Gen. Bassett

Col. Peterson

# Maj. Gen. Bassett To Command AWS

A former Army Air Forces weather chief, Major General Harold H. Bassett, returns next month to weather work as Air Weather Service commander, USAF headquarters has announced. General Bassett will assume command of AWS on or about November 15.

Colonel Norman L. Peterson, who has commanded AWS since the reassignment last March of Major General Thomas S. Moorman jr., will remain with AWS as deputy commander.

To assume his new post, General Bassett returns to the United States from duty as deputy commander of the US Taiwan Defense Command at Taipei. Prior to his Far East tour, the general was assigned to the USAF Security Service, serving as its deputy commander from 1951 to 1952 and as commander from 1952 until his departure for Taiwan.

From 1942 until 1944, General Bassett, then a colonel, was Director of Weather for the Army Air Forces, a post equivalent to that of AWS commander. Following this assignment, he served from 1945 to 1947 as Director of Weather for the US Strategic Air Force and USAFE.

Prior to 1942, General Bassett had served in a number of weather assignments, among them that of Regional Control Officer of the 1st Weather Region on the West Coast.

General Bassett left weather work in 1948, when he was assigned as deputy director of the Joint Staff's Joint Intelligence Group. He remained in this post until his assignment to the Security Service in 1951.

Born in Albion, Ill., in 1907, General Bassett is a 1929 graduate of the US Military Academy and holds a master of science degree, class of 1936, from the California Intitute of Technology.

General Bassett, a command pilot, is a graduate of the Air Corps Tactical School, 1940; Naval War College, 1942; and National War College, 1948. Among his decorations are the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star Medal.

Mrs. Bassett is the former Miss Anita Horner. The Bassetts have a married daughter, Mrs. Frances Bassett Hill.


AIR WEATHER SERVICE

OBSERVER

THE WEATHER COMPONENT OF THE MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE

Vol. 5, No. 6 Headquarters, Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, Ill. October 1958


## Pakistan AWS Chief Completes Weather Techniques Course

Major Abdull Waheed Kahn, chief of the Pakistan equivalent of the USAF Air Weather Service, recently graduated from a six weeks course in Modern Weather Techniques offered at Chanute AFB, Ill.

The Major will be visiting the Tactical Air Command Forecast center at Langley AFB, Va., National Weather Analysis center at Suitland, Md. and National Hurricane center at Miami, Fla., to observe and apply the techniques from the classroom.

## CWO O. Palms Is 'A' Student

CWO, W-2 Owen L. Palms, 31st Weather squadron, has been awarded the University of Maryland Certificate of Scholarship.

He qualified for the award by appearing on the Dean's List with a grade point standing of 'A'.

Mr. Palms has earned a total of 85 semester hours of college credit through his off-duty study efforts.

As a part of the Air Force off-duty study program, the University of Maryland provides extension courses at many overseas bases and grants appropriate credit for successful completions.

The **Observer** regretfully reports the deaths of the following Air Weather Service personnel:

**A/2c Allen I. Delbrouck** 55th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, on September 1 of injuries received in an automobile accident near Reno, Nev.

**A/1c Shelton Dale Spencer** enroute PCS from 9th Weather squadron to Detachment 2, 11 Weather squadron, on September 9 in crash of MATS C-47 courier on take-off at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

## *Vote*

**"Every man and woman in or with military service owes it to himself or herself, and to the nation to take a direct interest in the coming elections. I urge everyone eligible to vote to inform himself on issues and candidates, to consult his voting officer regarding absentee voting procedures, and to send for a ballot without delay.**

**"Our Armed Forces exist to defend freedom and to maintain peace. All of us in the national defense system should be proud to take part in the free government for which the defense system exists."**

**Neil McElroy**
**Secretary of Defense**

## Det. 4, 5th Gp. Is Cited Twice For Good Work

Detachment 4, 5th Weather group at Goose Bay, Labrador recently received two letters of commendation for its achievements in daily weather observation. Major Wallace M. Thurston, detachment commander, informed detachment personnel of the recognition and added his own personal congratulations at last month's Commander's Call.

One commendation, from 5th Weather group headquarters, congratulated the detachment's rawinsonde section for its record of four successive months of reaching an average of more than 100,000 feet altitude with the four weather balloons sent aloft each day. An average daily balloon altitude of 113,000 feet was set for the month of August. M/Sgt. Howard S. Davenport is NCOIC of the rawinsonde section.

