AIR WEATHER SERVICE

OBSERVER

The Weather Component of the Military Air Transport Service

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1st Wing's ADVON Hq Will Replace 10th Group

Reorganization actions in the Pacific are nearing completion, it was recently announced by Hq AWs officials. The 1st Weather wing reorganization on October 8 will see the discontinuance of Hq 10th Weather group and replacement of this organization by a new element, Headquarters 1st Weather wing (ADVON).

At the same time, the headquarters of the 1st Wing, presently located at Wheeler AFB, Hawaii, will be reduced in size and will perform only planning and liaison functions.

Colonel John J. Jones will remain at Wheeler AFB, where the reduced wing headquarters will provide staff weather support to the commands located in Hawaii and serve as a nucleus for more extensive staff and command operations in case of an emergency.

In Japan, where the ADVON headquarters will take over from the present 10th Weather group, Colonel Russell K. Pierce jr. will serve as head. Col. Pierce will also be the 1st Weather wing deputy commander.

As an operational echelon, the ADVON headquarters will provide support to the missions of the operational commands in the western Pacific and will supervise the ground weather stations and forecast centers which dot the Pacific.

AWS to Take Part in NATO Exercise

Three WB-50 aircraft will participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's annual exercise FALLEX 60 late this month.

The three aircraft, from McClellan AFB, Calif., comprise a part of the mobility force of the 55th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, instituted by AWS last March to provide on-call weather reconnaissance anywhere in the world.

Seven NATO nations including the United States are participating in FALLEX 60, which will see 146 naval ships and 399 aircraft test their effectiveness.

Weather reconnaissance information for the exercise is fed from the aircraft through a monitoring station to the British weather net at Dunstable and to the 2d Weather wing's High Wycombe Weather Central near London, which is assisting in providing over-all support to the NATO exercise.

Brig. Gen. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander, accompanied one of the three 55th WRS aircraft from California to Alaska and over the Great Circle route to Keflavik, Iceland, the northern terminal for FALLEX 60 weather reconnaissance operations.

The 55th WRS is an element of the 9th Weather group, the AWS unit which provides specialized global support to MATS.

AWS Editor Hospitalized

MSgt John F. "Jack" Coyne, AWS Observer editor, was admitted to the USAF Hospital, Scott AFB, Ill., early last week for medical treatment. He is expected to be released and back to duty in the near future.

Progress Report: WB-50 Fuel Cell Inspection Status

By September 13, a total of 21 WB-50 weather reconnaissance aircraft were returned to operational status following inspection and replacement of faulty fuel cells.

According to Hq AWS Materiel officials, the 21 aircraft were distributed as follows: nine to the 55th WRS, McClellan AFB, Calif.; six to the 56th WRS, Yokota AB, Japan (not including the WB-50 lost on September 8 due to an accident, reported elsewhere in this issue), and six to Det. 3, 55th WRS, Kindley AFB, Bermuda.

Aircraft still in work progress, but expected to be back on flying status by presstime, were two WB-50s being inspected and repaired at Yokota AB, and two more being inspected and repaired by Hayes Aircraft Corporation, Birmingham, Alabama.

All WB-50 aircraft were grounded last spring when leaky fuel cells presented hazards to flying safety. While progress in returning the aircraft to operational status has been slow, a steady flow of WB-50s have been placed back into operational status, and have been distributed to the AWS reconnaissance units to fulfill vital requirements of Air Force customers for flight-level data.

The Observer regretfully reports the deaths of Major John Peknik, Scientific Services, AWS headquarters, and MSgt William E. Woods, Headquarters, 4th Weather group.

Persons who lost their lives in the WB-50 accident which occurred September 8 near Ishikawa, Japan, were as follows: Capt. John R. Willis, pilot; 1st Lt. Robert W. Blanton, aircraft commander; 1st Lt. Howard S. Kelly, first navigator; 2d Lt. Lawrence K. Draper, second navigator; 1st Lt. William L. Hesse, weather officer; MSgt Claude M. Burgess, special equipment operator; MSgt James W. Fields jr., flight engineer; A/1c Edward L. Armstead, radio operator; A/3c Alfred Campbell jr., radio operator; A/3c Barney Jablonski, radio operator; and TSgt Vernon W. Powell, airborne weather operator technician.

The 56th WRS aircraft, on a special weather mission out of Yokota AB, Japan, apparently caught fire in flight and crashed into a high ridge 100 miles northeast of Tokyo. An aircraft accident investigating board is still looking into the probable cause of the accident.

Lt. Biggs Wins Limerick Contest

That daring young pilot named Corning
Will not be with us this morning.
'Twas he had the gall
To fly into a squall
While scorning a turbulence warning.
—Lt. Richard T. Biggs

The merry weather limericks which were judged by the two Meriwethers resulted in a four way tie. It took a canny Scotsman as the third judge to break the tie and come up with a winner.

William MacDougall, staff writer for the Washington Star and correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance, was the third judge.

The cumulative scores of all three judges resulted in the selection of the above limerick, brainchild of Lt. Richard T. Biggs, Detachment 1, 16th Weather squadron, Fort Campbell, Ky., as the winner.

Lee Ann Meriwether, Miss America in 1954, and Lee Meriwether, 98-year-old author, lawyer, politician and globe-traveler, were the other two judges.

Over 200 limericks were submitted by weathermen from units all over the globe.

Lieutenant Biggs will receive a $25.00 US Defense Bond as the prize for his winning entry.

Head of Swedish Military Weather Service to Visit

Colonel Oscar Herrlin, commander of the Royal Swedish Air Force's Military Weather Service, will visit the United States next month. Accompanied by Major Sven-Bertil Nordstrom, Chief of the Development Section of the Military Weather Service, Colonel Herrlin will spend over two weeks touring Air Weather Service and US Weather Bureau key facilities.

His visit is scheduled for the period October 15-31, during which time he will visit Headquarters USAF, the Weather Bureau's Washington, D. C., headquarters, the National Meteorological Center, Headquarters AWS, and a large number of operational facilities throughout the country.

The visit, which is the result of an invitation of Brigadier General Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander, is primarily for the purpose of promoting the existing cordial relations between USAF and Swedish military meteorological services.

During the visit, however, problems of mutual interest will be discussed by the Swedish officials with their American counterparts.

Colonel Oscar Herrlin

A secondary purpose of the visit is to recognize the invaluable support and assistance the Swedish weather service has rendered to several USAF officers who have studied at the International Meteorological Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

Both Col. Herrlin and Maj. Nordstrom are keenly cognizant of practically all theoretical aspects of meteorology, including the meteorological applications of electronic computers. Both men are fluent in English.

General Peterson, as official host, will accompany his Swedish counterpart during all phases of the US visit.

During his stay in the US, Colonel Herrlin will visit not only the key AWS and US Weather Bureau facilities in the Washington, D. C., and Scott AFB, Ill., areas, but also the System 433L Electronic Support System Project Office, Waltham, Mass.; the Geophysics Research Directorate of AFCRC (ARDC), L. G. Hanscom Field, Mass.; Headquarters MATS, Scott AFB, Ill.; Headquarters 3d Weather wing and the Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Nebr.; various facilities at McGuire AFB, N. J.; the 4th Weather wing and NORAD Forecast Center, Ent AFB, Colo.; the 2d Weather group and Langley Forecast Center, Langley AFB, Va.; and the 4th Weather group, Andrews AFB, Md.

Colonel Herrlin and Maj. Nordstrom are scheduled to arrive from Frankfurt, Germany, aboard a MATS aircraft on Oct. 15, their first US stop being at Andrews AFB, Md. They will depart Andrews AFB about Oct. 31.

USWB Chief Cites Weather Efficiency

Dr. F. W. Reichelderfer, Chief of the Weather Bureau, announced on Sept. 14 that the tracking, warning and forecasts during the passage of Hurricane Donna were the most complete in history.

Donna has left no doubt that it was the most destructive and vicious tropical storm since Weather Bureau records were first kept in 1886.

"If Hurricane Donna had occurred just five short years ago," Dr. Reichelderfer said, "hundreds of people in the United States might have lost their lives and thousands more would have been seriously injured as was the case in the great storms of past years."

Communications Vital

Even perfect tracking, warnings and forecasts would have been valueless, the Weather Bureau chief added, if it were not for the tremendous job in communicating this information to all segments of the populace and in getting the people to take action to save their lives and minimize property damage.

"The news media — newspapers, radio and television — have been the anchor men in this unparalleled example of cooperation in an effective warning system," he stated.

Many Warnings Made

Since Donna was first sighted, 1,200 miles east of Puerto Rico on September 2, the Weather Bureau hurricane warning centers at San Juan, Miami, Washington, and Boston have issued over 90 advisories and bulletins on the storm's progress.

The bureau chief congratulated the hurricane hunters of the Air Force and Navy. He highly praised the efforts of the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and state and local authorities, who are tied into the warning system. New weather radar equipment recently installed along the eastern seaboard were credited for providing needed information about the storm.

Reports from Florida indicate that 95 per cent of the people in the Keys were evacuated before the storm hit. Hurricane warnings for vulnerable areas were made for every populated area from Florida to Maine.

