecasts, one based on WSCC and one based on MODCV. We ran the test in April and November, and verified ceiling and visibility independently at two different hours in the forecast—a total of 72 separate verifications. MODCV beat WSCC at 62 of these verification points.

We expect to see continued growth of climate modeling in the future, not just because models are quick, compact, and flexible; but also because models provide superior planning tools and forecasting aids.

USAFETAC changes name to AFCCC

In an effort to better reflect the mission of the weather center, the United States Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center will soon become the Air Force Combat Climatology Center.

The name "Environmental Technical Applications Center" was first applied to the organization in 1964, before which it was called the Climatic Center. The old name implied the fact that the center's work encompasses more than climatology, but didn't suggest in any way that the bulk of the center's products are related to that discipline.

The new name highlights the center's

primary function—climatology—and emphasizes that products are focused on enhancing combat capability.

Change of Command at USAFETAC

Col. Frank Routhier has taken the reins of USAFETAC, replacing Lt. Col. Jud Stailey in a change of command ceremony at Scott AFB Aug. 2, 1995. Colonel Routhier came to ETAC from the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology in Silver Springs, Md. He previously served as Air Weather Service Director of Technology and Director of Operations, as well as commanding both a weather detachment and squadron.

Weather officer course starts at Keesler Weather Schoolhouse

by Ed Ring
Weather Training Flight
Keesler AFB, Miss.

The Joint Weather Training Flight here has begun teaching a course which many people feel has been long overdue — the Weather Officer Course.

In the past, a new weather officer would arrive at his or her unit directly from a university with little or no knowledge of operational weather forecasting. Thanks to this new course, which started July 11, units will no longer receive a brand-new second lieutenant capable of deriving non-dimensional forms of the shallow Boussinesq equations, but unable to tell a GMQ-34 from third base.

The formal course is designed to facilitate the transition of new weather officers from their pre-commissioning academic environment to the operational weather unit. In addition to operational forecasting skills, students receive a comprehensive introduction to Air Force Weather doctrine and the Air Force Weather support system.

The bulk of the course concentrates on the basic technical skills necessary to work the forecast counter, such as terminal aerodrome forecasting, flight hazards, the Automated Weather Distributions System, the WSR-88D, and weather station operations. In addition, wartime weather support skills, space environment, Army support and joint operations are covered.

This training not only reduces the new officer' training time it also gives them an appreciation for the enlisted forecaster's background and knowledge.

"Finally, we're training the weather officers to be operational forecasters

OBSERVATIONS

before they arrive at the base weather station," said Maj. Tom Strange, commander of the Joint Weather Training Flight. "We should have done this years ago."

OL-A, USAFETAC, civilian named area's Federal Woman of Year

by Maj. Mike Hunsucker
Chief, OL-A, USAFETAC
Asheville, N.C.

Teresa J. Lovelace, a secretary at Operating Location-A (OL-A), U.S.A.F. Environmental Technical Applications Center, is the Asheville, N.C.,-area Federal Woman of the Year for 1994. This award pays tribute to federal women of Western North Carolina whose professionalism exhibits the highest standards of dedication, excellence, and accomplishments within the government and throughout the community.

The Federal Woman of the Year award culminated several awards Lovelace earned for her exceptional contributions to OL-A and the community during 1994. In April, Ms. Lovelace was chosen as the Air Weather Service (AWS) 1994 Civilian of the Year. In early May, Lovelace earned distinction in two categories of the Excellence in Public Service Awards honoring outstanding men and women in city, county, state, and federal government agencies in the Asheville-Buncombe county area.

Competing against her peers in the clerical field, her accomplishments earned her Outstanding Clerical Employee for Asheville-Buncombe county, but she also rallied as the first non-executive to tri-

umph as the overall winner in the Most Outstanding Public Servant category for the greater Asheville area.

Successfully competing against doctors, detectives, law enforcement officers, and other professionals meant that Lovelace's accomplishments span a realm of contributions well beyond the typical role of a secretary.