Daily observations at altitudes of 100,000 feet or more are necessary for the weather group to fulfill its part in the International Geophysical Year program now underway.

The other commendation, a letter from 3d Weather wing headquarters praised the out-

(Con't. on Page 2)

## New Commander 3d Weather Sq.

Lt. Col. Frank S. Savage has assumed command of the 3d Weather squadron, Shaw AFB, S. C., replacing Lt. Col. Elwyn A. Moseley who has been reassigned to 1st Weather wing headquarters, Wheeler AFB, T. H.

Colonel Savage was Operations officer at 1st Weather wing headquarters prior to the Shaw AFB assignment.

He is a graduate of San Jose State college and entered military service upon graduation. He received his wings and commission after successfully completing flying training schools in California and Texas.

Colonel Savage is also a graduate of the Command and Staff school at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

## M-Sgt. R. Weeks Gets Top Honors NCO Academy

M/Sgt. Rupert D. Weeks, 55th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, McClellan AFB, Calif., has been selected honor graduate of his class at the MATS NCO Academy, Orlando, Fla.

Col. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander, sent a personal message to M/Sgt. Weeks stating that "It is a source of great pleasure to me to learn that you have been selected as honor graduate of your NCO Academy class. I am sure that the competition for this honor was very keen and that you succeeded only by dint of your devoted and intelligent work in exploiting the advantages of this training to the maximum. Please accept my heartiest congratulations."

Sergeant Weeks, a flight engine technician, AFSC 431-74 entered NCO Academy class 59-2 Aug. 16 and graduated Sept. 19.

**SPECIAL DELIVERY—Assisted by Lt. George O. Schmidt, 53d Weather Reconnaissance squadron pilot, two year old Christine R. Schocker prepares to drop her Santa Claus letter into the special mailbag which will be delivered to Santa Claus by 53d WRS personnel. Christine is the daughter of S/Sgt. Dewain R. Schocker, 53d WRS at Burtonwood, England. The 53d WRS has made a special Christmas letter drop each year since 1954. (See story on page 3.)**

## Legion of Merit To Maj. O'Black

For exceptional work in the field of weather electronics, Maj. Frank R. O'Black, jr. of the 3d Weather group was decorated on September 15 with the Legion of Merit by Maj. Gen. Jarred V. Crabb, chief of staff, Air Defense Command.

Present at the ceremonies were the Honorable J. Edgar Chenoweth (R), Congressman for the Third District, and the Major's father, Mr. Frank R. O'Black of Trinidad, Colo. Congressman Chenoweth remarked that, "This is a happy day for Trinidad, the hometown of the O'Blacks and myself. It gives me a great feeling of personal satisfaction to see this young man reach such heights in his military career."

The citation accompanying the medal stated in part, "Major O'Black demonstrated exceptional professional ability, far-seeing ingenuity, and selfless devotion to duty by his outstanding service. He made significant contributions to the tactics used in winning the 1957 Bendix Trophy race. He designed and helped to build a temperature indicating device to expedite the take-off of pilots on air defense missions. He designed and demonstrated a method to remotely operate the runway barrier, thus eliminating large expenses for lengthy cable controls. He also developed a means to economically and instantaneously disseminate information by phantom signals over existing circuits."

AIR WEATHER SERVICE
OBSERVER

The Air Weather Service OBSERVER is an official Class 4 Air Force newspaper published monthly on the third Wednesday of the month by and for the personnel of the world-wide Air Weather Service of the Military Air Transport Service under the supervision of the Directorate of Information Services, Headquarters, Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, Ill. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Air Force. The OBSERVER is supported by subscriptions of AWS organizations and individuals and entirely without the use of funds appropriated by Congress.

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COL. NORMAN L. PETERSON
Commander, Air Weather Service
MR. JOHN D. RUGG, Director, Information Services
LT. WILLIAM R. ROSS, Chief, Information Division
M/SGT. WILLIAM J. MAYFIELD, Editor
A/3C NANCY J. WILT, Staff Writer

## US Air Force -- Guardian of Freedom

# *Do We Have Enough Airlift?*

Does the United States have enough airlift?

This is a question you often hear—just as you hear the question: "Do we have enough of the newest supersonic aircraft and enough nuclear-powered seacraft in the works?

The final answer to these questions, from the military point of view, is arrived at by the chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force, meeting as the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They are assisted in arriving at their answer by a group of top military experts from each of the Services.

### *Troops Flown to Lebanon*

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Nathan F. Twining, USAF, recently answered critics who have said that our operation involving sending troops to Lebanon showed we lacked adequate airlift.