NHRP Gathered Data

The National Hurricane Research Project's aircraft made dozens of missions into Donna and preliminary reports indicate that more information about hurricanes has been gathered by these flying laboratories in this single storm than in all the tropical storms since the project began in 1956.

Air Weather Service participation in the NHRP program involves support rendered by Det. 3, 55th WRS, Kindley AFB, Bermuda.

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BRIG. GEN. NORMAN L. PETERSON
Commander, Air Weather Service
MR. JOHN D. RUGG, Director, Information
MSGT JOHN F. COYNE, Editor
TSGT CHARLES A. RAVENSTEIN, Acting Editor

US Air Force -- Aerospace Power for Peace

Weather Factors Played Vital Role In Support Of Bright Star/Pine Cone

Bright Star/Pine Cone III, a recent joint Army-Air Force exercise, was a complete success. Part of the success of the exercise, which involved over 800 aircraft, 20,000 troops, and joint Army and Air Force control of mass movements, air strikes and large paradrops, can be attributed to weather support.

One of the many supporting units participating in BS/PC III was the 2d Weather group, commanded by Colonel N. H. Chavasse, with headquarters at Langley AFB, Va.

It was the 2d group's responsibility to provide forecasts to the Exercise Controllers and to insure that similar data went to commanders and operators at all Air Force and Army echelons involved.

To do this, all forecasters supporting the exercise had to be in the right place at the proper time, telling the same weather story. For example, each pilot preparing to fly a mission was given the same briefing as the Air Operations Center directing the mission.

The involved procedures of the large-scale exercise were highly sensitive to weather factors. These include winds, cloud cover and visibility in drop zones, terminal conditions for the various assault and recovery bases and most important of all, an assurance that the operations, once begun, could be reasonably completed without weather interference.

The exercise controllers depended on the weather forecaster to provide the last bit of information to determine whether or not the mission could be accomplished on schedule.

To support the exercise, 2d Weather group developed a special Weather Task Force headquarters in conjunction with the tactical operations centers at Ft. Bragg. The nerve center of this force was a tactical weather station capable of providing up-to-the-minute information of weather conditions within a 600 mile radius of Ft. Bragg and of providing forecasts of expected conditions up to 24 hours ahead.

In addition to providing these factors to the Exercise Controller and operational control personnel, they were simultaneously passed to trained weather briefing officers at the various assault bases for briefing of flight commanders and crews flying the missions.

An example of how weather support fits into an operation such as Bright Star/Pine Cone III is illustrated by the briefing that preceded the large paradrop operation on Aug. 20.

On the evening of Aug. 19, the commanders of Tactical Air Command, Continental Army Command and the exercise commanders, were briefed by the weather officer on the forecast for the various weather factors for the next day.

To properly do this, he had to possess a complete understanding of the mission at hand, be familiar with the weather criteria required for the different operations, and point out areas in which weather would cause adverse affects.

In this case, the forecast indicated that conditions would not be suitable at the scheduled time of the paradrop, 6 a. m. in the morning, but would be favorable four hours later. With this information, a decision was made to delay the operation for four hours, resulting in a smooth operation without weather interference.

The weather forecaster's job does not end with merely making a forecast and providing briefings. Following this, he must continually evaluate new information and keep a watchful eye for unforeseen developments which could cause a partial or complete failure of the operation, even after it has been put into motion.

Support of Bright Star/Pine Cone III was only one job of the 2d Weather group in its mission to provide weather service to the Tactical Air Command and Continental Army Command. Other special support missions are even now in the planning stage and all serve to groom Weather Task Force teams to deploy with, and support, tactical air and ground forces during combat.

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.

Air Weather Service personnel have continued to distinguish themselves with meritorious service, and proof that their efforts were appreciated came with the award of Air Force Commendation Medals. Receiving the AFCM for meritorious service during periods indicated, were:

Col. Dale D. Desper, Apr. 1959 to Jan. 1960; Lt. Col. Raymond B. Girardo, Feb. 1958 to July 1960; Lt. Col. Carl H. Morales, Nov. 1959 to July 1960; Maj. Hiram P. Bilyeu, July 1955 to June 1960; Maj. Kenneth Dill, July 1959 to July 1960; Maj. Daniel E. McPherson jr., July 1957 to May 1960; Maj. John H. Taylor, March 1957 to June 1960; Maj. W. B. Willis, July 1958 to Aug. 1960; Capt. Berry W. Rowe, Aug. 1959 to June 1960.

Also, CWO Matthew Toyli, June 1958 to July 1960; SMS Carl Nims, April 1957 to March 1960; SMS Robert F. McNamee, Dec. 1956 to July 1960; SMS Rooker W. Mears, April 1958 to Jan. 1960; MSgt Joseph Moore, Dec. 1958 to July 1960; MSgt Paul R. Peaslee, May 1958 to May 1960; TSgt Cloid J. Sowell, Oct. 1958 to July 1960; TSgt Thomas B. Tinker, Sept. 1957 to July 1960; and SSgt James F. Hague, June 1956 to May 1960.

Meritorious achievement also resulted in the award of the AFCM to the following officers:

Maj. Thomas J. Anderson, Jan. to March 1960; Maj. Charles F. Roberts, April to June 1960; and Capt. Arthur G. Builta, June 1955 to June 1960.

The Army Commendation Medal was presented to Maj. Harold E. Minnick on July 14 for meritorious service as Assistant Staff Weather Officer to Hq US Army, Europe at Heidelberg, Germany.

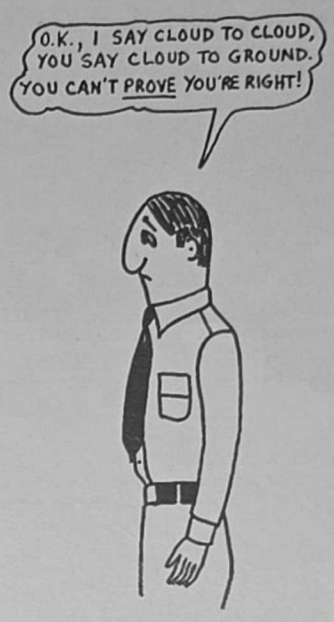
Three members of Yokota's 56th Weather Reconnaissance sq. won distinction as Airmen of the Month for August. They were A/2c Louis E. Ellis, aircraft mechanic; A/2c Edmund J. Hovasse, radio repairman; and A/2c Clarence F. McCall, airmen's records clerk. Three-day passes and Unit Fund checks were presented to the trio.

NCO of the month for the 3d Weather wing (for July) was TSgt John W. Holmes. He spent the Labor Day weekend "on the town" of Omaha, Nebr., courtesy of local merchants.

SSgt William M. Ahl jr., Det. 27, 9th Weather group, Brookley AFB, Alabama, retired on Aug. 31 with 20 years service as a Lt. Col. in the AF Reserve. Col. Ahl enrolled at Mississippi Southern College for completion of work toward a college degree.

Another recent retirement was that of CWO Charles A. Lesher, forecaster at Det. 2, 4th Weather group, Andrews AFB, Md. Mr. Lesher had been a weatherman for 20 years, and will become a mathematics instructor at Central Senior High School, Prince Georges County, Md.

A/1c Irel J. Griffith, Det. 27, 9th Weather group, Brookley AFB, Alabama, completed 2000 consecutive error-free observations from Oct. 1959 through June 1960, according to a recent announcement from the detachment commander.

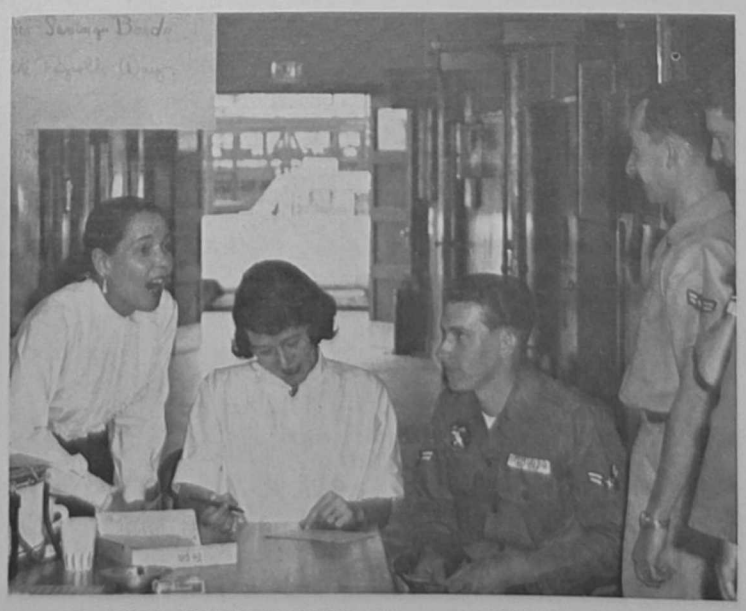


The 56th WRS at Yokota was featured on the front page of a Tokyo newspaper recently, featuring the squadron's typhoon-chasing activities. The 56th has also been visited recently by Japanese junior high school students and by faculty members and students of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's intelligence school.