Lovelace, who has been with OL-A for 10 years, provided absolutely unequalled support to OL-A's 70+ people as they faced drastic personnel cuts — the first occurring in mid-1995. She arranged a vast transition assistance program that rivals one of a major base. Her automated database tracks an extensive array of books, software, pamphlets, microfiche, and videos. OL-A's people have the resources needed to assist them in essentially any transition situation. Lovelace applied her Total Quality Management expertise to keeping morale on a pinnacle despite OL-A's turmoil. She researched literature and discovered different types of awards to promote positive morale and helped implement an OL-A quality emblem through the purchase of incentive items.

An astute community volunteer, Ms. Lovelace is a role model for public employees. She has served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and as treasurer for the Asheville Federal Women's Program. She is currently a hoard member of the Arcade Federal Credit Union and substitutes as an YMCA aerobics volunteer instructor. Her church activities involve her in the singles and child care ministries as well as visits to a local nursing home to participate in church services for the residents.

Lovelace recently earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Business Computer Programming while her latest self-improvement activities earned her 4.0 grade point averages in both a meteorology and climatology course at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

FROM THE FIELD

Eglin forecaster is a champion on the seas

by 2nd Lt. Jason Plata
46th Weather Flight
Eglin AFB, Fla.

When I was 16 years old, I won a first-place trophy in a cardboard boat regatta. My boat was flimsy, cheap, and by the end of the race, waterlogged. My name and picture were in the paper and, for a few weeks, I was pretty darn proud of myself. People would congratulate me, and recognize my "accomplishment" wherever I went. This was pretty neat for me .. at the time!

But what if I were the world champion cardboard boat racer! Wouldn't that be something to talk about. Any type of world championship would be an incredible bragging right. Alas, I've never advanced that far in my racing career. But I have found out that I work with a true world-champion sailor ... a two-time champion, as a matter of fact.

SSgt. Robert Curry is a recent arrival to Eglin AFB's 46th WF, and he has been quietly piling up the trophies and championships over the years.

While you might not see his name mentioned on ESPN or CNN, his name is recognized throughout the world in his sailing class. Curry races Hobic catamaran sailboats, a twin-hull, 20-foot boat with a 31-foot mast, and 250 square feet of sail.

Curry began sailing in the 1970's at the age of 19, and has been a steady competitor ever since. His racing has taken him to locales such as the Philippines, Canada, Puerto Rico, around Europe, and throughout the United States. As he says, "Have big truck, will travel!" I guess that's why his assignments have always

kept him warm and near the coast, including MacDill and Homestead AFBs.

Curry sails constantly, with a partner who helps him practice as often as possible.

"There's no substitute for time on the water," said Curry. Since all the boats are exactly the same, it's the skill of the sailor that makes the difference."

That kind of dedication has paid off for Curry. He has been the all-around National Champion in Hobic racing 14 times. He won the 1983 World Championship for 14-foot Hobic sailboats held in the Philippines, and the 1993 World Championship for Mystere 20-foot sailboats in Montreal, Canada. Curry's team also won the 1994 Alter Cup Championship, named after Hobic Alter, creator of the Hobic-style sailboat.

Curry said one particular incident in Tampa Bay in 1978 could have cost him his life. During the race, an afternoon thunderstorm developed rapidly over the course. He had to decide whether to tip the boat, placing the mast underwater (so as not to attract lightning), or sail through the storm. Tipping the boat, Curry felt, would have caused extreme damage to the boat because of the strong current under a nearby bridge.

"I decided to sail through the storm, with lightning crackling all around me, and the rigging giving me shocks with every lightning bolt. I'll never do that again!"

Luckily, Curry escaped with only minor injuries ... and he won the race!

The long, hard work Curry has put into his racing career has carried over into the dedication he puts into his work. As a weather forecaster, he has received numerous awards and was selected to represent the Air Force Materiel Command at Forecast Challenge '95, held at Hurlburt Field, Fla., in March.

Dover WX flight tops in AMC

by TSgt. Jon A. Scudder
Dover AFB Public Affairs

The weather flight at Dover AFB, Del., has been chosen as the Air Mobility Command's Outstanding Weather Station of the Year for 1994. Two weather people, TSgt. Michael Rudis and SrA. Behinn Cassell also won AMC awards in their respective weather fields.