In the first place, says Gen. Twining, in the Lebanese situation, there was "no requirement for an assault or invasion by a large force. The requirement was the peaceable introduction of troops in a deliberate manner. The operation was so planned and so carried out."

Only a portion of our airlift had to be called upon for the Lebanese operation. We could have used much more if necessary.

Says the Chairman of the JCS: "The U S Air Forces in Europe have a normal complement of 60 four-engine aircraft and 48 two-engine C-119s. An additional 36 C-124s were provided by MATS to assist in this operation. These planes took care of the requirements of the operation.

### *600 Transports Available*

Had there been additional requirements, there were immediately available and operational 332 four-engine planes of MATS and the Tactical Air Command without touching the planes used for necessary continuing air traffic, for the Air Materiel Command, in essential support of the Strategic Air Command or in use by the Navy. In addition, 300 four-engine aircraft were available on short notice from commercial sources. In summary, over 600 four-engine aircraft could have been made available almost immediately if they had been required."

That explains **quantity** of aircraft. What about **quality?**

"I will agree that our airlift capability needs modernization," says Gen. Twining. "Similarly, the Army modernization program should be pushed, the Navy's obsolescent ships should be replaced, all F-86s should be replaced by Century series aircraft, and so on."

### *Modernization Expensive*

But, says Gen. Twining, "this modernization business is something that is continuous. In this day of such rapid technological progress we have almost reached the point where equipment today is obsolescent tomorrow. We just cannot afford to be so extravagant as to effect 100% replacement of our equipment each time something new is developed."

This, then, is the answer to the question: Do we have adequate airlift? It comes from the highest military authority in the land and is based on numerous studies by the nation's best military experts.

## *Why Newspapers Are Like Women*

**Because they have forms**
**Because they are bold face type**
**Because they are easy to read**
**Because they always have the last word**
**Because back numbers are not in demand**
**Because they have a great deal of influence**
**Because they are well worth looking over**
**Because they are thinner than they used to be**
**Because they carry news wherever they go**
**Because they are not afraid to speak their minds**
**Because if they know anything they usually tell it**
**Because every man should have one of his own and not run after his neighbors.**

## ON THE ◆ *skew-T*

### *AWS Global Report*

*From around the world and across the nation come more highlights of AWS personnel at work and at play.*

At Detachment 11, 4th Weather group, Partick AFB, Fla., M/Sgt. Donald K. Johnson, a duty forecaster, and A/2c Chesley R. Chapman, a weather observer, were named NCO and Airmen of the Month respectively.

In the short period of four months, Mrs. George H. Lynn, wife of Captain Lynn, a detachment weather officer at Detachment 18, 4th Weather group, Lowry AFB, Colo., has devoted over 200 hours of her time in serving the Family Service Center.

**During the month of August, Shaw AFB played host to Cub Scout Pack 203 and 205 from Kingstree, S. C., and the Junior Optimist Club of Sumter, S. C. The scouts toured the base as guests of the base ISO and among the base facilities visited was the 3d Weather squadron.**

A/2c Thomas H. Inman, a clerk at Detachment 18, 3d Weather squadron, Miami International Airport, Fla., was selected as Airman of the Month. Airman Inman was presented a $25 savings bond and will be given a three day pass when working conditions permit.

Detachment 22, 25th Weather squadron, Cannon AFB, New Mexico, was host to the Governor of New Mexico and city officials of Clovis, N. M., on Aug. 12. The Governor and his aids, along with city officials, were inspecting base facilities.

**A letter of congratulations was sent to the parents of A/2c Roger A. Woods, August Airman of the Month for 59th Weather Reconnaissance squadron in Bermuda.**

At Detachment 2, 9th Weather squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, the detachment bowling team won the Base Championship hands down.

At Detachment 7, 9th Weather squadron, March AFB, Calif., a group of Civil Air Patrol cadets toured the base weather station on Aug. 27 and 28. Tours were conducted by S/Sgt. Archie A. Luck and S/Sgt. Edward M. Miketa.

**Also at the 9th Weather squadron, Major William E. Zimmerman retired on Aug. 31 after nearly 25 years service. Major Zimmerman was recommended for the Air Force Commendation Medal prior to departure.**

At Fairchild AFB, Wash., Detachment 3, 9th Weather squadron conducted a tour of the weather station for Jesuit Seminarians and Religious Group, both of Spokane, Wash.