TSgt Concepcion V. Armenta, Detachment 23, 4th Weather group at Kirtland AFB, N. M., was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for action performed 16 years ago. In 1943, Armenta served as tail gunner on a B-17 bomber and took part in many heavy bombardment missions over continental Europe. His marksmanship was credited with repelling numerous enemy fighter attacks.

The dropsonde unit, which is dropped from the WB-50 at points along weather missions, uses long blonde hairs in the relative humidity measuring part of the unit. Since human hair has the property of a fairly constant relation between the relative humidity and the elongation of the

(Continued on Page 5)



SAVINGS COUNSELORS. Wives of 56th Weather Reconnaissance squadron personnel took part in an active Savings Bond selling campaign with their goal set at 250 bond sales. During the first three days of selling they had signed up 40 members of the unit to buy bonds through the payroll savings plan. Mrs. William F. Seeley and Mrs. David E. Benson sign up A/2c Darrell D. Stevens as other members of the unit await their turn.

GOING MY WAY? Don't rush boys. You will all have the opportunity to accompany the super-jet lovely beauty Anne Francis when she portrays an airline stewardess who flies on wings of love with a jet co-pilot in Warner Brothers romantic-suspense drama — "The Crowded Sky."

21st Weather Sqdn. Provides Congo Airlift Weather Service

TORREJON AB, SPAIN (Special to the Observer)—Torrejon's 21st Weather squadron has been providing weather service for the Belgian Congo airlift, working around the clock.

Forecasts for terminals with names such as Accra, Daula, Pointe Noire, Port Lamy, Maiduguri, Kano and Leopoldville accompanied by airways forecasts for routes from Evereux to Wheelus-Kano-Brazzaville and Lajes - Dakar-Brazzaville have been flowing through communications channels.

The forecasts originate at the Torrejon Forecast center and are delivered to Europe, the ZI, Morocco, Wheelus and Brazzaville.

Crews departing the Congo and returning are briefed on probable weather to be encountered.

Weather service for this vast area of Africa was not routine with the 21st Weather squadron. However, during the heat of the skirmishes in the Congo when the news reflected a probable airlift, members of the squadron operations sections analyzed the problem of weather support to a potential airlift.

They concluded that their squadron had the best capability to support this project, according to Lt. Col. Lawrence D. Connelly, the 21st's commander.

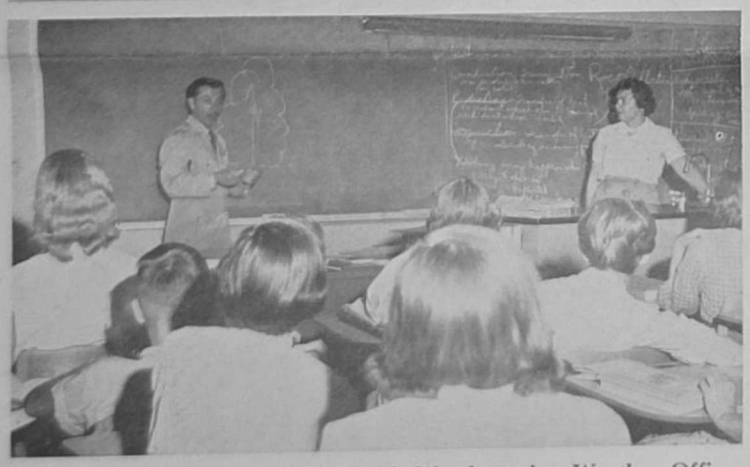
In anticipation of the requirement which would be placed on them, they planned, programmed and prepared to meet the demand.

Climatologists researched and compiled data from their library of microcards for data which would assist forecasters; supply personnel expedited receipts of plotting charts for the area by cutting red tape — none were available in Europe, therefore, air freight was used for delivery; mobile kits were checked and repacked for movement which would accompany teams of forecasters.

Also, an analysis of the data necessary for forecasting was made and the possible communications channels of obtaining the data were explored; the squadron communications officer made a trip to Port Lyautey to coordinate on data with the Navy Fleet Weather Central — he placed requirements on intercept of data at Sidi Slimane and Torrejon; additional channels of communications were obtained to exchange data.

When the requirement for forecast service in support of the airlift was received, a fair amount of the data was flowing into the center. Forecasters relied on climatology where no data was yet available.

Within a few days the results of the efforts of the squadron materialized; data, maps and aids were combined to make forecasting for Africa routine.



CAPT. LEON ROTTMAN, 4th Weather wing Weather Officer, has instructed all ages in weather phenomena. Upper photo he is shown instructing an eighth grade general science class at the Horace Mann Junior High School in the formation of a thunderstorm. Captain Rottman spoke to the children for about an hour one afternoon this spring on what causes the weather. Lower photo—he is shown briefing seven newly commissioned second lieutenants who processed onto active duty at Ent AFB this summer. These seven lieutenants will attend a one year meteorology course at the University of Washington before going to work as Air Force weather men. In addition Captain Rottman takes the civilian role of "Stormy, the KRDO Weather Man" on KRDO-TV during the evenings. In this capacity, Captain Rottman attempts to explain the whys and wherefores of his forecasts to the Colorado Springs populace.

USAF C/S Writes on AF Birthdate

Air Force Chief of Staff Thomas D. White, in an all-major-command message a few days ago, asked that all Air Force personnel be advised concerning the 13th anniversary of the USAF. He wrote:

"On September 18 — just thirteen years ago — the United States Air Force became a separate service and a full-fledged partner in this nation's defense establishment.

"We have passed many milestones since then, the latest of which was the successful air recovery of the Discoverer capsule.

"With current emphasis on Aerospace Power and the significant role which the USAF is playing in our national defense, your accomplishments are a source of pride, not only to the Secretary of the Air Force and to me, but to the entire country.

"I have abundant faith and confidence that your performance in the coming year will match that of the past."

GRADUATES AND INSTRUCTORS of the August 30 class are: Standing, left to right: Capt. Wilburn R. Schrank, instructor; Capt. Alfred S. Kolmos, OIC; MSgt Ralph R. Hayward, MSgt Harry I. Mosher, TSgt Harvey E. Geswender, MSgt Herbert B. Temming, TSgt Gerald A. Berry, MSgt Robert C. Downey, Lt. Donald B. Miller, instructor. Seated, left to right: SMS Donald K. Johnson, CMS Jerome D. Rhodes, Dr. Erwin Stuhlweissenburg, Mr. Werner T. F. Rumbaum, SMS Marvin D. Turpen, and SMS Eugene A. Zimmerman.

German Weatherman is Honor Grad Modern Weather Techniques Course

Dr. Erwin Stuhlweissenburg from Germany matched SMS Donald K. Johnson from Patrick AFB, Fla., as honor graduate of the Modern Weather Techniques Course which graduated from Chanute AFB, Ill., on August 30.

This was the first occasion that such an honor was bestowed upon a foreign national. Dr. Stuhlweissenburg attended the course primarily to gain information which he intends to use in the inauguration of a similar course in his own country.

Mr. Werner T. F. Rumbaum, also a German, attended the course to better enable him to establish a German central weather facility designed to service German military organizations.

During their short stay in this country, both German nationals visited Hq AWS, Scott AFB, Ill., and received a briefing on current problems and procedures. Dr. Stuhlweissenburg also attended the CPS-9 Scope and Interpretation Course at Chanute, while Mr. Rumbaum visited the National Meteorological Center and the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit, Suitland, Md.

Other Honors

In addition to the two tied honor graduates, CMS Jerome D. Rhodes, Westover AFB, Mass., was the leader of the graduating class and TSgt Harvey E. Geswender, Norton AFB, Calif., was recognized for his outstanding performance.

Modernization is Showing Results in Oversea Areas

Modernization efforts of the Air Weather Service, while showing great progress in all areas where weather detachments provide specialized weather support to their operational customers, received a boost recently in oversea areas.

Chateauroux Air Station, France, a MATS-AMC base with considerable air traffic, claimed a "first" in Europe, if not in the world, for having a new remote site with the following automatic measuring instrumentation; AN/TMQ-11 temperature-humidity set, AN/GMQ-10 transmissometer for visibility measurement, AN/GMQ-13 rotating beam ceilometer for ceiling measurement, and AN/GMQ-11 wind equipment.

The complete installation at Chateauroux was performed by the Ground Electronics Equipment Installation Agency (GEEIA) of AMC, Ramstein AB, Germany. The installation supervisor, A/1c Arnold Fletcher, indicated that, although this first installation required about 50 days to complete, the time would be much less for future installations at other air bases.

CWO Charles Halbrooks, 2d Weather wing engineering and installation liaison officer, supervised the over-all task. A demonstration of the efficiency of the new equipment was given to Col. W. H. Schwartz jr., Senior MATS commander in Europe and OIC of the MATS Airlift (Safari) to the Congo, and to Col. Charles F. Burley, Chateauroux AB commander. CWO Halbrooks demonstrated the extreme sensitivity of the transmissometer by blowing smoke from a cigar in front of the detector, which was immediately sensed and recorded in the weather station.