The shop, which belongs to the 436th Operations Support Squadron, was notified Jan. 20, 1995, in a message from AMC headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill.

"I could not be happier about the achievements of the unit and its members," said SMSgt. Kerry Joens, weather flight commander. The whole key to our success is the quality of teamwork within the flight. We're a small group of 20 enlisted people who work together very well."

Lt. Col. Erwin F. Lessell III, 436th OSS commander, also gave the weather flight high marks. "They go out of their way to ensure quality service," Lessell said. "It just goes to show what can happen when quality Air Force principles are properly implemented."

A few 1994 highlights from the weather flight include the accurate and timely forecasting of the worst ice storm to hit Dover in decades. This permitted the senior staff to make decisions on the protection of aircraft and facilities.

Members of the weather flight also deployed to support Operations Restore Hope, Support Hope and Provide Promise.

During an operational readiness inspection in June 1994, the 436th OSS/OSW demonstrated superior teamwork in setting up a weather station at Clinton Sherman, Okla., amidst high winds and other adverse conditions. "Within minutes, the deployed team set up shop under field conditions," Joens said.

The individual accomplishments were

see **OBSERVATIONS**,
continued on Page 23

How your **OBSERVER** is built

by SSgt. Steve Elliott
Editor, OBSERVER

Since the debut of the magazine-format **OBSERVER** in January 1995, I've been flooded with phone calls, letters, E-mails, postcards, etc., proclaiming how much people are enjoying the change.

Considering how much time, money, manpower and resources went into making this magazine a reality, it's gratifying to see our audience respond so overwhelmingly in favor of the new format.

For me, personally, it's been a dream come true. After all, how many staff sergeants have their own public affairs office loaded with the best equipment? How many editors have been fortunate enough to have the kind of visionary leadership to see that this magazine is just what Air Force Weather has needed for many years?

As Air Force Director of Weather Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon wrote in his editorial in January's inaugural issue, AWS set out to "open communication channels throughout AFW from the top down and the bottom up; produce a premiere periodical we can all point to with pride; and provide a forum for all weather warriors to ask questions, exchange ideas, and stay current in the operational science."

Designing this magazine has been an ongoing process. I have experimented with many design and type elements since January in order to bring you the best weather magazine money can buy. Some have worked, some haven't, but at least I have had the freedom to try them out. For that, I send my thanks to the AFW senior leadership, both past and present. Without their willingness to embrace change -- and their understanding when things didn't go as planned -- this magazine would not exist.

But the real reason for the **OBSERVER**'s existence is you, the professional. No matter whether you're a weather flight com-

mander in the Far East, a master sergeant and station chief in the Midwest, an airman just out of the Weather Schoolhouse at Keesler AFB, Miss., or a civilian working at the headquarters, the **OBSERVER** is all about you.

In my 12-plus years in public affairs, I've never met a more professional, dedicated and intelligent group of people. I am astounded by the breadth of knowledge in the weather field and how important weather is in the entire scope of military operations.

That's why it's so important for the people in AFW to tell me how to tell your story. I've made some changes recently which will allow me to put in more stories from the field, more "war stories" from weather veterans, and more technical help for those people running the NEXRAD or whatever other piece of equipment you have in your weather station.

I've also received queries about how articles are picked for publication, what the deadlines are, and so forth.

First, I try to use every article that I receive. Due to space limitations, I haven't always been able to run as much as I've wanted. Under our contract, the **OBSERVER** is limited to 24 pages each month, and that includes the front and back covers.

Then comes the standard articles from General Lennon, Colonel Dushan, CM Sgr.

Jim Hoy (AFW Senior Enlisted Advisor), and the officer career progression people. The main cover story is also delegated four pages.

In the past, this hasn't left a whole lot of "flex" space for other articles. But thanks to the understanding of all parties involved, certain articles will be "rotated" on a monthly basis. AFGWC, USAFETAC, and (soon) the Combat Weather Facility (at Hurlburt Field, Fla.) will publish one month and have the next month off.

Then XO and SY will have their turn to publish, while the centers have their

down time. This will ensure at least three additional open pages per month for other stories. As you might have noticed in the July issue, two pages were dedicated to "Observations From The Field." This will be a standard section every month to showcase what YOU are doing in support of your wing, command and the Air Force.