Detachment 15 of the 9th Weather squadron at Walker AFB, N.M. hosted 20 explorer scouts from Harrisburg, Penn. to a tour of the weather station on Aug. 23. The boys seemed interested in the means of obtaining and disseminating weather information and asked many questions.

**In the monthly competition to determine the best weather observer at Perrin**
**(Con't. on Page 3)**

## Command Line

During the past few months I have become increasingly aware of the fact that many of the problems, both large and small, which beset the AWS are directly or indirectly the result of inadequate supervision.

A supervisor has a responsibility not only to issue complete and understandable instructions to his subordinates, but also he must "over-see" and personally direct the activities of his subordinates. The issuance of instructions, either written or verbal, no matter how complete and understandable, is not enough.

The efficient and effective supervisor must assure himself by personal monitoring and follow-up actions that the instructions are completely understood and complied with. The supervisor should be continually alert for opportunities to develop the talents of his subordinates and to provide them with additional clarifications and guidance as the occasion warrants.

I have noted with concern many instances of failure to comply in whole or in part with directives which are in themselves specfic and complete. Regardless of whether these failures are the result of incomplete understanding or just plain dereliction on the part of the individual concerned, it is my belief that such deficiencies can best be corrected by strong and effective supervision.

The most fertile field for immediate and significant improvement in mission accomplishment at all echelons lies in improved supervision.

Good supervision is essential to good management and those who successfully meet this challenge and by their personal leadership improve the ability of their subordinates to accomplish tasks will themselves increase their abilities as supervisors and managers.

The personal benefits to be gained are the capabilities for advancement to positions of greater responsibility and authority, which of course offers the individual increased financial as well as psychic benefits.

The organizational benefits will become apparent in more effective and efficient mission accomplishment which, of course, will reflect credit to all concerned.

The benefits to be gained both personally and organizationally far exceed the small price to be paid in increased personal interest and dedication on the part of the individual supervisor.

Regardless of whether the motivation is personal or organizational, it is my hope that supervisory personnel at all echelons will accept this challenge and take positive steps to improve themselves and their subordinates.

**Col. Norman L. Peterson**
**Commander, AWS**

## Japanese Weather Expert Visits AWS Headquarters

An eminent Japanese meteorologist, Dr. Hidetoshi Arakawa, director of the Japan Meteorological Research Institute, this month visited Air Weather Service headquarters to discuss electronic computer developments and typhoon forecasting in Japan.

Dr. Arakawa consulted with Col. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander, and his staff following an address delivered at Scott AFB, Ill. the previous evening to the St. Louis, Mo., branch of the American Meteorological society.

Following his Scott visit, Dr. Arakawa attended the AMS-sponsored First National Conference on the High Atmosphere at the Texas Western college of the University of Texas at El Paso, where he presented two papers on cloud study and cosmic ray intensities.

Dr. Arakawa will also visit the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction unit in Washington, D.C., later this month. This unit, a joint Air Force-Navy-Weather Bureau facility, uses electronic computers for turning vast quantities of weather statistics into useable forecast data.

Similar electronic equipment is used by the Japan Meteorological Agency, of which the research institute headed by Dr. Arakawa is a part.

Dr. Arakawa will also visit the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chicago university, Florida State university and the National Hurricane Research Project in Florida before returning to Japan in December.

## Det. 4 Cited

**(Con't. from Page 1)**

standing effectiveness of the detachment's weather editing and communication section. T/Sgt. Billie L. Shuptrine supervises this activity.

The letter pointed out that the section scored an all-time high in weather communications effectiveness for the month of June. The section's effectiveness was higher than the USAF stateside weather teletype net, which operates entirely on land lines. Since all-radio circuits are used in the far north, this is indeed an accomplishment, the commendation added.

# AFIT Has New Weather Course

Headquarters USAF has approved an Air Weather Service request for special AFIT training in tropical meteorology to be offered at the University of Hawaii with the first class tentatively scheduled to begin after January 1, 1959.

Final arrangements have not been completed, but initial planning calls for an eight-week course with a proposed class size of eight students in each of four classes per year. This would allow for two classes of eight officers each during the remainder of FY 59 and a full schedule of 32 officers receiving the training in FY 60.

The scope of training will include a detailed description of weather in the tropical Pacific area, problems in analysis and forecasting and physics of cloud and storm development. The course will also emphasize understanding and forecasting of typhoons and other tropical disturbances and storms including characteristic weather and movement.

In the past AWS has utilized lectures on tropical meteorology at the University of Hawaii and the University of Chicago. However, this is the first time there has been a formal AFIT course available for this purpose.