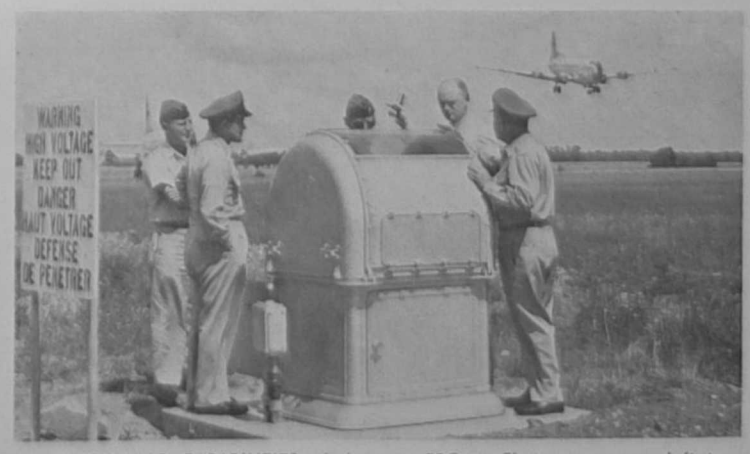
Demonstrations of the other new equipment at Chateauroux proved equally effective. Readouts for all of the new equipment terminated in the representative observing site situated near the approach end of the main instrument runway.

Maj. Rolla Griffith, newly-arrived detachment commander at the Chateauroux weather station, indicated that his hard-working observers were pleased with the excellent performance of the new equipment. The continuous and exact recordings of wind, ceilings, and visibility would, he indicated, afford pilots the best available information when they needed it.

The installation of the modern observing equipment at Chateauroux was quite timely, since this base is one of the major air terminals used by the Safari cargo airlift to the Congo.

Completion of the installation (**Continued on Page 7**)

CHECKING on the transmissometer recorder is the representative observing site is SSgt Joseph A. Rua, Det. 59, Chateauroux AS, France.



DISCUSSING CAPABILITIES of the new RBC at Chateauroux are, left to right: Maj. Rolla Griffith, Det. 59 commander; Maj. Jean O. W. Debellefeuille, Field Operations, 31st Weather squadron; CWO Halbrooks, engineering consultant, 2d Weather wing; Mr. Ted Bear, assistant editor, AMFEA News; Maj. Dale P. Baden, Field Operations, 31st Weather squadron.

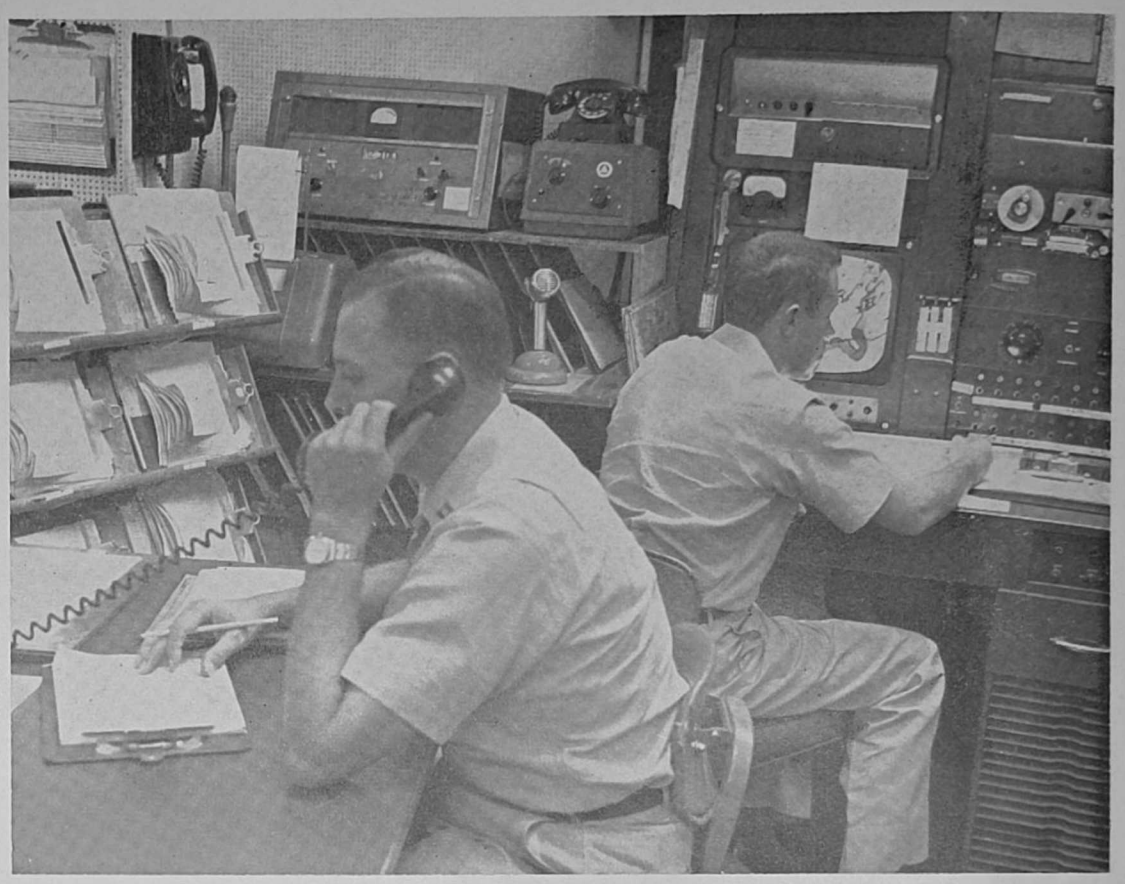
The OBSERVER

Spotlights Detachment 1 19th Weather Squadron

By CWO William Blankenship

Detachment 1, 19th Weather squadron, 4th Weather wing, commanded by Major Ralph V. Jennings, is located at Richards-Gebaur AFB, Grandview, Missouri. This detachment has supported Richards-Gebaur AFB since its completion in March 1954, and has continued

TSGT WILLIAM E. GENSLER, Chief Observer, points out an area of interest on the plotting chart to A/3c Roger E. Otterstien, in the block house.



CAPT, JAMES T. McADAMS and Lt. Glenn E. Kirk on duty in the "salt mine." This is a relatively calm period.

to increase its work load and responsibility with the growth of this ADC base.

Being centrally located in the United States, Richards-Gebaur AFB has become a favored stopping point for transients, with nearly 1000 aircraft arriving and departing monthly for fuel, service, and weather support.

Support Air Defense Sector

Primary support is provided to the Kansas City Air Defense Sector. This is comprised of six ACW squadrons and three Fighter-Interceptor squadrons within the surrounding four state area. Additionally, support is provided to the 33d NORAD Region; the 328th Fighter group; the 2472nd Air Reserve Center; the 4606th Air Defense group (SAGE); the 4650th Combat Support squadron; the Commanding General, Fort Leavenworth; Region VII, 113th CIC, 5th Army; IVth Army Region; and the 127th Weather flight, Kansas ANG. Also, six reserve officers and one airman are attached for training.

The 326th Fighter squadron on the base is equipped with F-102 type aircraft. This is a primary stop for ferry flights of fighters, requiring the utmost in forecasting and an extremely close weather watch.

Small Unit—Large Performance

The detachment is authorized eleven forecasters and 20 observers to perform its mission. Twenty-four hour forecasting and observing service is maintained. Observations are presently being taken in the tower cab, although a Weather Observing Site Building is in the process of construction. A self-service weather display is maintained at Base Operations for pilots who are briefed by closed circuit television. The third observer position provides forecaster support.

Two forecasting functions — a Base Weather function and a Sector Weather function — are combined by the use of closed circuit television. At the present time, the operation is so closely geared to television, that its elimination would cause a major change in service.

The 19th Weather squadron is located on the base and has assumed many administrative and supply functions for the detachment, but with the many and varied users, the operation at this detachment never becomes routine or monotonous.

Progressive Unit

Detachment 1 has continued to be a forward looking and progressive unit. We pioneered the use of closed circuit television, and through use and demonstration have proven its acceptability.

We take pride in the fact that we provided one of the first entries into the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program, that one of our forecasters is a senior master sergeant with only 14 years of service, and that our airmen consistently rank high in competition for Base Airman of the Month. Education and improvement are encouraged with good participation in the Base Education Program and correspondence courses.

With less than 30 personnel assigned, we have always been strong competitors in the Base sports program. A major factor has been the caliber of personnel assigned. As an example, we now have four observers who were outstanding graduates at Chanute and two of these were at the top of their class.

To Test New System

This detachment has been picked to service test a new local weather dissemination system. The system, a development of the 4th Weather wing, has been designed to provide simultaneous transmission of the observation for on-base, SAGE and long line transmission. It will provide a considerable reduction in the time required for dissemination and provide a better display. This system will become standard in ADC and eventually adopted for use Air Force-wide.