Second, about deadlines. I work an average of six to eight weeks ahead of time. For example, the article you are reading now was written in late June, turned into the printer in mid-July, and mailed to the field in early August.

Some station chiefs and commanders have called me when they don't see the articles or "salutes" they might have sent in a month or two ago. All I can ask is for your patience and understanding. I promise to use each and every salute submission I get ... eventually. This section has proven to be a crowd favorite, with roughly 300 submissions per month. I wish I could put in more, but I'd have to make the type so tiny, it would take a magnifying glass to read it!

Right now, the **OBSERVER** is a one-person operation. I edit and design every page in the magazine, take photos when needed, and write at least one article per month. I also run the HQ AWS public affairs program, which includes news releases, photography, and whatever other little design projects pop up. I also go TDY once or twice a month to gather information or stay adept at my craft. Eventually, the AWS public affairs office will have two full-time PA NCOs assigned. When that happens, we can do even more for our audience and the rest of the Air Force.

So, what's this all mean? Just this -- my job is to bring you the best weather magazine anywhere. What's your part? Tell me what's happening in your job -- and in your life. I'll run interesting human interest stories about weather warriors, but you have to send them in. I don't have a little radar on top my office that sniffs out stories -- I need your input. You can fax them to DSN 576-2417 (commercial: (618) 256-2417), or send by electronic mail to "elliotts@hqaws.safb.af.mil"

Keep those cards and letters coming. After all, it's YOUR magazine!

"Designing this magazine has been an ongoing process."



NEXRAD Tips

Most weather units now have the WSR-88D. Here are a few items which may assist you in managing your NEXRAD program more efficiently:

■ a. The Vad Wind Profile (VWP) is a good tool to very easily and quickly evaluate the entire state of the atmosphere. It is excellent for detection of advection of moisture into the area, cold/warm air advection, turbulent areas, inversions heights, and low level jets.

■ b. Weather observers can be a valuable resource in the use of the WSR-88D. With the proper training using archived data, they can be an integral part of the radar program.

■ c. Composite reflectivity is excellent for quick identification of the most significant storm, but the four panel is much more useful for identifying the internal structure of a storm. More importantly, the operator can identify small scale features and the heights of severe signatures.

■ d. VCP 11 is a better tool than VCP 21 for thunderstorms because it gives the operator more elevation slices to investigate. However, the operator needs to be aware of loadshedding with VCP 11.

■ e. The Storm Relative Mean Radial Velocity Region (SRR) and Storm Relative Mean Radial Velocity Map (SRM) are good tools for picking up the rotation in a storm because they subtract the storm motion from the product. This gives the forecaster the true wind in the environment and is not contaminated by storm motion.

■ f. The PUP handbooks are an excellent source of information. However, they are best used for review and training sessions rather than during actual weather situations.

-- submitted by TSgt. Arlen Lewis, HQ AWS/XOTS, DSN 576-4721, ext 418; e-mail: "lewisa@hqaws.safb.af.mil"

Air National Guard WX Positions Open

The 208th Weather Flight, Minnesota Air National Guard, has an opening for a company grade officer. The position description is Staff Weather Officer for the Army's 34th Infantry Division.

The 208th WF also has several projected openings for weather technicians.

Resumes can be sent to MSgt. Brian Magnuson, 206 Airport Rd., St. Paul, Minn. 55107. For additional information, call DSN 825-5011, and ask for 297-4840; or commercially at (612) 297-4840.

The 195th Weather Flight, California Air National Guard, has two weather officer vacancies open up in the rank of major.

For more information, call MSgt. Charles E. Houghton III at DSN 893-7539 or (805) 986-7539.

Have those pesky Velocity Data Drop Outs?

Have you ever been plagued by Velocity Data Drop Outs (VDDO)? On rare occasions, the WSR-88D NEXRAD velocity dealiasing algorithm will not be able to estimate the correct velocity. This will leave that particular gate blank.

This appears to happen mainly in loca-

tions where there is extremely high shear.