## Skew-T

(Con't. from Page 2)

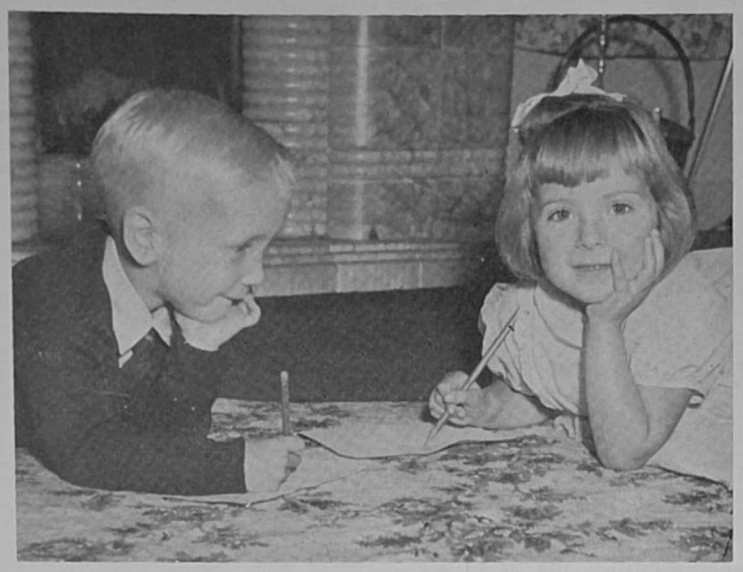
**AFB for the month of July, A/2c E. Thompson won first place. A/1c Mario Reyes and S/Sgt. W. J. Scott placed second and third. The competition is based on accuracy of observation, low error rate and general observation procedures.**

Detachment 13, 8th Weather group, selected A/1c Ronald C. Yersak for Observer of the Month during July and broke a long, continuous chain of awards to A/3c Marvin Henry. Airman Henry had been selected four of the last five months. The weather detachment announced that for August an Observer Team of the Month would be selected.

An article on rainfall, written by Captain John D. Taylor, chief forecaster, Detachment 3, 9th Weather group, was published in two Champaign, Ill. newspapers, a Rantoul, Ill. paper, and the base newspaper WINGS during the month of August. Also the weekend weather forecast was published each Friday in the WINGS.

**Phalsbourg AFB, France, A/2c Theodore Tecza, Detachment 18 of the 31st Weather squadron, has been selected as Airman of the Month. Tecza, who has been at Phalsbourg for 19 months, is a qualified weather observer and is the first man ever submitted from his detachment for this honor.**

During the month of August the American Meteorological Society in the Omaha, Nebr. area elected the following new officers for the coming 12 months: Major Horace Meredith, president; Major William Woodworth, vice president; Don Sorenson, secretary; and J. M. Harman, treasurer. The chapter is composed of both civilian and military weather forecasters in the Omaha area.



**DEAR SANTA CLAUS—Pretty four year old Linda Reeves, a British subject who lives at 238 Hood Lane, Great Sankey, Warrington, England, and four year old Michael Dale Fine, son of T/Sgt. Avon Dale Fine, 53d Weather Reconnaissance squadron, ponder their choice of Christmas gifts while writing letters to Santa Claus. The letters will be delivered to Santa Claus by a plane from the 53d WRS.**

# 3d Weather Gp. Officers Meet

Col. Kenneth A. Linder, 3d Weather group commander, hosted a Commander's conference recently at the group's headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Attending the conference were Lt. Col. S. E. Godfrey, 19th Weather squadron; Lt. Col. J. M. Fahey, 11th Weather squadron; Lt. Col. R. R. Osborn, 4th Weather squadron; and Col. T. J. Arbogast, 12th Weather squadron.

Subjects discussed were concerned with improving the ever changing weather support program tailored to the needs of North American Air Defense (NORAD) command. As more advanced weapons systems are introduced into the NORAD stockpiles, new weather problems are encountered by the 3d Group weathermen. In many cases, required weather information changes and becomes more critical in nature.

Newest member of the 3d Weather group team is 11th Weather squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The squadron was activated in June of this year.

# 53d WRS to Deliver Santa Claus Letters

**By S/Sgt. Jerry Corbitt**
**HQ MATS OIS**

"Daddy, how can I get my letter to Santa Claus?" This question was asked five years ago by a four year old boy in England. He was the son of a pilot of a WB-29, assigned to the 53d Weather Reconnaissance squadron at RAF station Burtonwood, England. With these words "Operation Santa Claus" began.