Since the forecast section is located in a windowless building, the forecaster must depend on the observer for accurate and meaningful observations. Deprived of the old "eyeball," the forecaster places the needed emphasis on the observer to insure accurate observations. Located near tornado alley in the center of the United States, weather runs the complete gamut and provides experience in nearly every kind of weather to both forecaster and observer. This requires a long break-in period, and at first may intimidate an inexperienced forecaster or observer, but it does insure a familiarity built on experience for veteran personnel.

Detachment 1 is programmed for complete dual instrumentation to include rotating beam ceilometers, transmissometers, temperature, humidity and wind equipment, with weather radar and radar ceilometer expected soon.

This detachment is not number 1 just by coincidence, and we will continue to rate that designation.

A/2c GENE K. CLARK and A/3c Jerry R. Gambill observers on duty in the Self-Service Weather Display.

SMSGT JOHN J. SAUER supervises the taking of an observation by A/3c Vivian M. Kusler. Peggy, the only WAF in the 19th Weather squadron, is also a Chanute honor graduate.

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(Continued from Page 2)

hair, it is used to measure the humidity.

A/2c Sterman Terrebonne, a radar repairman with the electronics section of the 56th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, has been selected to attend USAF Navigation School at Harlingen AFB, Texas, this Fall. He has been with the 56th WRS for six months. Prior to his arrival at Yokota AB, he was assigned in the same capacity with the 54th WRS when it was based at Anderson AFB, Guam.

In the two blood drives conducted by the Madison, Wisconsin chapter of the American Red Cross, members of the headquarters complement of the 33d Weather squadron have responded 100 per cent to the appeal for blood on both occasions. SSgt Stanley J. Brostrom, administrative clerk in the operations section, received his gold blood-donor pin making him a member of the ARC "Gallon Club."

Lt. Col. Daryl B. Moyer, 3d Weather wing, retired on August 31 at Offutt AFB, Nebr. A brief retirement ceremony was held at the wing headquarters.

Airman of the month for Hq 3d Weather wing was TSgt John W. Holmes. He enjoyed a "weekend on the town" early in September as his reward.

Outstanding airmen of the 3d Weather wing received cigarette lighters in recognition of their achievements. Outstanding master sergeant of the year was MSgt Roy E. Baker. SSgt James D. Schmidt was the wing's outstanding NCO of the past six months and A/2c Nicholas Fiore jr. was the wing's outstanding airman of the past six months.

Det. 24, 26th Weather squadron, copped first prize of $300 at Bergstrom AFB recently for Chapel attendance. The prize was given on a percentage-of-attendance basis. The prize money plus a sum from the unit fund went into an improved TV viewing room for the detachment personnel.

Selected as airman of the month by Hq Sq, AWS for September was A/2c Margaret E. Connelly, strength accounting clerk in DCS/Personnel.

Winner of $200 for initiating the most sales in a "Festival of Fun" at Stewart AFB, N. Y., was Det. 11, 12th Weather squadron.

Lt. Col. Edward J. Daly, 2d Weather group inspector, retired with 20 years service recently. He had been with the Air Weather Service since 1947. Col. Daly was the holder of the Air Medal with 11 clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

SSgt Paul L. Maney, Det. 30, 5th Weather group, is no man to pick a fight with. He was a member of the victorious Westover AFB, Mass., judo team, which recently won out in the National Sport Judo tournament held at Kinnelon, N. J. The Westover team is planning to participate in the Attleboro Invitational Judo matches held at Attleboro, Mass., this month.

Airman of the quarter of Det. 3, 25th Weather squadron, Myrtle Beach AFB, S. C., was A/2c William Pender jr., one of the detachment's weather observers.

Detachment 23, 3d Weather squadron, Mitchel AFB, N. Y., announced recently that its softball team completed the regular intramural league, national division, with a perfect record of 11 wins and no defeats. SSgt Pyott was selected to play first base on the Mitchel AFB softball team, to participate in the ConAC softball tournament.

Colonel Pope, Long-Time Weatherman, Has Retired

WITH HIS WIFE and son looking on, Lt. Col. Pope proudly accepted his Certificate of Retirement from the AWS deputy commander, Colonel Roy W. Nelson.

Lieutenant Colonel William A. Pope, having served in all military ranks from private to his retiring grade, retired from active duty on August 31. Retirement ceremonies at Scott AFB, Ill., were conducted by Colonel Roy W. Nelson jr., AWS vice commander.

Colonel Pope first entered the weather service in 1937. His commander at the time was Capt. H. H. Bassett, who himself retired recently as Major General, having served twice as commander of the weather service. Except for five months of inactive duty in 1947, Colonel Pope's service was all active, either in the Air Corps of the US Army, or in the US Air Force.

Most recently assigned as Chief, Plans and Programs Division, DCS/Plans, responsible for preparation of emergency war plans for AWS, Colonel Pope also prepared long-range plans for AWS support to missiles, prepared preliminary plans for AWS operation of the in-development 433L weather observing and forecasting system, and served as chairman of the AWS Electronic Data Processing Systems development board.

During World War II, Colonel Pope served, first as a captain and then as a major, in the Alaskan area. As inspector of the 11th Weather squadron, he served as trouble-shooter on weather communications circuits, showing AACS supervisors throughout Alaska and western Canada that CW weather broadcasts could be copied nearly 100 per cent by actually copying broadcasts alongside their own operators. For this work he received the Army Commendation medal.

Assuming command of the 7th Weather group (since inactivated), Major Pope supervised activities of weather stations in Alaska and western Canada during the critical postwar years when weather service still had to be maintained even though most personnel were rotating back to the US for discharge or reassignment. Because of his electronics background — much gained through correspondence school courses — Major Pope was instrumental in installation of AN/APQ-13 radars and AN/TXC-1 facsimile transceivers throughout Alaska.

Following his long duty in Alaska, Major Pope became IG of the 2059th Air Weather wing in Oklahoma (since inactivated) and then, in the early 1950's, a detachment commander. Going to Korea, Pope was assigned as operations officer of the 30th Weather squadron and advanced to Lt. Colonel. From Korea, he went to Hawaii as deputy commander of the 57th WRS and then became a detachment commander again, at Fairchild AFB, Wash. In July 1958 he was assigned to Hq AWS.

With his wife, Loretta, and son, 12-year-old William jr., Col. Pope embarked on an extensive trip following his retirement. The Pope's will make their permanent home in the Seattle,Wash., area.

Kirtland Detachment Discontinued Sept. 15

Detachment 14, 19th Weather squadron, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, was discontinued effective September 15, according to a recent announcement.

The detachment had been providing 24-hour forecasts to an Air Defense Control Center at Kirtland. Recent changes in air defense procedures made the requirement for the weather support unnecessary.

News Representatives Visit Reconnaissance Units for Storm Info

While typhoons threatened Japan and Hurricane Donna ravaged the east coast of the US, public interest in both hemisphere's tropical storms rose to new heights. News media representatives, sensing the "story" value of AWS weather reconnaissance observations of these phenomena, went to the "horse's mouth" for information.

Det. 3 Visitor

Mr. Warren Culbertson, American Broadcasting Company, having arranged with Hq AWS for a visit, flew to Kindley AFB, Bermuda early this month from Chicago. He flew a hurricane mission (Gull-4-Donna) on Sept. 7, during which he took TV movies and still photographs of the eye of tempestuous Donna.

The films and pictures will be used on a half-hour special program under the network's public service programming. The ABC network consists of 80 TV stations and 180 radio stations, nationwide. In addition to the TV movies, Mr. Culbertson will write the story for the radio program. The special programs will be used on the entire ABC system.

Mr. Culbertson was met by the commander of Det. 3, 55th WRS, Lt. Col. Fellie Robinson, and was rushed to the regular hurricane flight briefing just minutes after his arrival at Kindley. From the briefing room he was taken to the personal equipment section for his flying gear. The WB-50 departed Kindley at 8:30 a. m., with 1st Lt. Russel Jones as aircraft commander.

Mission Gull - 4 - Donna, the fourth flight into the hurricane, lasted 12 hours, with a total of 2 hours and 50 minutes in the eye, where dropsondes were ejected. Donna had a perfect eye at 18,000 feet, for about 10 miles. Mr. Culbertson was awarded an official Hurricane Hunters card, presented to all persons who fly through the eye of a hurricane.

Well-known for his spectacular shots of the tornado that swept through Dallas, Tex., several years ago, Mr. Culbertson reported on his first hurrican flight, "I was simply terrified, but just kept grinding away."

ABC-TV WRITER and cameraman, Mr. Warren Culbertson, dons flying gear before boarding the Hurricane Hunter WB-50. Lt. William S. Nagley, navigator and radarman, provides assistance to the newsman in preparing for the flight.

Japanese Visitors

A flurry of interest in the Yokota-based 56th WRS was also raised by the current typhoon season in the Pacific area. Japanese TV, radio, and newspaper media have each year given extensive coverage to the 56th's role in typhoon tracking, and the current season is no exception.

Recent visitors of the 56th WRS have included reporters and photographers from Tokyo's Japanese-language Shimbun Newspapers and the Japanese weekly aviation newspaper, Wing.