A VDDO can be recognized by comparing the velocity data to reflectivity data. If reflectivity is available at the same gates where no velocity data exist, then a data drop out is occurring. This is normally found in the hook echo area in the low-level reflectivity data. When this drop out is observed in the middle of the mesocyclone (it is technically masking part of the important signature), it is also providing valuable information about the potential threat of the signature. The drop out in this case is indicating very strong shear.

This phenomena has been observed in different parts of the country and is something to be on the alert for.

Illustration of the VDDO phenomena can be found in the WSR-88D Operator's Guide to Mesocyclone Recognition and Diagnosis (March 1995), page 64.

-- submitted by TSgt. Arlen Lewis, HQ AWS/XOTS, DSN 576-4721, ext. 418; or by e-mail at "lewisa@hqaws.safb.af.mil."

NASA Places Weather Satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA recently launched the second in a series of advanced weather satellites that should improve the forecasting of hurricanes, tornadoes and flash floods.

An Atlas rocket blasted off at 1:52 a.m. May 16, 1995, and hoisted the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite into orbit. Last week's launch attempts were thwarted by a bad rocket battery and high wind.

Forecasters hope to get storm images from the newest GOES satellite during this year's hurricane season. NASA will spend four to five months.

See OBTW, continued on Page 22

testing the spacecraft before handing control to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The first advanced GOES satellite, GOES 8, was launched in April 1994. It will become fully operational by June 1, the first day of the six-month Atlantic hurricane season.

Thanks to that satellite, the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo., is already issuing tornado and other storm watches sooner than before, said center director Frederick Osrby. Forecasters also can better define which areas should be included in these watches, he said. The newest satellite is called GOES 9. Like its predecessor, the \$220 million spacecraft operates from a 22,300-mile-high orbit. Two satellites are needed in this orbit to watch the whole United States and adjacent oceans.

Besides stalking storms, these bigger and better GOES satellites can track icebergs, detect fog at night and distinguish 1,024 shades of cloud brightness. The old satellites could discern only 64 shades.

"This is a powerful, powerful observing tool we've got here," said James Purdom, chief of the regional and mesoscale meteorology branch at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Did You Know? More NEXRAD hints

Did you know you can have the WSR-88D display the latest Vertical Wind Profile (VWP) for each volume scan? You can accomplish through two methods:

1. Build a VWP time lapse with a product count of one and set it to continuous update. This will, however, deactivate the other common Metwatch time lapse — Composite Reflectivity (CR).

2. The second method, which will

work alongside the popular CR loop, is to build a user function for displaying the VWP, set a 3,600-second wait, set product forward, set 3,600-second wait, set product forward, and so forth.

Did you know there are actually 60 slots for user functions on the WSR-88D? Even though only 1-30 are available from the graphics tablet, all 60 can be activated from the applications terminal (U,E,#.KXXX).

Did you know AWDS automatically changes the heights of the Skew-T to represent the actual heights (PA curve), NOT standard heights? If there is more than one Skew-T loaded, the one on top has the heights. The standard height bar can be overlaid by selecting backgrounds and standard heights. There are also contrail, standard atmos, and mixing ratios secondary backgrounds.

Did you know hurricane-prone bases can set up a secondary map background on the PI set of their choice? You can place range rings around the base in 100 NM increments using the clear station circle plot in size 7 increments (7, 14, 21, 28, 35 = 100, 200, 300, 400, 500NM), centered on the base. You can then use the F5 or "break" key for the EXACT latitude and longitude (this will not work if you edit on the actual PI set).

Did you know AWDS will NOT purge the queue? This should be done monthly at the minimum. AWDS will store all locally-generated products (TAF, OBS, WA, WW, etc.) until they have been deleted from the QC queue. You should also check the "flawed input products" and the "not sent" queues in the admin tables for monthly deletion. This will dramatically speed up the AWDS processing time.

Did you know that you can disable all the alarms for the AWDS FO termi-



nal? Simply insert a "dummy" miniature audio jack into the jack port located on the back side of the FO CPU. This will disable all system sounds, beeps and alarms (assuming your CPU is equipped with an audio jack port; some may not).

— submitted by TSgt. Mike McAleenan, HQ AWSIXOT, DSN 576-4721, ext. 227; e-mail or Internet address: "mcalleen@hqaws.safb.af.mil"

What's Up, PUP?