With the fifth anniversary of "Operation Santa Claus," the 53d Weather Reconnaissance squadron, a member of the Military Air Transport Service family, begins the long preparation for the onslaught of mail. In 1954, the British general post office and the APOs all over Europe were receiving letters addressed to "Santa". That is the way most of the letters arrived at the post office at Burtonwood. Some were addressed to Kriss Kringle, St. Nicholas and Father Christmas, but no matter how they were addressed they arrived at Burtonwood.

At the beginning of the operation the letters were just going to be dropped for the children in the local area of Burtonwood. Postmaster of the nearby town of Warrington, England asked if the weather squadron could handle more letters than just the ones from the local area. This operation was the answer to a prayer for the post offices of Europe.

When the WB-29 took off on the morning of Dec. 10, 1954, it had on board 12,000 letters to be delivered.

One or two children were a little skeptical whether the letters would be delivered or not. One such letter was from a boy in Liverpool, England. He wrote and informed the 53d WRS that he and his brother had been writing to Santa for several years and that each time they had written one letter to Greenland and another to Denmark. They didn't know just where to write so they addressed the letters to both countries to make sure that Santa received the requests. He didn't like the idea of his letters going to the North Pole because he wasn't sure Santa would receive them. The letter was answered right away and informed him that the men of the 53d had made industrious research and that it revealed that Santa did live in the North Pole and would receive his mail.

On Dec. 18, 1957, a WB-50 airplane pulled to the end of the runway in preparation for its normal weather reconnaissance flight. The only difference in this flight from any other flight that is flown each day was the fact that there were hundreds of pairs of children's eyes watching for the Santa Claus mail run to pass over their towns. This was the day that all their letters were on the way to the North Pole.

With this mail run to St. Nick completed, "Operation Santa Claus" had delivered well over 120,000 letters to the "jolly old man with the long white beard."

# Former AWS Man Gets Gold Award

Dr. Sverre Petterssen, former AWS director of scientific services, received a gold award October 9 at the twelfth annual "Business Speaks" awards dinner held in the Grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

The award was presented to Dr. Petterssen for his contributions to the analysis of atmospheric and weather conditions. He is presently professor of Meteorology at University of Chicago.

## *Don't Shoot*

**USAF headquarters advises that it is a serious violation of Federal Law and International Agreement to molest, shoot at, or kill whales, sea lions, walruses and the like, or use same as gunnery targets of opportunity.**

## *Recently Promoted AWS Senior Master Sergeants Identified*

Webber
53d WRS

Clark
9th Wea Gp

Maples
26th Wea Sq

Rose
55th WRS

Hooten
8th Wea Gp

Barnes
59th WRS

Hooper
55th WRS

McCabe
1st Wea Wg

King
26th Wea Sq

Grisham
25th Wea Sq

Julich
3d Wea Sq

Lea
18th Wea Sq

Sheldon, Det 8
26th Wea Sq

Rhodes
5th Wea Gp

Hastings, Det 19
12th Wea Sq

Foy
59th WRS

Knipe
57th WRS

Burgess
55th WRS

Schwartz
54th WRS

# AF Announces New Policy on Overseas Duty

A new policy for selection of airmen for overseas service has been adopted by the Air Force.

Major air commanders have been notified that effective Oct. 1 airmen on their first enlistments will not normally be picked for overseas duty if they have less than 18 months left to serve on the date they are scheduled to report to the port of aerial embarkation.

However, airmen with 12-18 months service remaining are to be assigned to 12 month tour areas ahead of personnel with more than 18 months to serve, the Air Force said.

Officials also said airmen with 12 to 18 months left on an enlistment, who have had no foreign service, will be given 12 month tour areas before those who have had overseas duty.

The Air Force said it considers airmen on their second enlistment to be career men, and so effective Oct. 1, they will be eligible for overseas duty regardless of the time left on their current enlistment.

Unless a career airmen in any grade declines, the Air Force said, he will be required to extend his enlistment long enough to assure completion of the overseas tour in the area assigned; or, if he chooses, reenlist to satisfy the requirements.

In the event an airmen declines to reenlist or extend his enlistment when selected for overseas duty, he will be removed from permanent change of station status and will have to sign a statement which denies him reenlistment for 91 days.

The statement also emphasizes, officials said, that the airmen will be subject to an overseas tour in a 12 month area, provided he has enough service remaining, and commanders were advised to attempt to place the airmen in an area where the overseas tour could be completed prior to expiration of enlistment.