Mr. Satoshi Ogawa of the Shimbun's foreign news department and Mr. Raita Agawa of Wing were briefed and escorted through one of the squadron's WB-50 aircraft by Capt. Shoji Takasugi, 56th WRS weather officer. They also interviewed the squadron commander, Lt. Col. Eugene D. Wallace.

WEATHERMAN GETS RAINCHECK. CWO Max L. Crowder, right, assistant operations officer for the 16th Weather squadron, assigned to support of Continental Army Command at Fort Monroe, Va., finally receives an Air Force Commendation medal honoring him for meritorious work as a weather predictor in England. The medal was presented Crowder by Army Col. Benjamin Heckemeyer.

MEREWETHER AWARD is presented to Capt. Orville H. Daniel, Detachment 11, 4th Weather group, located at Patrick AFB, Florida, by Brig. Gen. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander.

Capt. Daniel, 4th Group, Wins Merewether Award

Selected as winner of the coveted Merewether Award for 1959 is Captain Orville H. Daniel, Det. 11, 4th Weather group, stationed at Patrick AFB, Fla.

The award, named after Colonel Arthur F. Merewether, USAF, Ret., who was chief of the Weather Section, AAF, from 1940 to 1942, is presented annually to the AWS individual who has made the most significant technical contribution to military meteorology.

During 1959, Capt. Daniel developed improved procedures for rapid, accurate, and economical processing of upper air data for use at the Atlantic Missile range. He also originated a density nomogram resulting in time savings and ease in providing a forecast of density profile in the format required by one of the missile projects.

Capt. Daniel further developed a simplified ballistic wind computation technique for various unguided missiles and developed and monitored procedures for tracking chaff and corner reflector radar targets to obtain upper winds by use of a CPS-9 weather radar.

Canadians Visit Barksdale Stations

Three Canadian meteorological officers recently visited Barksdale AFB, La., as guests of the Second Air Force and the 26th Weather squadron.

They were Blane A. Coulcher and Donald J. Bauer, senior meteorological officers from Frobisher Airport and Ft. Churchill, Canada, respectively, and Clifford J. Stead, representing the meteorological office of the Royal Canadian Air Force headquarters at Ottawa.

Their visit was arranged by Strategic Air Command to acquaint them with the future Reflex programmed for Canadian bases, and the weather support that will be provided by the Barksdale Forecast center.

Colonel Robert L. Sorey, commander of the 26th sq., said in commenting on the program, that since arrangements have been made for Second Air Force organizations to use the facilities at both Frobisher and Ft. Churchill, it is essential that these Canadian meteorological officers be familiar with the procedures used in handling weather forecasting for strategic support.

In addition to the briefing, the program included observation of briefings in the 2d AF command post, a tour of the base weather station and facilities, a visit to the 4238th Strategic wing alert crew facility, and a social affair.

CinC, USAREUR Visits 7th Sq.

The 7th Weather squadron in Heidelberg, Germany, recently played host to General Clyde D. Eddleman, Commander in Chief, US Army, Europe.

General Eddleman and members of his staff toured the squadron headquarters and facilities for a closer look at the organization that provides weather support to Army units in Europe.

The 7th, along with the 16th Weather squadron, was activated in July 1959, to provide full-time weather support to the US Army.

Lt. Colonel Robert B. Sykes jr., 7th Weather squadron commander, briefed the general and his party on the mission of the squadron and the various types of support provided.

Also on hand during the briefing was Dr. Robert D. Fletcher, Director of Scientific Services at AWS headquarters. Dr. Fletcher was visiting the squadron as part of a staff visit to the 2d Weather wing.

General Eddleman, who earlier this month was appointed by President Eisenhower to succeed General George H. Decker as Chief of Staff for US Army, was accompanied by Major General W. H. Nutter, USAREUR Chief of Staff, Major General T. F. Van Natta, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, and Brigadier General R. J. Meyer, USAREUR Signal Officer.

Their visit included a brief trip to the Heidelberg weather detachment which has just initiated service in a new building with the Army Flight Operations Facility.

GENERAL EDDLEMAN and staff members of Hq US Army, Europe visit the 7th squadron's forecast section. Major General W. H. Nutter, behind the Army's European Commander-in-Chief, looks on as Capt. T. F. McNamara, holding paper, briefs them. Seated in foreground are TSgt Alan Wilson and 1st Lt. Sam D. Lackland, duty forecasters of Detachment 3, 7th Weather squadron.

AWS Promotion Quota Revealed

The MATS share of the USAF promotion quota calls for 321 airmen to advance to SSgt, 2,055 to A/1c, and 2,405 to A/2c.

Within the Air Weather Service, non-frozen airmen promotion quotas call for 34 men to advance to SSgt, 197 to move up to A/1c and 375 men to be promoted to A/2c. In addition, a total of four airmen in frozen fields will be promoted to A/1c.

56th Widens Weather Eye

The Yokota-based 56th Weather Recconnaissance squadron has added three new routes to its weather reconnaissance arensal and can now survey up to 18,000 nautical miles of the western Pacific from the air with seven fixed missions.

The new tracks, known as Buzzards Mike, Lima, and Kilo, provide the AWS unit with expanded capability to regularly search out violent typhoons.

TOP RAWINSONDE UNIT: Brigadier General Norman L. Peterson (right), presents 1959 Bassett Award to Major James K. Coleman, commander of Detachment 21 of the 4th Weather group. Present at the ceremonies were TSgt Burton E. Humphries, 1959 NCOIC of the unit, and SSgt Ray H. Wallace, incoming NCOIC.

Edwards Detachment Wins Bassett Award

The Bassett Award for 1959, which was won by Detachment 21 of the 4th Weather group, was formally presented to the detachment commander, Major James K. Coleman, in ceremonies conducted in the office of the commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, California.

The award, which was presented by Brigadier General Norman L. Peterson, Commander, Air Weather Service, is named in honor of Major General Harold H. Bassett (Ret), former AWS commander. It is presented annually to the AWS rawinsonde unit compiling the most outstanding upper air observation record for the year.

Detachment 21 was cited for reducing errors in coding, computation and observation to a negligible amount and for completing 100 per cent of obligated upper air observations during 1959.

The unit's enviable record is even more commendable in terms of providing dependable advance data vital to the success of the mission of the Air Force Flight Test Center located at Edwards AFB. Readings of wind direction and velocity, temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure at altitudes over 100,000 feet were invaluable, especially in the joint Air Force-NASA-Navy X-15 program.

Detachment commander Major James K. Coleman, after accepting the award from General Peterson, presented individual certificates to the 1959 members of the unit. Receiving certificates were: TSgt Burton E. Humphries, SSgt Ray H. Wallace, Airmen First Class William E. Campbell jr., Ernest E. Patee, Herman P. Perrotti, Donald L. Hatch; Airmen Second Class John R. Pittman, Alvin W. Whitcomb, Larry L. Sherhag, Aaron J. Tassin and Ted A. McCall.

Make This Sept. 27th A Day to Remember

The late George Jean Nathan put it neatly. "Bad officials," he said, "are elected by good citizens who do not vote."

But his remark raises a question: is there such a critter as a "good" citizen who stays away from the polls? And that applies not only to civilians but to the men and women of the Armed Forces, because, wherever they are stationed, the polls come to them.

Defense Secretary Gates has designated Sept. 27 as Armed Forces Voters Day — a day on which service voting officers will concentrate their effort to urge eligible people in uniform to apply for their absentee ballot. For Nov. 8 is nearer than many of us realize.

It's a worthy idea, such an all-out effort. The pity is that we should need it. It's somewhat like a day devoted to urging servicemen into accepting free hundred dollar bills with no strings attached — except that the absentee ballot is worth incalculably more than a century note.

Perhaps the trouble is that some servicemen away from home and familiar habits feel that they have pulled up roots — that many of their hometown obligations are nullified by distance. Time enough for such civic duties as voting when they're back to their civilian routine.

Nothing could be more shortsighted. The serviceman who votes in November will be choosing the next Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces — an organization in which he has more than spectator interest. And he will be choosing the man whose qualities of mind and character will deeply affect his own future for the next four years.

So, none of us should have to be goaded into sending for our absentee ballot. But Sept. 27 will be a reminder that time is running out. (AFPS)

Fort Sill Detachment Aids Special Projects

Strategically-located in the open prairies of Oklahoma, Detachment 11 of the 16th Weather squadron, Ft. Sill, Okla., has recently kept busy around the clock. Not only is the detachment supporting the large Army post with routine weather information, but several special projects have also received a helping hand.

Commanded by Capt. Victor C. Henkell, the AWS personnel support the Artillery and Missile Center.

TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE SSgt Thomas Davis, from the 6th Weather squadron (Mobile), Tinker AFB, Okla., follows the course of the Army-released weather balloon on the recorder.

ARMY AIR OFFICER CWO Jacob L. Packer receives a briefing on what kind of weather to expect "up there" from Lt. Donald Grantham, Det. 11 weather officer.

LT. MAX NEWBERRY, Det. 11, phones in weather forecast to the recording device which provides automatic weather briefing service post-wide at Fort Sill.