Did you ever wonder what those yellow boxes labeled 1-64 in the upper portion of your PUP tablet were for? These are fonts you can choose to add symbols and/or letters to background maps.

You can access these by using the "D, T, 9 R" command. At this point, pull up the background map you want to add the icon to, click the spot you want, then click on the number that corresponds with the icon you want.

Remember, before you can edit your background maps, you must go, "password, E, E". This allows you to edit these background maps. Don't forget to do a "C, B", which accesses the background map table.

To have that background map displayed, place an "X" in the appropriate map background which has been edited.

When you are in the font screen, lower case will give you 1-32 ("1" is set by OSF on acceptance as a 2x2-pixel block. Many sites use "1" for cities), while 33-64 is the upper case.

— submitted by TSgt. Arlen Lewis, HQ AWSIXOT, DSN 576-4721, ext. 418; E-mail address: "lewisa@hqaws.safb.af.mil"

New E-mail addresses at HQ AWS

New servers were recently installed at Headquarters Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, Ill. This has affected people who have attempted to correspond with people at the headquarters via electronic mail.

The change involves the name of the person being contacted. In the past, the first part of the address

consisted of the person's last name. In the new system, use the FIRST SEVEN LETTERS of the person's last name, PLUS the FIRST INITIAL OF THEIR FIRST NAME.

For example, to contact the editor of the OBSERVER, SSgt. Steve Elliott, address e-mail to: "elliotts@hqaws.safb.af.mil"

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.

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 the address listed on page 2.

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are in a transition from direct management to members of a staff. You should demonstrate hands-on control of a large operation, and add staff actions to your repertoire.

Why? In our career field, as in most of the Air Force, chief master sergeants are assigned to staffs. As a senior master sergeant, you need to demonstrate your understanding of Air Force and career field operations by increasing the depth and breadth of your experience.

The ability to manage multiple functions — either specialties or work centers into a cohesive unit—is one task.

Another is the ability to manage projects — usually at MAJCOM, MACOM, AWS, and the Air Staff. The promotion boards are looking for the few to promote to chief and staff experience is one more skill to have in the bag.

Of the 17 chief master sergeant positions in Air Force weather, 15 are staff level positions involved in the management of MAJCOM/MACOM or unique functions. One manages the production floor at AFGWC and one is authorized to assist in the management of a large squadron.

I caution you not to use this as the

only approach to a career path; each chief master sergeant took a different route to chief.

However, each of us passed through one particular gate—station chief. Will that change in tomorrow's Air Force weather? I don't think so. Is it a tough job—you bet.

Our career field offers tremendous diversity: space, special operations forces, centralized support, and Air Force and Army operations.

Take advantage of the opportunities and enjoy your stay in Air Force weather.

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equally impressive. Lessel said, "Rudis' and Casell's performances represent the dedication and professionalism that put the weather flight in line for the AMC award."

Rudis, an Automated Weather Distribution System manager, is the recognized AMC expert when it comes to the AWDS.

The Scranton, Pa., native made innovative improvements in upgrading local AWDS software. An operational readiness inspection "Top Performer", Rudis engineered Dover's software upgrade, delivered equipment, reprogrammed database and internal commands, and trained all AWDS users.

Cassel, a weather forecaster, came to Dover in March 1994 after being an honor graduate at her weather training course at Keesler AFB, Miss. Since then, she has continued to perform at a high level, said MSgt. Kevin McGarrigle,

weather flight superintendent.

"Cassel has done an exceptional job in forecasting adverse weather conditions," McGarrigle said. "She provided customers and average two hours notice before the onset of thunderstorms and nine hours notification prior to fog conditions."

Cassel was also a part of a three-member forecaster team Dover sent with the 436th Tanker Airlift Control Element in support of Operation RESTORE DE-

MOCRACY.

Before the deployment, she gathered regional intelligence and climatological data, while establishing aircrew briefing support within five hours of notification.

"Without a doubt, this is the most outstanding group of high-caliber people that I've seen who are dedicated to doing a good job," McGarrigle said.



The Dover AFB Weather Team

Photo courtesy of the 436th OSS/OSW