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Capt. James Jabara became the world's first jet ace when he shot down his 5th and 6th MIG May 20, 1951, in the Korean War.

**SECOND PLACE WINNERS—Representing the High-Wycombe weather central in the High-Wycombe 1958 intra-squadron Golf league (handicap) and winning second place are, left to right, bottom row, Capt. M. V. Jones, Capt. S. H. Davis and A/2c O. F. Bryant. Standing, left to right, CWO W. M. Lucas, M/Sgt. H. R. Carter, team captain, S/Sgt. D. Smith, Lt. T. L. Gross and M/Sgt. J. W. Galt, co-captain. Also participating but not shown, T/Sgt. A. H. Gruender and A/2c T. A. Smyth.**

# High Altitude Rockets Used to Observe Weather

**By Captain Joseph B. Burris**
**Headquarters, 4th Weather Group**

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-Zero! Atlas? Thor? Vanguard? No—an OWL.

This particular bird lacks nocturnal visual keenness and it derives its flight power from its tail section rather than its wings, but it can fly much higher and faster than the "who-who" variety common to the bird-watcher.

We are talking about the Over-range Wind Logging missile which will tell 4th Weather group observers the wind direction and wind speed at altitudes up to 200,000 feet.

With missile operations increasing by leaps, bounds, (and splashes) USAF has recognized that atmospheric data to heights not previously attainable through balloon borne instrumentation are required. To meet this requirement, Headquarters USAF directed Air Research and Development Command to provide, by July 1, 1958, a sounding system capable of extended heights.

The sounding system chosen is the USAF version of the OWL. The OWL is a single stage, solid propellant LOKI II, with a cluster of three parachutes packed in a cylindrical tube. The powder packed booster projects the dart to a height of 5,000 feet within nine tenths of a second after firing and at an approximate speed of 4000 mph. At 5,000 feet the booster separates from the dart and at 200,000 feet the parachutes are expelled. The parachutes are then acquired and tracked down by radar and the resulting winds computed from the data obtained.

The 4th Weather Group, under the command of Colonel Hazen H. Bedke, has the responsibility for providing geophysical support to ARDC's role in the guided missile program of the USAF. Weather observers at Detachment 11 and Detachment 24, 4th Weather group, will assemble, check, and fire the new OWL missile.

Detachment 11, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, under the command of Major Robert F. Durbin, has the responsibility for supporting the activities of the Air Force Missile Test Center at Patrick. Atlas, Thor, Vanguard, Snark, and countless others have been provided the necessary forecasts and observed data by the team of forecasters, observers, rawinsonde operators, and aerial reconnaissance people assigned.

Detachment 24, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, under the command of Captain Ralph K. Steely, supports the activities of the Integrated Range, White Sands Proving Ground—Holloman Air Force Base complex. Aerobee, Falcon, Honest John, and others are the names frequently heard at this unit.

A course of training in the use of the new OWL sounding system is to be established at both Holloman and Patrick Air Force Base. One of the first rules, of course, is don't hold the rocket after you light the fuse!

**NEW WEATHERMEN—Capt. Leon M. Rottman, far left, weather officer, Detachment 3, 3d Weather group briefs twelve newly commissioned ROTC graduates on the weather station activities in the Combat Operations center of the Air Defense Command. The newly appointed 2d Lieutenants were assigned to 3d Weather group headquarters, Ent AFB, Colo., for their active duty indoctrination before going on to the University of Utah at Salt Lake City to begin a year of study in Meteorology. Upon completion, they will be assigned to units of the Air Weather Service.**

# Mrs. Betty Smith Wins S. Dakota Golf Crown

Mrs. Betty Smith, wife of Lt. Col. Francis H. Smith, Detachment 12, 9th Weather squadron, Ellsworth AFB, near West River, S. D. has won the women's South Dakota Golf Championship. She is the first woman from West River to accomplish this feat.

A pert 103 pounds, with a warm and engaging personality, she reached the state meet semi-finals twice in three years and for two years was local women's champ at Arrowhead Country Club in West River. In winning the championship this year, Mrs. Smith came from behind twice to take the crown from the former champ, Doris Mernaugh, in 19 holes, 1-up.

Mrs. Smith said this was the first major championship she has ever won. She has had only 18 professional golfing lessons.

The Smith's are a golfing family. The colonel regularly shoots in the low 40s while son David, 12, can match this score. Daughter Julie, 16, is also promising.