Operation TORO

One special project supported by Det. 11 personnel, with Capt. Henkell as project officer, is known as Operation Toro. "Toro" is the name of a rocket system designed to photograph the cloud structure of a squall line during conditions favorable for tornado development. The rocket system was developed for the Office of Naval Research by the Physical Science laboratory of New Mexico State University.

The 60-lb. Toro payload was propelled to a velocity of 3,250 mph by a 200-lb. solid propellant rocket motor. At about 32 miles altitude, the payload separated from the rocket. A parachute then slowed the payload during its descent.

Special receivers tracked the payload to impact. Motion picture film was used to construct a mosaic depicting some 4,000 square miles and showing objects less than 50 feet in diameter. Study of the mosaic by meteorologists, it was hoped, would yield valuable data about cloud cover and circulation associated with severe local storms.

Participating in the Toro research were the Office of Naval Research, the N.M. State University's Physical Science laboratory, NASA, the US Weather Bureau, Air Weather Service, the Bureau of Naval Weapons, the US Army at Ft. Sill, and Detachment 11, 16th Weather squadron.

Project 6665

Det. 11 supported another special project, known as Project 6665, by providing a trajectory forecast for special balloon launchings. The project, under the jurisdiction of ARDC's Bedford, Mass., Air Force Research Division, involved the launching of huge plastic weather balloons from an H-37 helicopter.

Air Force Capt. Edward H. Gibbons, project officer, said the system involved carrying a balloon and payload to an altitude of more than 3,000 feet for release. By using the helicopter, release could be from any desired location, regardless of terrain and surface conditions.

Rising from the helicopter, the balloons with their 40-lb. payload rose to about 70,000 feet. The instrument package reported weather data continuously while in flight.

About four hours from release time, the payload separated and descended to the surface by parachute. The 48-ft. diameter, 65-ft. long balloons then continued rising until the extreme cold of the upper air expanded the helium lifting agent and shattered the balloon into microscopic fragments.

Capt. Henkell, Det. 11 commander, reported that during the four hour flight of the balloon it might drift a distance of 100 miles or more, with average wind.

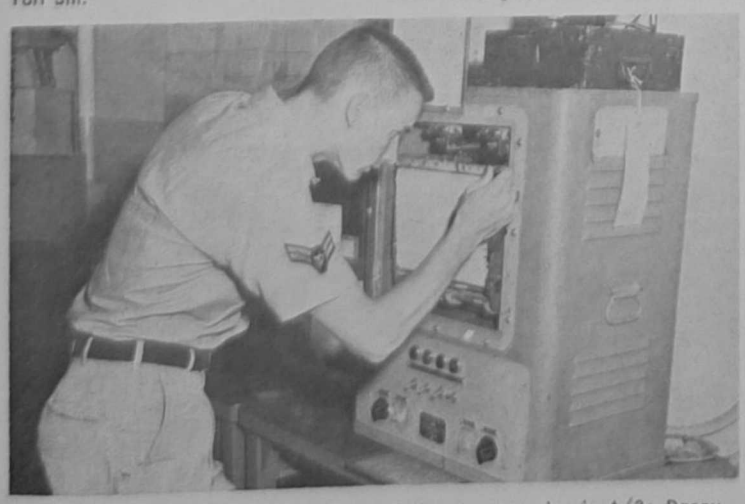
Recovered payload instrumentation was sent to the Research Division at Bedford, Mass., where the data obtained was studied in an attempt to better understand the atmosphere.

24-Hour Operations

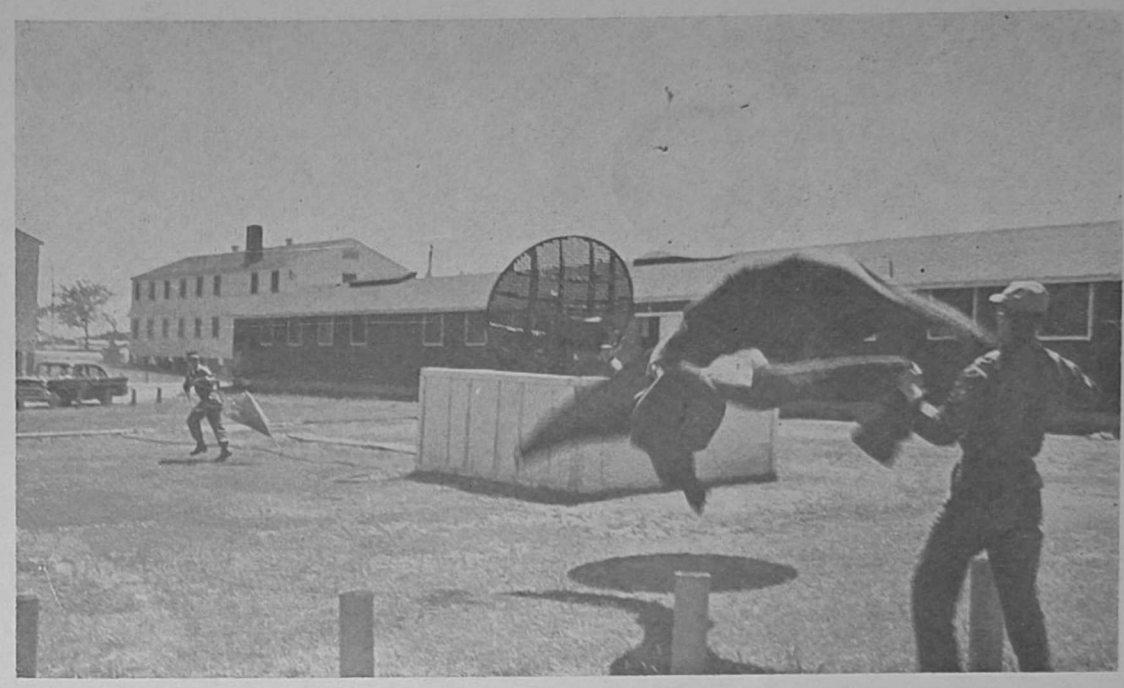
Special support provided to the above-cited projects was in addition to Det. 11's routine, around-the-clock activities in support of Ft. Sill's artillery and missile operations. The detachment utilizes equipment and procedures more-or-less standardized at other AWS detachments to provide continuous weather support for the Army's activities.

Working closely with the AWS unit in the observation phase of weather support is the 3d Observation Battalion, 26th Artillery, Ft. Sill. This unit, which is cooperating with AWS and the Weather Bureau in the Tornado Alley supplementary observation program to detect severe weather in the mid-western states, works with a special AWS representative from Tinker AFB to make radiosonde observations.

To the pilots who fly out of Post Field, Ft. Sill, weather information is just as important as it is to Air Force pilots. Each departing pilot is briefed by Weather Officer Lt. Donald Grantham, and is advised about conditions to be expected at various flight levels.



READING INFORMATION from the Ceilometer recorder is A/2c Danny Goins, Det. 11 observer. The ceilometer projects a beam that is used in measuring the bases of clouds.



WEATHER BALLOON, carrying instrument which transmits pressure, humidity, and wind information, is released at 3d Obsr. Bn., 26th Artillery. Tracking equipment is shown near center photo.

Modernization Showing Results

(Continued from Page 3)

lent new hope to all detachments within the 2d Weather wing. Equipment was on hand or in shipment to most bases supported by AWS in Europe for similar modernization.

Alaskan Progress

On the other side of the world, modernization was also showing progress. The first Air Force rotating beam ceilometer in Alaska was recently installed at Det. 7, 11th Weather squadron, located at Galena AFS, Alaska. The first of several major items of meteorological equipment to be installed at Alaskan bases during 1960, Galena's RBC was installed by the 2868th GEEIA squadron, with technical assistance by personnel of the 11th Squadron's Field Maintenance shop.

TSgt Purfy J. Melebeck, SSgt William Van Wieren and A/1c Martin A. Powers were the 11th Squadron's technicians who participated in the Galena installation.

AN/GMQ-11 wind equipment was to follow the RBC installation at Galena. Located on the Yukon river almost 300 miles west of Fairbanks, this Alaskan base was important to the fighter-interceptor force in the Far North. MSgt Richard N. W. Thompson, assisted by four observers, provides weather forecasts.

Main base weather detachments at Elmendorf and Eielson AF bases were programmed to receive RBCs, transmissometers, wind equipment and temperature-humidity sets during the current summer construction program.

Total AWS Effort

Meanwhile, the oversea detachments were not alone in seeing progress toward modernization. Installation of new items of equipment was a major effort, AWS-wide, and much progress was being reflected in many locations.

Of 363 major items of equipment programmed for installation at AWS weather detachments (54 wind sets, 102 temperature-humidity sets, 96 transmissometers and 110 RBCs), 61 were installed at mid-year at key air bases. Construction of new Weather Observation Station Buildings (WOSBs) had caused slippage in the installation of available weather equipment at some locations, but over-all status was considered good by most AWS officials.

Many problems still exist, but the outlook for the future holds a promise of a vastly improved network of automatic weather observing equipment which will provide AWS and its operational customers with weather data that is current, accurate and efficient.

ADJUSTING THE REFLECTOR on the RBC at Galena AFS, Alaska, are TSgt Purfy J. Melebeck, left, and A/1c Martin A. Powers, of the 11th Weather squadron's Field Maintenance shop.

AWS and USWB Use Same Radar

Weather radars are important observing instruments.

They are also extremely costly, and when more than one weather agency can use the same radar set to serve both services' needs, this means a savings in tax dollars.

A recent step toward procuring more weather data per radar was made with the installation of a weather radar scope in the AWS weather station at Charleston AFB, S. C., a facility operated by Det. 52, 9th Weather group.

When AWS learned that the US Weather Bureau planned to install a new, long-range WSR-57 radar at the Charleston municipal airport, action was taken to secure a microwave link with this set rather than have a separate radar installed solely for AWS use. This example of cooperation between governmental weather agencies will result in a significant savings.

The Charleston AFB weather station uses radar primarily to detect hazardous flying conditions for the issuance of warnings to pilots. The base is a busy terminal for large cargo and strategic airlift aircraft operated by the Military Air Transport Service.

Instead of installing a duplicate radar set to meet its requirements, AWS contracted with the USWB to install a remote scope from its set. Microwave towers were set up to transmit the signal between the USWB and AWS forecast offices.

The USWB's radar at Charleston airport is the latest thing in radar equipment specifically designed for weather use. It operates in the S-band with a peak power output of 500,000 watts and has a 12-ft. parabolic antenna operated under a radome.

It is used by the Bureau to observe such penomena as precipitation areas, tornadoes, hurricanes and other severe storms within a 250-mile radius of Charleston.

The Bureau uses the equipment primarily as a part of the national synoptic radar reporting network. This net is a vital factor in detecting and tracking severe weather phenomena such as the recent Hurricane Donna, and in enabling communities in the path of these storms to be forewarned.

Another similar remoting-of-radar information from a Weather Bureau radar to an AWS weather station is being pursued at Amarillo, Texas.

If the Charleston and Amarillo installations prove operationally useful, as they undoubtedly will, similar installations will be accomplished whenever feasible at other Air Force bases requiring weather radar information.

Not only does such an arrangement reduce initial equipment costs, but significant savings in spare parts and in required maintenance personnel are also realized.

3rd Wing Golfers Spark Offutt Team

Over half of the Offutt AFB golf team playing in the 2d Air Force tournament at Little Rock AFB, Ark., this month is from 3d Weather wing.

Lt. Charles Correll of Detachment 2 copped the base championship and will head the team. Majors Horace Meredith and Vernon Greene, both of Detachment 1, earned 3d and 6th places, respectively.

In the senior division, two of the three spots were grabbed by Lt. Col. Murel Goodmanson and Lt. Col. Elmer Keith, both of 3d Wing headquarters.

Births

MAY, A/2c and Mrs. Joe A., a son, Gary Allen, born Aug. 6, 1960, at 7520th USAF hospital, South Ruislip AFB, England. Father assigned Det. 17, 18th Weather squadron, APO 125, N. Y.

SCANLON, Maj. and Mrs. Thomas S. jr., a girl, Barbara Jeanne, born Aug. 12, 1960 at Taiwan Defense Command hospital, Taipei, Taiwan. Father assigned as Air Weather Service Advisor to the Chinese Air Force.

CARSH, A/2c and Mrs. Harry C., a boy, Kerry Marnell, born Aug. 19, 1960, at Corvallis, Oregon. Father assigned Detachment 1, 35th Weather squadron, Adair AFS, Corvallis, Ore.

STARR, 1st Lt. and Mrs. Leonard N., a boy, Kent Michael, born Aug. 22, 1960, at Albany, Oregon. Father assigned Detachment 1, 35th Weather squadron, Adair AFS, Corvallis, Ore.

FIELDS, A/1c and Mrs. Charles V., a son, Michael Richard, USAF hospital, Bentwaters, England, Aug. 28, 1960. Father assigned Detachment 16, 28th Weather squadron, Woodbridge, England.

JUNIOR RAIDERS—Sitting: Batboys David Popovics and Jay White. Front row, left to right: Sonny Hilmer, Wayne Stoppy, Gene Cox, Kent Hinkley, Clifton Dowdy, Jim Roberts and Jerry Ingram. Back row: TSgt Frank Popovics, coach; Bob Hammond, Bob Johnson, Danny O'Connell, Eddie Cox, Brad Vassey, Frank Taylor, John Nations, Mark Stoker and TSgt Boger, assistant coach.

USAF Buys Cloth For Summer Blues

AFNS — The new Air Force light-weight blue summer uniform will soon be in the hands of the tailors and should be available for wear in May 1961.

The Air Force has just negotiated a $2.8 million contract for 1.3 million yards of tropical worsted cloth.

Combined MATS Team Wins Hill Play-Off

Detachment 17, 4th Weather group, joining with the 1960th AACS squadron, formed a winnining team at Hill AFB, Utah. The combined MATS team defeated the 4754th Radar nine to take the intramural softball championship.

The outstanding pitching of SSgt Thurman N. Bouldin, AACS, and A/2c Robert R. Tanner, Det. 17, highlighted league play. Backing the fine pitching was a barrage of five home runs in the final game.

Other members of the team were SSgt Oscar H. Haertling, A/1c Eugene R. Buerkle, A/2c Charles O. Swank, A/3c Albert T. Cotton and A/B Wayne H. Broomhead, all of Det. 17. AACS members were TSgt Donald E. Riddle, SSgt H. R. Bracken, A/1c Charles F. Hout, A/2c Lawrence E. Phippen and A/2c Thomas J. Madden.

Team coach was Sergeant Bouldin.

56th WRS Raiders Cop Championship

The Yokota Junior Raiders baseball team sponsored by the 56th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, whitewashed Washington Heights, 11-0, to capture the Kanto Plains Junior League baseball championship. The victory followed earlier wins over Yokohama and the same Washington Heights team.

Washington Heights reached the finals with victories over Tachikawa and Yokohama.

The 56th Junior Raiders, behind the 3-hit pitching of Eddie Cox, banged out 10 hits in their final effort while committing only one error. Cox' superlative pitching included 13 strikeouts and only 2 walks in the championship shut-out.

Washington Heights committed 6 errors and were never close to overtaking the 56th champions.

The Yokotans, co-champs with Tachikawa in league play, won 13 while losing three during the regular season. Paced by Kent Hinkley with a .393 batting average and four other players slugging over .300, the Junior Raiders compiled an overall team batting average of .264. Brad Vassey, one of three pitchers, threw a no-hit, no-run game against Yokohoma in seasonal play.

The victorious 56th Junior Raiders, coached by TSgt Frank Popovics, airborne radio operator with the 56th WRS, were presented team and individual trophies for their tourney championship by Major Robert L. Taylor, 56th WRS operations officer. Taylor subbed for Lt. Col. Eugene F. Wallace, squadron commander, who was in Guam. Second-place individual and team trophies were also presented by Major Taylor to players of the Washington Heights entry.

THREE OF FIVE new officers of the Omaha-Offutt branch of the American Meteorological Society, elected at the August meeting at Offutt AFB, Nebr., work in 3d Weather wing there. They are Capt. Ray T. Telfer, secretary (left), Arthur W. Gulliver, chairman (center) and Major Francis W. Murray, treasurer (right). The new vice chairman is Richard A. Micka of the US Weather Bureau (second from left) and new sergeant-at-arms is Huntington J. Smith, retired.

The Veterans Administration still has 41 veterans of the Indian Wars, plus 32,797 Spanish-American war vets, on its pension rolls, according to a count made late in August.

Cards Win Pennant -At Offutt AFB!

Regardless of how the St. Louis Cardinals make out in the National League, they can do no better than the 3d Weather wing-sponsored Cardinals of Offutt AFB. The Little League Cardinals have already won their pennant, copping the Offutt championship at the end of July with an 18-1 record.

Team captains Steve Everhart and Scott Spitzer piloted their men through a grueling three-month season, with Spitzer pitching 42 innings and fanning 114 opponents. The slugging department was led by Bobby Thompson with a .480 average.

Team managers of the team were A/2c Thomas Moore and A/2c Daniel Galich, both of the Personnel office of the 3d Weather wing.

LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPS, the Cardinals sponsored by the 3d Weather wing, relax after receiving their trophies from Lt. Col. Curtis R. Erspamer, director of personnel. In front row, left to right: W. Shuprac, T. Smith, V. Brier, W. Loman, M. Loughlin, W. Womeldorph, and J. Whittington. Second row, left to right: T. Rosenbaum, S. Spitzer, V. Reeder, R. Thompson, M. Steely, S. Williams, S. Everhart and B. Mitchell. Back row, left to right: Tom Moore, coach; Col. Erspamer and Dan Galich, coach.

Bermuda Det. Wins Badminton Doubles

Winners of the Kindley AFB, Bermuda badminton doubles for 1960 were two members of Detachment 3, 55th Weather Reconnaissance squadron.

Captain Robert Kelly and A/2c Don Skelton took top honors over Lt. Col. T. J. Connair and A/1c John Flowers of the base headquarters by scores of 11-0 and 15-8.