**WATER SPRITE—Lovely Rank Organization star Anne Heywood, now co-starring with Howard Keel in "Floods of Fear," emerges from a swimming pool wet and pretty. Vital statistics: 36-23-36.**

## Marriages

**FLEER-HABERMAN.** Miss Mardell Elizabeth Haberman of St. Helena, Neb. to A/1c Alan D. Fleer of Webster City, Iowa and Det 12, 25th Weather squadron at a nuptial high mass Aug. 27 at Menominee, Neb., Father Otto Zillig officiating.

**FORTNER-FINK.** Miss Melanie Fink of Concord, N.C., to A/2c William K. Fortner of Concord, N.C., and Hq 1st Weather Wing on Aug. 16 at York, S.C., Reverend Herald King officiating.

**WAGNER-LONGRENECHE.** Miss Sharon Elain Longreneche of Bryant, Ind., to A/2c Donald Henry Wagner of Bryant, Ind. and Detachment 11, 4th Weather group on Sept. 5 at Eau Gallie, Fla., the Reverend Charles T. Plybon officiating.

## Births

**CRAY,** Major and Mrs. James R., a daughter, Cynthia Ann, at Wahiawa General hospital, Wahiawa, T.H., Sept. 11, father assigned to Headquarters, 1st Weather wing.

**CREWS,** Second Lieutenant and Mrs. Charles R., a son Charles R., II, at St. Elizabeth's hospital, Belleville, Ill., on Aug. 28, father assigned Stat services officer, Air Weather Service headquarters.

**DEE,** M/Sgt. and Mrs. John F., a son Mark Eric, Andrews AFB hospital, Sept. 15, father assigned Detachment 3, Suitland, Md.

**HEUER,** Captain and Mrs. Kenneth V., a daughter, Alice Louise, June 24, father assigned Detachment 3, Suitland, Md.

**KEVEN,** M/Sgt. and Mrs. Keith M., a son, Kelly Scott, at Tripler Army, Honolulu, T.H., Sept. 20, father assigned to Headquarters, 1st Weather wing.

**ORWIG,** S/Sgt. and Mrs. Robert L., a daughter, Patricia Colleen, at Memorial hospital, Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 21, father assigned Detachment 3, 3d Weather group.

**PEMBERTON,** M/Sgt. and Mrs. Stanley E., a son, James Andrew, Washington Hospital center, June 28, father assigned Detachment 3, Suitland, Md.

**POTTER,** Captain and Mrs. Thomas D., a son, Mark Edwin, USAF Hospital, Andrews AFB, Sept. 18, father assigned Detachment 3, Suitland, Md.

**REED,** T/Sgt. and Mrs. Thomas F., III, a daughter, Rhonda Lynn, Fort Benning, Ga., June 15, father assigned Detachment 6, 25th Weather squadron.

**ROTH,** T/Sgt. and Mrs. Roth, a daughter, Barbara, Patrick AFB hospital, Sept. 22, father assigned Detachment 11, 4th Weather group.

**RUSSELL,** S/Sgt. and Mrs. Clay G., a son, Douglas Edwards at Carswell AFB hospital, Tex., Sept. 15, father assigned Detachment 22, 26th Weather squadron.

**TAYLOR,** Captain and Mrs. John H., a daughter, Cynthia Drew, June 23, father assigned Detachment 3, Suitland, Md.

**VIATOR,** A/2c and Mrs. Robert K., a daughter, Terri Lynn, at Memorial hospital, Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 12, father assigned 3d Weather group headquarters.

# 15 AWS Officers To Staff School

Fifteen Air Weather Service officers have been selected by Headquarters USAF for attendance at class 60, Command and Staff School, Air Command and Staff College, commencing September 8, 1959 and graduating June 10, 1960.

The officers selected, all majors, are: Thomas A. Aldrich, AWS Hq.; William C. Anderson, 57th WRS; Harold Banks, 2nd Weather group; Warren L. Burns, 3rd Weather wing; Robert F. Durbin, 4th Weather group; James R. Evans, 4th Weather group; Joseph L. Gulinson, Climatic center, Suitland, Md.; George E. Hedge, 55th WRS; Lewis L. Howes, 19th Weather squadron; Roy E. Jacobsen, 2nd Weather wing; Howard E. Lysaker, 3rd Weather group; James W. McCrary, III, 3rd Weather squadron; Wendell Phillips, 2nd Weather wing; William F. Welsh, AWS headquarters; Morris F. Williams, AWS headquarters.